

Federal Work Study

The Federal Work Study program allows eligible students to earn some of their financial aid by working during academic year and/or during the summer either on campus or for various off campus non-profit agencies. Work Study is awarded based on financial need to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a degree program who are registered at least half-time during the academic year. The amount of the award represents the maximum earnings allowed for the award period.

Students interested in work study must apply for financial aid and meet all UMaine deadlines. A Student Employment Authorization form and Federal I-9 Form must be completed and turned in to Student Employment before starting to earn the work study award.

Summer Federal Work Study

The Summer Federal Work Study Program allows eligible students to work part time or full time during the Summer Term. Students must apply for financial aid for the academic year prior to the Summer Term and complete a Summer Federal Work Study Application. The application is available early each spring and must be submitted by the deadline indicated on the application. In some cases, earning work study during the Summer Term can impact the following year's financial aid eligibility.

FWS Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is eligibility for FWS determined?

A. All student are considered for federal work study by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must submit the FAFSA by the priority filing deadline of March 1st. The Office of Student Financial Aid will determine eligibility based on federal regulations. The award is valid for the academic year only. Students who wish to earn summer work study must fill out a separate application available in the Office of Student Employment in April.

Q. Can my FWS award change during the year?

A. Yes. The Office of Student Financial Aid may have to revise the award amount based on changes in financial circumstances or the receipt of additional financial resources. Many times a student's award will change when they receive an outside scholarship. Students need to advise their employer of any changes in their FWS award.

Q. Can I work if my award has been eliminated?

A. Yes. You may work as a student employee as long as your employer allows non-work study students. Some employers can not hire students who do not have work study.



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Q. *What if I don't earn the amount I have been awarded?*

A. You are not penalized if you do not earn the FWS award. Rejecting an award or only earning a partial award will not affect future eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to work the hours that equals out to the amount of the award. Student and employers will decide on the amount of hours needed to work.

Q. *Does FWS go toward my bill?*

A. FWS does not go towards your bill. FWS is paid in the form of a bi-weekly paycheck based on the number of hours worked. Most students use their FWS earnings for personal expenses.