

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a program for students who have completed all requirements for graduation from high school. It is a transition program for students to go from high school to employment. The program was developed in collaboration with Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Hamilton County Board of DDS, and Fifth Third Bank. These organizations focus on education and employment for people with disabilities. While at Project SEARCH, students are at worksites for one school year and work as interns, without pay to gain employability skills that can transfer to competitive employment. These "interns" range from 18 to 22 years old.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Clinton Memorial Hospital Wilmington, Fifth Third Bank Operations Center - Madisonville, and Xavier University are sites in collaboration with Great Oaks that support Project SEARCH. While at Project SEARCH, the students rotate through three worksite experiences that allow them to build various transferable work skills, while focusing on communication and problem solving on the job. The goal is for the interns to learn job duties based on their individual abilities to become independent in a competitive work environment. Throughout the interns' rotations, they receive on-the-job coaching, if necessary, and interaction with various employees. It is a win-win situation for everyone. The goal is competitive employment and can occur anytime throughout the school year, either at the host site or back in their home community.

