

What makes Project SEARCH unique?

Program participants have the unique opportunity to experience a variety of training placements at the University of Rochester Medical Center, testing themselves in real-life work settings while developing transferable job skills.

Project SEARCH is:

- Business-led with support from community partners.
- Focused on competitive paid employment in meaningful non-traditional jobs.
- Supported by a sustainable braided funding model.
- A single point of entry as the business only needs to work with one adult agency, leading to streamlined support of interns and employees with disabilities.



Additional Information

Project SEARCH at the University of Rochester Medical Center is operated in partnership with Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, the Arc of Monroe and the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities.

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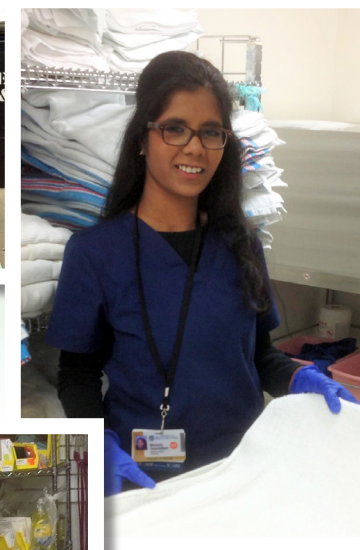
Project SEARCH® is a nationally and internationally recognized program for individuals with disabilities who are interested in training and preparation for competitive employment. There are currently more than 400 Project SEARCH programs throughout the United States, Great Britain, Australia and Canada.

Project SEARCH in New York State is coordinated by the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

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Project SEARCH®



About Project SEARCH

One year, three internships

Project SEARCH® provides employment and education for young adults with significant disabilities. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, community and workplace.



Project SEARCH is a one-year high school transition program for youth ages 18-21 with developmental disabilities. The program provides training and education leading to competitive employment. It serves as an alternative for students in their last year of high school.

The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total immersion in a large business, five days a week, through training placements (internships) with a goal of competitive employment. Placements will provide participants with hands-on work experience and teach them transferable job skills in real work settings that will prepare them for employment. Participants are also taught how to use natural supports, such as co-workers and supervisors in the worksite placements, to help them with day-to-day duties.

The Project SEARCH program year begins with an orientation in August. During the school year, students participate in three immersive internships, separated by week-long classroom workshops, before graduation and application for employment in June.

Internships are:

- 4-5 hours per day.
- 10-12 weeks for each placement.
- Include three placements per participant per program year.
- Focused on marketable skills including work and social skills.
- Supported by constant feedback and assessment.

The Project SEARCH staff works with participants to provide supports and accommodations needed to be successful. The partnership of Project SEARCH involves a large business, a school district, a not-for-profit agency that provides supports for people with disabilities, state vocational rehabilitation services (ACCES-VR) and the state Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).



A day in the life of a Project SEARCH Intern

7:45 a.m.	Classroom Instruction
9 a.m.	Training Sites/ Internship
11 a.m.	Lunch
11:30 p.m.	Training Sites/ Internship
1:30 p.m.	Job Club, Review, Plan, Journaling
2 p.m.	Depart

