



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the minimal requirements for Project SEARCH?

A. Project SEARCH is for young adults who:

- Are between the ages of 18-34
- Are eligible for services from MDS, or another Area Agency, have Medicaid and are, or can be, open for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver
- Have current application for, or are receiving active services with Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire (VRNH)
- Can pass the required comprehensive background check
- Are able to work with some degree of independence
- Have a reliable method of communication
- Have a desire to gain employment skills and are committed to finding employment at the end of the program
- Reliable form of transportation to and from Project Search

Q. What is the application process?

A. Project SEARCH has a competitive application process; acceptance is not guaranteed.

Prospective candidates must complete the application and provide the selection committee with all required documentation including references, resume, photo, and copies of all vocational or related assessments. If selected for an interview, applicants and their family/primary supporters will be contacted. Priority is given to transition aged youth.

Q. Who pays for SEARCH?

A. The age of the applicant determines who is responsible for funding the Project SEARCH tuition.

- Students who are encouraged to partner with their school in applying for Project SEARCH. If the student is still in school, the applicant's school district is responsible for funding.
- For all other applicants, funding for the program is reliant on applicants meeting the minimum requirements and MDS being able to secure Medicaid waived services.
- Regardless of the age of the applicant, Vocational Rehabilitation provides funding towards the cost of the program for all individuals that are actively working with VRNH and have an individual plan for employment (IPE).

Q. What is the timeline for applications?

- Applications are due in March
- If selected for an interview, interviews will be in April
- Applicants will be notified by mid-May

Q. What are the hours of the program?

A. The program runs Monday-Friday, 8:00am-2:30pm from September to June. The program closes for vacations and staff development days.

Q. What is a typical day at Project SEARCH?

A. The day starts with office time to prepare for the day. Interns are at their internship sites from 8:30-1:30. The interns have a 15 minute break and a 30 minute lunch during that time. From 1:30-2:30 the interns are back in the Project SEARCH office and work on employability skills. The interns are dismissed for the day at 2:30.

Q. What internship sites are available and how do you decide who goes where?

A. Internship sites are selected based on the intern's interests, abilities and employment goal. Possible sites include: Orthopedics, Medical Oncology, Nutrition, Supply Chain, Laundry, Environmental Services, Physical Therapy, The Children's Learning Center, Volunteer Services, and the Lab.

Q. What are Cheshire Medical Center's requirements to be in the program?

A. Participants will be required to pass a comprehensive background check, provide documentation of immunizations, have a flu shot and TB test. At this time, a COVID vaccine and a booster are required.

Q. What if I do not like the program?

A. Interns can withdraw from the program. We ask that interns and their families work with Project SEARCH staff to address any concerns they have prior to giving notice.

Q. What types of jobs have graduates obtained?

A. Graduates work in a variety of jobs. Some work in an office environment, others in retail, manufacturing, environmental services, food service, and recreation. On average, graduates of Project SEARCH earn an hourly wage of \$11.16 and work 17.8 hours per week.

Q. Where do I find and then send my completed application packet?

A. Applications are available at MDS. To receive an application, please contact ProjectSEARCH@mds-nh.org or call 603-352-1304.