



Federal Work-Study

What is Work-Study?

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is part of your financial aid offer that provides you with an opportunity to earn money working at a part-time job on campus. **The amount listed on your financial aid offer does not disburse with your other financial aid, it just indicates eligibility to apply for on-campus work-study positions.** Your FWS offer does not require you to work during the academic year, but if you are interested in earning this money it is your responsibility to identify, apply for and obtain a work-study job so you can earn your FWS. Like traditional employment, you will receive a paycheck each month and receive a W-2 at the end of the calendar year. CA Dream Act applicants are not eligible for work-study.

Work-Study Basics:

- Students who filed a FAFSA application and who are determined to have financial need are eligible.
- If you were not awarded work-study and you would like to be considered for it, please contact our office to see if you qualify.
- You may begin earning work-study at the start of the semester if your financial aid file is complete.
- Hours are limited to 20 hours per week when classes are in session and up to 40 hours per week when classes are not in session.
- Summer work-study may also be available. Please contact our office.

The Benefits of Work-Study:

- Work-Study will give you an opportunity to gain valuable skills and work experience that future employers may find desirable.
- It is convenient to work on campus with employers who work with your school schedule.
- Work-study students have more opportunities to connect with the campus community, learn about resources available to students, and collaborate with faculty and staff.
- Students with work-study jobs tend to stay in school.
- Unlike traditional employment, earnings from a FWS job will not affect financial aid eligibility in subsequent years.
- Students who are eligible for FWS may qualify for CalFresh Benefits. For additional information or assistance completing a CalFresh Application, contact Center for Healthy Communities at 530-345-9749.

Finding Jobs on Campus:

The process of finding a work-study job begins with accepting your FWS offer. Next, access on-campus employment opportunities using the Career Center's **Handshake** job referral system. Handshake provides students with 24-hour access to information about work-study and student assistant positions available on campus, along with off campus job listings. Instructions on how to access this system and other useful information can be obtained from the Career Center at www.csuchico.edu/careers. Click on the Handshake button and filter for work-study jobs.