

Project SEARCH Commonly Asked Questions



Q. How many places are available for Interns/interns for Project SEARCH?

A. The maximum amount of interns is 12 at one time.

Q. What is the selection process?

A. Individuals who are considering applying to the program need to turn in their current IEP, ETR, school transcripts, and fill out an application. The applicant is invited to the mandatory assessment day hosted at St. Rita's/Mercy Health. The Project SEARCH selection committee then looks over the applications, the assessment day assessments and looks to see if the applicant is ready and willing to work as well as their commitment to the program. The interns are then selected after looking at the prepared documents and if they have met all the requirements of the program.

Q. Can I still graduate with my high school friends and class?

A. Yes. Check with your school and make sure they are aware you plan to walk with your classmates.

Q. When is the application due for the next year?

A. The applications are available after the Open House and online at www.apollocareercenterhs.com/project-search/. They are due typically in the middle of February. Assessment day will be in March.

Q. How would I know I was selected?

A. In March, after the assessment day and the selection committee chooses, letters will go out to all those who were accepted or not accepted into the program. Other avenues will be discussed with those who are not accepted at that time.

Q. What does it mean to defer a diploma?

A. Interns that are accepted into the program, will defer (hold), their school diploma for a year while they attend the Project SEARCH program. Interns, once completed with the program, will receive their diploma from their high school and a completion of Project SEARCH certificate.

Q. Will my student still be on an IEP since they deferred their diploma for the year while attending Project SEARCH?

A. Yes, all Interns will need an IEP in order to be in the program. IEP's are there to assure the goals and objectives for independent living and future career opportunities are addressed while in the program.

Q. Do you follow a school calendar for the program? If so, which school do you follow?

A. Yes, the program is designed to mimic a normal school calendar with holidays and others days assigned off. Interns will follow the Apollo Career Center calendar for the year. A Project SEARCH calendar is also created with meeting dates and events scheduled

Q. How does transportation work?

A. If you are part of a school that feeds into Apollo Career Center, then you can take a bus to Apollo, transfer to another bus that will take you to the interns to the host site. If you live in an area that does not send students to Apollo, we suggest calling Find-A-Ride [\(419\) 222-7723](tel:4192227723) or have an alternative form of transportation. If the intern drives and has a car, they will need to register the car with the hospital and are allowed to park in the garage or in the employee lots.

Q. Do the interns/Interns get paid? Are there any perks?

A. Interns are not paid, but the hospital gives them \$7.50 a day during the work week to eat in the café. Interns will wear a name badge where the money will be uploaded to daily. Interns are also given 3 Project SEARCH shirts to wear during the work week. They are to keep the shirts clean and neat while they are working in their internship. Learning how to rotate shirts and keep up with laundry is a great independent skill to have! As one of my interns stated “You get paid in experience”.

Q. What is a typical day in the program? What do you learn during class time?

A. Interns are to be on time daily. They are expected to be in the classroom ready to learn by 8:30 AM. Between 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM, the interns are learning about keeping a job, communications and social skills, team building, budgeting and many other skills that will make them successful in the world of employment and independent life. At 9:30AM the interns leave the learning lab and head to their internships. They take lunch when their mentor takes lunch and then at 1:30 PM they return to the learning lab for an end of the day meeting and daily online assessment. There are two breaks called workshops between the internships where they complete mock interviews and get ready for the next internship.

Q. Will your student get hired at Mercy Health/St. Rita’s Medical Center?

A. The goal of the program is employment. However, the employment does not mean staying at Mercy Health/St. Rita’s or getting a position with the hospital. If there is an available position and your student has the qualifications for the position, or even worked in the department during their internship, they will still have to apply and be interviewed. Interns have job developers that will come get the Interns around February if they are ready for employment from their internship where they will go out into the community and based on their goals, will fill out applications at places that interests them.

Q. What if my student gets a job before the program is completed in May?

A. As job development starts around February; interns are encouraged to take the offered positions from other companies. If they do get hired, they are exited from the Project SEARCH program and will continue on to their job. At that point they will receive their diploma and their IEP will close out from high school education. We will want to see them at the Project SEARCH Graduation too!

Q. Can interns be removed from the program for behaviors or not following the rules?

A. Every intern that is accepted and attends Project SEARCH signs a paper that states they will follow the rules and regulations of the program and of Mercy Health/St. Rita’s Medical Center. If a student is not following the rules, a review will be conducted and appropriate measures will be taken for follow up and a possible removal from the program. If a student is removed from the program, many options are explored for continuing success in the future and their high school diploma is given, unless they are placed back in the high school until they are 22 years old – school permitting.