



**Project SEARCH** is a unique, business-led, one-year job training employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace.

Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through work site rotations. The employment rate of all graduating participants since 2014 is 96%. The program culminates in individualized job development. The goal of each program participant is competitive employment.

[www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Parents Alliance Employment Project (PAEP) offers services and programs which include:



**Project | SEARCH**<sup>®</sup>  
at Central DuPage Hospital

**BRIDGING EMPLOYMENT AND DISABILITY ONE INTERNSHIP AT A TIME**



**Northwestern Medicine**  
The business host site for *Project SEARCH*

## Contact

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@ParentsAllianceEmploymentProject

## Eligibility Requirements

Have an intellectual or development disability & be between ages of \*18-22

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Has the desire to achieve competitive employment and work at least 16 hours per week at the end of the program

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Is motivated to work, but is unemployed or underemployed

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Has independent daily living skills

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Has appropriate behavior and independence to be successful in a professional environment

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Can successfully complete health screen and background check

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Willing to arrange own transportation

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Must adhere to all business host site policies and procedures including COVID-19 guidelines and requirements

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\*In-school Programs: Agrees to accept diplomas at the end of the Project SEARCH school year.



## Worksite Rotations

Each student participates in three, 10-week long internships supported by *Project SEARCH* staff.

Internships at Northwestern Medicine are unpaid and are individually created to focus on each student interns interest and work potential. Sites may include:

- **Surgical Services**
- **Interventional Radiology**
- **Sterilization**
- **Adult Patient Floors**
- **Supply Chain**
- **Food and Nutrition**
- **Emergency Department**
- **Pediatrics**
- **Linen**

## Classroom Curriculum

Students participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

- **Team Building**
- **Workplace Safety**
- **Technology**
- **Self-Advocacy**
- **Preparing for Employment**
- **Financial Literacy**
- **Health & Wellness**
- **Maintaining Employment**
- **Social Skills**
- **Professional Etiquette**

## Schedule

The program year for *Project SEARCH* program runs from September through May.

Example Monday through Friday schedule:

7:45 AM – 8:45 AM  
Exploring topics including independent living and employment

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Internship Worksite Rotations:  
Learning specific marketable skills at actual host business work site

2:00 PM  
Return to classroom and review of day

2:15 PM  
Dismissal

## How to Apply

Applications are made available in January for each program on the Parents Alliance Employment Project (PAEP) website at [www.parents-alliance.org/page/project-search](http://www.parents-alliance.org/page/project-search)

