

Have Dreams Employment Services

Have Dreams Academy and Business FIT are workforce development programs that offer on-the-job training for adults with autism. Through a combination of training room experiences and internship opportunities, the interns develop job skills, improve the social skills necessary to be successful in employment, and learn self-management strategies. Through internship opportunities in light manufacturing, retail and office settings, the interns receive work training and job coaching and gain the skills necessary to be successful in competitive employment.

Have Dreams Academy



Light Manufacturing

Sixteen-week workforce development program that offers on-the-job training for young adults and adults on the autism spectrum. Internship opportunities are located within a light manufacturing environment where interns learn job skills as well as critical soft skills for employment.

Eligibility:

- 18 years or older
- Completed high school
- Strong desire for employment
- Demonstrates independent self-help and self-regulation

Internships:

- I Love Sweets Bakery (Light Manufacturing and Production)
- Ward Manufacturing
- Thermal Laminating Company

Schedule:

- Sixteen weeks:
- Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday - 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Retail

Sixteen-week workforce development program that offers on-the-job training for young adults and adults on the autism spectrum. Internship opportunities are located within a retail environment where interns learn job skills as well as critical soft skills for employment.

Eligibility:

- 18 years or older
- Completed high school
- Strong desire for employment
- Demonstrates independent self-help and self-regulation

Internships:

Walgreens (Retail)

Schedule:

- Sixteen weeks:
- Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday: 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Business FIT (Finding Individual Talent)



Office Based

Nine-month workforce development program that offers on-the-job training for high functioning young adults and adults on the autism spectrum. Internship opportunities are located within a corporate/business environment where interns learn job skills as well as critical soft skills for employment.

Eligibility: College experience and/or college degree

Internships: The Private Bank, Intersport

Schedule: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Have Dreams Academy has a 93% placement rate in competitive employment.

Program Participants:

- Receive work training and job coaching
- Develop job skills and improve their soft skills
- Participate in real-world work experiences
- Learn self-management strategies
- Gain skills necessary to be successful in competitive employment

Expected Outcomes:

- Transferable job skills needed for competitive employment
- Increased social and communication skills needed for successful employment
- Formulate a personal plan for disclosure



Evanston and Park Ridge, Illinois
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Have Dreams Employment Services

Have Dreams is a Chicago-area nonprofit serving the autism community since 1996. The goal of Have Dreams' employment programs is to help adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) learn and improve upon the skills necessary to be successful in employment. These programs help adults build transferable job skills and prepare for inclusive, competitive employment in the community.

Career Launch



Structured teaching methods and hands-on experience in our on-site Walgreens Retail Training Center provide the critical social and communication skills needed for success in the early stages of career development. Skills from this course can help teenagers and young adults get and keep their first job.

Eligibility:

- 16 – 22 years old
- Independent personal hygiene, grooming and independent daily living skills
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social interactions in the workplace (i.e., no aggressive or disruptive behavior)
- Reading, writing and math skills at 4th grade level or above

Program Components:

- Use of on-site Walgreens Training Center
- Social groups to identify key social skills for success in employment

Schedule:

- Quarterly
- Monday and Wednesday; 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact:

Sara LaMontagne, Employment Program Supervisor:
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Project SEARCH Collaborates for Autism at Northwestern University



One-year business-based program for high school students in their last year of transition services. The goal of the program is competitive employment, which is achieved through the use of the autism specific curriculum, three ten-week internship rotations on Northwestern University's campus, and job development.

Eligibility:

- 18 years or older
- Strong desire and plan for employment
- Independent daily living skills
- Maintains appropriate behavior and social interactions in the workplace (i.e., no aggressive or disruptive behavior)

Program Components:

- Training room with use of autism-specific curriculum
- Job coaching
- Job development

Schedule:

- September - June
- Monday – Friday; 8:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

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