

Project SEARCH Curriculum

Throughout the school year, interns participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Project SEARCH activities are designed around seven major focus areas:

1. Working responsibly.
2. Communicating effectively with or without accommodations.
3. Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills.
4. Planning and managing a career.
5. Applying technology.
6. Developing self-advocacy skills.
7. Demonstrating independent community travel skills.

The curriculum is flexible and allows the staff to design lessons around the core topics and adjust the curriculum based on the specific intern and employer needs.

Work Rotations

Interns build communication and problem-solving skills, as well as job specific skills, through work rotations. These are unpaid internships. Work rotations usually total three to four job positions per intern by the end of the program. Worksites are assigned based on the intern's previous work experience, interests, preferences, and assessments. Interns are required to interact with the department supervisor via telephone and written communication to arrange a job interview and scheduling details. Job coaches and department staff collaborate to provide support for students. Job coaches fade out as an intern gains independence.



Any business interested in becoming a Project SEARCH partner, or student interested in applying for the program should contact Sarah Lauretti at slauretti@favarh.org or call 860-693-6662 x139



High School Transition Program

An internship program designed to transition young adults into employment within a workplace through a partnership with UCONN Health Center, The ARC Favarh, Connecticut schools, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS).

Program Overview

The project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Interns participate in employment related instruction and are assigned internships in up to three departments within the business host site.

The program provides real life work experience, combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help young adults with disabilities make a successful transition from school to a productive adult life. The goal for each intern is competitive employment.

The transition Program is for interns who are:

- In their last year of school eligibility and have completed all the High School credits, graduation requirements, and /or IEP goals.
- Have a desire and interest to become employed independently.
- Working to achieve independent employment.
- Involved in their IEP development.
- Has access to reliable transportation to and from work.

All interns are involved with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) and/or the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Agencies meet with Project SEARCH staff, family, and interns throughout the program year to provide vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance along with various support services as required.

Program Eligibility

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Completed high school credits necessary for graduation.
- Agree that this will be the last year of the student services, and will accept diploma at the end of the school year.
- Meet eligibility requirements for BRS.
- Have independent personal hygiene and grooming skills.
- Have independent living skills.
- Have an independent lunch routine.
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace.
- Parents who will continue working at home on behavior and social skills.
- Take direction from supervisors and change behavior when needed.
- Be able to communicate effectively.
- Have access to reliable transportation.
- Must be able to maintain a minimum of 85% attendance.
- Have the desire to work competitively in the community during and at the conclusion of project SEARCH.

Application Process

Students can be referred to the program through their school district and will apply prior to the start of that year's program. The student and family will each complete an application and submit it by a predetermined deadline. Space is limited for students applying and the selection is carried out by members of the Project SEARCH Advisory Committee. The committee reviews the application packets and notifies eligible students and family. Acceptance letters are sent out to students and IEP meetings are scheduled.

An open house is held annually to potential students, family members, the community, and interested businesses. It provides an opportunity to learn about potential worksites, meet the Project SEARCH staff and interns, and discuss program goals. All in attendance have an opportunity to ask questions.

All interested students are encouraged to request an application packet from their school, or by contacting Sarah Lauretti, Transition Coordinator at slauretti@favarh.org or 860-693-6662 x139. Please include the student's name, mailing address, and phone number.

