

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH at Banner Desert Medical Center is a nine-month unpaid internship program that fosters individualized, on-the-job development for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Combined with training in employability and independent-living skills, this program enables the Science Prep Academy students to make a successful transition into a productive adult life.

The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, workplace and community. Project SEARCH is an internationally recognized employment training program developed at Cincinnati Medical Center.



Our primary goal is to secure competitive employment outcomes for each of our student graduates. Creating these opportunities for a diverse workforce within Banner Health aligns with our Mission of making health care easier so life can be better.

Banner Health collaborated with the Science Prep Academy, a program of the Neurodiversity Education Research Center to provide Project SEARCH students the necessary skills to get paid jobs and become contributing members of their community.

Student Eligibility Requirements

(To qualify)

- Students must agree Project SEARCH will be their final year of high school.
- Students must be between 18 and 22 years of age.
- Students must apply by submitting a Project SEARCH application.
- Students must apply and be eligible for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- Students must be able to be independent on the job site, once they understand work expectations, and have received coaching to get them independent with co-worker support.

Participating Banner Health Departments

- Culinary
- Environmental Services
- Guest Services
- Patient Transport
- Supply Chain



Contacts for the Program

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