

Project SEARCH at St. Joseph Hospital

Project SEARCH at St. Joseph Hospital is a 10-month employment training program for individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries. Project SEARCH offers a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and transferable skills job training. Interns gain skills in various occupational rotations including Environmental Services, Diagnostic Imaging, Surgical Services, Infection Prevention, Materials Management, EKG department, Mail Room, Food Services, Sanitary Services, Transport, Patient/Nursing Floor Support and other departments across the hospital. There are over 20 different internship sites at St. Joseph Hospital and interns participate in three 10-week rotations. Interns gain real world experience and an opportunity to explore different career paths within the Healthcare sector, but also acquire skills that transfer well to other industries such as Hospitality. Program partnerships also include the Nashua School District, NH Vocational Rehabilitation, and Gateways Community Services.

Employment After Graduation Rate: 94%

The job development process begins during training where interns meet with their job developer(s) to understand career goals, transportation options, availability restrictions, to ultimately find the best possible job match. Once placed, we provide on-site Career Training for individuals to ensure the transition goes smoothly. The Project SEARCH program also provides Video Resume services for each intern, see examples below. Many of our Project SEARCH trainees find employment quickly after graduation, so please contact us today to discuss training program end dates, internship and paid employment opportunities for new graduates. For more information about Project SEARCH, please contact Jamie Gregoire, Project SEARCH Coordinator, (603) 882-3000 ext. 64402 or jgregoire@pluscompany.org.

Eligibility:

The Project SEARCH program can accommodate up to 12 interns per year. Interested individuals are required to complete an application for program consideration. All applicants must:

- Be eligible for NH Vocational Rehabilitation and Gateways Community Services
- Be at least 20 years old
- Want to work in the community
- Have basic communication skills
- Have appropriate social, grooming and hygiene skills
- Be able to pass a drug screening and background check
- Have updated immunizations and complete medical screening

History of the Program:

Project SEARCH is a well-established employment training program established at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 by J. Erin Riehle, MSN, RN and Susie Rutkowski. Project SEARCH now has over 400 program sites throughout the United States, England, Scotland, Canada and Australia. The Nashua program is the first New England based program of its kind. Our Project SEARCH program began in 2009 and has had great success in matching participants with secure competitive employment. See more about the founding program: <http://www.projectsearch.us/>