



What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a business led collaboration between Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Clinton High School, Jackson Public School District, and The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services that enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration. It is an unpaid internship. The goal for each program participant is competitive employment. To reach that goal, the program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent-living skills to help young people with significant disabilities make successful transitions to productive adult life. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with significant intellectual disabilities are employed in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs.

[HTTPS://WWW.PROJECTSEARCH.US/TRANSITION-TO-WORK/](https://www.projectsearch.us/transition-to-work/)

What Does a Good Project SEARCH Candidate Look Like?

- **MUST HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO WORK!**
- Should be finished with their high school credit requirements for graduation, certification, or completion so that they will be able to focus their entire day on gaining competitive and marketable work skills. Agree to exit high school after successful completion of the program
- Must be between 18-21 years old and eligible for Special Education Services.
- Must be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation through MS Department of Rehabilitation Services (CHS will assist)
- Must have good attendance and behavior record
- Should have caregiver/family support to participate in planning meetings
- Should have a positive attitude
- Basic and effective communication skills (verbal or supported by technology)
- Basic reading and writing skills
- Ability to manage their own self-care (to include appropriate social, grooming and hygiene skills)
- Able to pass drug screening and background check
- Must have updated immunizations (including the flu and COVID-19 vaccines)
- Must complete TB testing
- Must be prepared to make arrangements for transportation for employment upon completion of the program
- Maintain appropriate behavior in the workplace (absent of excessive behavioral reports). Have the ability to take directions and change behavior when needed
- Ability to self-manage health needs while at the program
- Ability to tolerate long walking/standing
- Must have the ability to understand safety
- Should have the ability to understand CONFIDENTIALITY. (Should have the ability to respect the privacy of others to include not listening to other people's conversations either on the phone or in person, not trying to look at other people's computer screens while at work.

Things to Know about Project SEARCH at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center

- 2022-2023 will be the 1st year for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center to be the host site for Project SEARCH through Jackson Public Schools.
- There are 3 staff which include the Project SEARCH Instructor and 2 Job Skills Trainers.
- The interns follow the Clinton High School Calendar for school days/holidays.
- Transportation is provided. The interns are bussed to Mississippi Baptist Medical Center by Jackson Public Schools and arrive around 7:30 am. They participate in one hour of instruction on employability skills in a classroom located outside of the main hospital.
- Interns participate in work-based learning in the form of unpaid internships for up to 4 hours per day.
- They are trained for 3 ten - week rotations in departments around Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.
- Departments that have previously accepted interns are Baptist Cafeteria, Chick Fil A, Kitchen, Environmental Services, Healthplex, Medical Records, PT/OT, Radiology, Sterile Processing, Transportation, EDU, MRI, The Manship, and Spectrum Sip.
- Applications are due in January
- Interviews and skills assessments are conducted in early March
- Award and denial letters are sent out in April

COURSE OF STUDY

Unit 1: Team Building

Unit 2: Workplace Safety

Unit 3: Technology

Unit 4: Self-Advocacy

Unit 5: Maintaining Employment

Unit 6: Financial Literacy

Unit 7: Health and Wellness

Unit 8: Preparing for Employment

Unit 9. Social and Communication

Important Dates

TBD	Project Search Informational Meeting for students, parents, and teachers.
4/22/22	Deadline to submit application for Project Search 2022-2023
5/4/22	Skills assessments and interviews for Project Search 2022-2023
5/13/22	Acceptance and Denial Letter sent for Project Search 2022-2023
TBD	Annual IEP Meeting Project Search and Goals on IEP