

# Understanding your Federal Work-Study financial aid award

## What is work-study?

It's part of your financial aid package.

Contrary to popular belief, Federal Work-Study (FWS) does not pay you to study. Rather, it pays you for working a campus job. FWS can also be applied to certain off-campus or community service jobs.

For most students, the award covers 8–12 hours of work per week for two semesters. Money that you earn through your FWS position comes to you in the form of a paycheck, and you can use the money in whatever way makes the most sense for your personal financial situation.

If you decide not to take a FWS job, you simply won't receive that portion of your financial aid package.

When you file next year's FAFSA, your FWS earnings won't be included in your earned income and won't count against your need-based aid — so FWS employment leaves you eligible for more financial aid than regular work.

To learn more about FWS, visit to [go.osu.edu/FWS](https://go.osu.edu/FWS).

## Why work on campus?

Beyond the locational convenience, working on campus ensures that your needs as a student-employee are understood. Campus employers understand that you'll need to schedule work around your classes and exams — and they often can help you navigate life at the university.

Plus, when comparing retention and graduation rates or grades, **research shows that students who work on campus are more successful**. Students say that budgeting their time between classes, work and studying helps them develop time management skills that prove valuable both at college and later in life.

## Start looking for jobs early

We recommend looking for jobs as early as July. If you choose to not work during autumn semester and pick up a job in the spring, start looking for jobs in the autumn so you can be factored into the schedule and avoid losing your FWS award eligibility.

## Finding a work-study job

There are many jobs on campus, but only some are FWS positions. The only difference between FWS and other jobs is the source of the funds paid to students.

The money paid to FWS students comes from a federally funded program, while other campus jobs are funded by the university. There's no difference to you, but there's a great difference to your employer — campus employers like to hire students who have FWS funds!

To search for FWS opportunities, go to [sfa.osu.edu/jobs](https://sfa.osu.edu/jobs) and navigate to the Workday job board using the Federal Work-Study Program tab. Click on the job board link and log in using your Ohio State username and password.

You can also visit [careers.osu.edu](https://careers.osu.edu) or the websites of offices that interest you to see if they have information about employment opportunities.

## Bring the right documents to campus

If you plan to work on campus, part of the hiring process requires you to verify your ability to work in the U.S. This can be done by presenting an original copy of an acceptable verification document.

For more information, including a complete list of acceptable documents, visit [go.osu.edu/i-9-verification](https://go.osu.edu/i-9-verification).

## Questions?

If you have questions about your Federal Work-Study award, contact Buckeye Link.

### Buckeye Link

Student Academic Services Building, lobby  
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### Phones and walk-in hours:

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

