



Project | SEARCH®
MONTGOMERY

Since the inaugural program year in 2012, Project SEARCH has been a valued program within Montgomery County Government. Project SEARCH is a program dedicated to providing education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through an innovative workforce and career development model that benefits the individual, the workplace and community.

Project SEARCH interns participate in three 10-week unpaid internships within the County and their partners during the ten-month program year. The program is supported by the Ivy Mount School's Post High School Program, a community-focused life skills program, and SEEC, a local nonprofit that provides community-based employment support to transitioning youth and adults. The primary goal of this program is to provide opportunities for interns to experience career exploration, skill development, and training, as well as develop workplace behaviors such as self-advocacy and increased independence. Some areas in which interns have had opportunities to explore include clerical, customer service, data entry, custodial, inventory control and IT. While post-program employment is not guaranteed, what is guaranteed is opportunity for growth, development of marketable skills and a chance to make meaningful connections.

The unique nature of Project SEARCH is that, during the 30-week program year, the interns are supported by a full-time, business-based support team of job coaches provided by SEEC and a full-time instructor provided by Ivy Mount School. The onsite team provides the daily support and infrastructure to the interns and supervisors to ensure overall success in a variety of County departments, other local government agencies, and employers in the private sector. This support includes work adaptations, job coaching and ongoing feedback from teachers, job coaches, and supervisors from the worksite.

The program runs from September through June and the selection process for each cohort begins in the winter prior to the start of the program year.

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