

Project SEARCH - Structured Learning Experience Comparison Guide

Project SEARCH - Newton Medical Center

INTERNS:

- report directly to job site daily - 100% community based (LRE)
- train for 200 consecutive hours in each rotation (4 hr/day -5 days/week), up to 3 total rotations (unpaid)
- receive 90 minutes per day of classroom instruction on workplace training: Team Building, Workplace Safety, Technology, Maintaining Employment, Self-Advocacy, Financial Literacy, Health and Wellness, and Preparing for Employment, Resume writing, Interview preparation, the rest of the day in on the job training from the site mentor
 - Portfolio creation to include: resume, letters of recommendation, a competency profile, and any awards or special recognition received while in the program.
- are allocated consistent on-site mentors for each rotation (actual host site employees)
- are part of the department team and participate in departmental social events and eat lunch with department
- departments include (but not limited to):
 - Materials, Environmental Services, Food Service, Heart Center, Administration, Patient Access, Patient Transport, IT/ISS, Physical Therapy, Wound Care, Thrift Store, Cath lab, Biomedical Engineering, Facilities,
- participate in extensive Travel training with NJTips to encourage/support independent travel when possible.
- do not return to high school after program completion
- procure a job developer to assist with job placement for 1 year after graduation (or longer if needed) & lifetime job follow along services (DVRS)
- will establish an intentional employment plan with job developer at the beginning of the 3rd internship through 60 days after graduation
- must be done will all high school graduation requirements (except PE)
- are responsible to call themselves out sick, or complete PTO request form

Project SEARCH is a 1 year fully immersive, intensive internship experience in a community setting that imbeds activities of daily living
SCESC @ Newton Medical Center is \$35-37,000

SLE

Students:

- schools dictate who is considered for program
- may only be eligible if student drives, or in a certain class (ie MD)
- must have room in schedule to participate
- can be paid or unpaid
- may have rotating mentor depending on shifts, schedules, availability
- does not often get to choose placement, they are allocated by coordinator
- usually assigned before or after school lunch time due to transportation, thus limiting exposure
- can be limited from 1-5 hours per week
- report to school for attendance each day before going out to job site
- often experience a gap in services after high school graduation which can go on for months
- receive limited job skills training from on-site staff, often splintered and sporadic
- receive limited exposure to community
- do not feel a connection to placement staff/activities/procedures
- rely on job coach for support, attendance, questions, job training
- placement depends on transportation, schedule, and staffing
- placements not guaranteed nor consistent

“Structured learning experience (SLE)” means experiential, supervised, in-depth learning experiences that are designed to offer students the opportunity to more fully explore career interests

Out of district SLE programs can charge \$30-60,000 for 1-3 years plus transportation