



Project SEARCH Outcomes 2010–2015

For Project SEARCH, competitive employment is the only outcome that is considered a success. Moreover, we use a very rigorous definition of competitive employment: at least 16 hours per week at a job that pays the prevailing wage or more, is non-seasonal, and is in an integrated setting (i.e. among co-workers with and without disabilities).

Designated personnel at Project SEARCH program sites are expected to enter information on their program's results into a secure, web-based, password-protected database. The parameters that are tracked include competitive employment, eligibility for employer-provided benefits, starting salary, and hours worked/week.

The Project SEARCH database was established in 2010, so the 2010-2011 program year is the first for which we have cumulative results. 2010-15 outcomes are listed below. Results for 2016 graduates have not yet been tabulated because many of these students are still engaged in the job-development process.

2010-12

- In the 2010-11 school year—the first year of operation of our secure, web-based database—Project SEARCH sites reported an average rate of employment for student interns who completed the program at 68% (based on 101 of 220 sites [46%] reporting). Among 2012 graduates, the rate of employment was 66% (based on 132 of 235 sites [56%] reporting).

2012-13

- 202 program sites (outcomes are estimated based on reports from 170 of 202 sites)
- 1,412 young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities served¹
- 1,285 complete the program (91%)
- 881 achieve competitive employment (68.6% of completers)
- Percent Employment for program completers adjusted to account for missing data using the Markov Chain Mont Carlo Multiple Imputation: 72.4%

Cumulative reports from the database show that, for all Project SEARCH graduates that gained employment through Project SEARCH from 2010 through 2013, the average starting wage was \$10.22/hour, and the average hours worked per week was 22.32.

¹ These figures reflect the numbers reported each year. Though we strive for 100% participation, and the rate increases each year, not all program sites participate in data entry. Thus, the actual number of young people served is higher.

2013-14

- 268 program sites (outcomes are estimated based on reports from 249 of 268 sites)
- 2,034 young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities served¹
 - 1876 completed the program (92.2%)
 - 1370 achieved competitive employment (73.0% of completers)
- Avg. Hourly Pay: \$9.13
- Avg. Hours/Week: 25.39
- Percent Employment for program completers adjusted to account for missing data using the Markov Chain Mont Carlo Multiple Imputation: 76.0%

2014-15

- 311 program sites (outcomes are estimated based on reports from 293 of 311)
- 2,370 young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities served¹
 - 2205 completed the program (92.7%)
 - 1679 achieved competitive employment (77.0% of completers)
- Avg. Hourly Pay: \$9.13
- Avg. Hours/Week: 25.39
- Percent Employment for program completers adjusted to account for missing data using the Markov Chain Mont Carlo Multiple Imputation: 75.5%