

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING FEDERAL WORK-STUDY

How can I get a Federal Work-Study Grant?

The first step in getting a Federal Work-Study Grant is to apply for financial aid. Filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will establish eligibility for Federal Work-Study as well as other types of Federal financial aid. Be sure to indicate interest in Work-Study where the question is asked. Once the form is processed, you must return required supporting documents to the Office of Student Financial Services. A Financial Aid counselor will review your file to determine your eligibility.

How do I know whether I have been awarded a Federal Work-Study Grant?

You will receive an award letter from Hofstra University indicating any and all financial aid you have been awarded. If you are eligible for Federal Work-Study, this financial aid award letter will list the dollar amount of the grant. You may also check your portal to see if you were awarded any FWS grant money. Finally, you may contact Student Financial Services by email at: studentfinancialservices@hofstra.edu; by telephone at: 463-8000; or in person at: 206 Memorial Hall to speak with a counselor.

The dollar amount is the maximum a student may earn for the academic year on the Federal Work-Study Program. Summer Grants are awarded separately upon request if sufficient need exists.

Students who do not qualify for Federal Work-Study can still work on campus as a Student Employee.

If I receive a Federal Work-Study Grant, will that amount be deducted from my University bill?

No. Unlike other forms of financial aid, the amount of your Federal Work-Study Grant relates to ELIGIBILITY ONLY and the amount must be earned through a job. There is no guarantee that you will receive all or even part of this money, nor is there a guarantee that you will obtain a job. The only way you can receive any of the grant is to obtain a Federal Work-Study job. If you do, you are paid directly by check for your actual hours of work, but cannot earn more than the amount of your grant. You decide how the money will be spent.

Is there a Federal Work-Study job for every eligible student?

Unfortunately, no. Students apply for FWS jobs on a first-come, first-served basis once eligibility has been determined. Federal Work-Study funds are awarded to each school by the government, not directly to each student. Once the funds granted to the school for this purpose are earned by students, the government does not award additional funds until the following year. It has been our experience, however, that most students who are interested in working as Federal Work-Study students are placed in jobs within the first two months of the academic year.

Do I have to work?

No, you do not have to work, but working is the only way you have access to the grant money. If you do not work at a Federal Work-Study job during the year you are awarded a grant, you will not earn any part

of that grant. If you obtain a Federal Work-Study job at any time during the grant year, you will start earning the grant amount.

Must I accept the job offered to me?

No. You will have an opportunity to consider the jobs available at the time you want to start working. After interviewing with a department supervisor and receiving a job offer, you decide whether or not to accept the job. If you decide not to accept a job, you may consider other jobs which are available, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Am I paid to study?

No. Federal Work-Study jobs are real jobs with real responsibilities. You are paid to work; NOT to study.

If I don't use all the award money this year, may I use the Federal Work-Study grant I got this year to work next year? If I have a grant this year, will I have one next year?

No. Federal Work-Study is a form of financial aid and, like other forms of financial aid, may be used only in the year for which it was awarded. You must reapply for this, as well as all other types of aid, each year. There is no guarantee that you will receive a grant each year, as it is part of your total financial aid package and will be influenced by other types of aid you receive (including loans), family income and your non-Federal Work-Study income during the previous year. All of these items are variable and can impact your eligibility.

May I return to the same job each year?

Yes, but only if you are invited to do so by your employer and if you are eligible the following year for Federal Work-Study. You must apply for financial aid each year and you must obtain and complete the appropriate paperwork from the Office of Student Employment at the beginning of each year. You do not need new paperwork if you are continuing a job from fall to spring semester, but you do need new paperwork for the summer and the next academic year.

May I work off-campus with my Federal Work-Study grant?

Yes, FWS jobs may be on or off-campus. Hofstra University encourages those students eligible for FWS to take advantage of employment offering community service opportunities. These jobs are available both on campus and in the local community. Off-campus FWS jobs may be with federal, state, or local public agencies or private nonprofit organizations and must be in the public interest. Some of our off-campus community service employers have been the Uniondale Public Library, Roosevelt Children's Academy, and the Cradle of Aviation Museum.