

# Program Curriculum

Throughout the school year, interns participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills.

- ◆ Career Exploration
- ◆ Money Management
- ◆ Goal Setting
- ◆ Job Seeking Skills
- ◆ Employability Skills
- ◆ Healthy Life Choices
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Social Skills
- ◆ Job Specific Skills



*The Goal for Each Intern is Competitive Employment*

# Business Partners

- ◆ ARC
- ◆ Helping People Succeed
- ◆ Martin County School District
- ◆ Martin Health System
- ◆ Vocational Rehabilitation



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Martin County  
Project | SEARCH



*High School  
Transition  
Program*

An internship program designed to transition young adults with disabilities into employment within the workplace

## Program Overview

Project SEARCH began in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Concerned with a high turnover rate, Erin Riehle, the Director of the Emergency Department, wondered if people with disabilities could fill the entry level jobs she had. Cincinnati Children's, **along** with the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development turned the idea of filling a handful of jobs into a comprehensive program model—Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH has grown from one original program to over 400 across 45 states and six countries.

The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help young adults with disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life.

### Course of Study

- ◆ One year program which takes place at Martin Health System.
- ◆ Completion of three department non-paid internships at Martin Health System.
- ◆ Completion of Project SEARCH curriculum.
- ◆ Intern will receive a Project SEARCH Certificate of Completion in May.
- ◆ Employment at Martin Health System is not guaranteed at the completion of Project SEARCH.

## Program Eligibility

The following guidelines for eligibility are recommended for student candidates:

- ◆ Desire and plan to work competitively in the community.
- ◆ Be 18—21 years of age.
- ◆ Completed high school credits necessary for graduation.
- ◆ Have an active Individual Education Plan (IEP) with competitive employment as a goal.
- ◆ Ability to pass a drug screen, TBT test, background check and up to date immunizations.
- ◆ Meet eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ◆ Provide transportation each day to and from Project SEARCH site.
- ◆ Desire to be independent.
- ◆ Employer/community acceptable social skills.
- ◆ Present a means to independently communicate
- ◆ Previous experience in a work environment is preferred (i.e. school, volunteer, or paid work).

## Application Process

Students are referred to the program through their school district and apply in the spring for the year prior to entering the program. The student and family complete and submit the application by a predetermined deadline. Space is limited for students applying and the selection is carried out by the Project SEARCH Admittance Committee. The committee reviews the application packets, interviews the students, and notifies eligible students and families.

An Open House is held annually for potential students and family members. It provides an opportunity to meet the Project SEARCH staff and interns, and discuss and ask questions about the program.

### Internships/Rotations

- ◆ Bio-Medical
- ◆ Central Sterilization
- ◆ Emergency Department
- ◆ Environmental Services
- ◆ Materials Resources/Warehouse
- ◆ Nutritional Services
- ◆ Oncology
- ◆ Operating Room/Surgical Service
- ◆ Wound Care Center
- ◆ Medical/Surgical Floor
- ◆ Telemetry Floor
- ◆ Ortho/Neuro Floor
- ◆ Cardiovascular Unit
- ◆ East Ocean Family Care
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Maternal Child
- ◆ Outpatient Center /504