



What is Project SEARCH?

- Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, a research environment that fosters visionary thinking and innovation. It all began in 1996, when Erin Riehle was Director of Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department. Erin wondered if it would be possible to train people with developmental disabilities to fill some of the high- turnover, entry-level positions in her department, which involved complex and systematic tasks such as stocking supply cabinets. As a starting point, Erin presented her ideas to Susie Rutkowski, then the special education director at Great Oaks Career Campuses. Erin and Susie formed a partnership that was instantaneous, and together they launched Project SEARCH.
- Since its inception, Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site to an international network of sites. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities.

“The Project SEARCH Program allows interns to experience real world work experiences which equips them to become successful adults.”



Current Work Locations

Florida Hospital has graciously opened its doors for our interns to train in multiple departments. Departments included are:

- Mail Room
- Materials Management
- Guest Services
- Cafeteria Services
- Patient Transport
- Marketplace
- Gym/Spa
- Cold Food Prep
- Environmental Services

Skills Offered

Each work location offers an opportunity for interns to learn a variety of transferrable skills:

- Use of handheld bar code scanners
- Delivery and receipt of packages
- Merchandising
- High Profile Cleaning (Hospital sanitation)
- Guest services
- Sorting & organizing

Site Specific Requirements

Our interns must learn to adapt to a professional work place culture:

- Interns will be issued a Project SEARCH uniform which includes: blue polo shirt, black slacks and closed toe anti-slip shoes.
- Interns are issued Florida Hospital badges which means they must pass level 2 background check, have current immunizations, and must obtain shots to test for tuberculosis.
- In order to train in on-site departments, interns must pass Florida Hospital Volunteer Services Policies & Procedures test.