

Federal College Work-Study: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Federal College Work-Study?

A: Federal College Work-Study (“work-study”) is a need based federal financial aid program in which students who are eligible are able to work on campus or off-campus for a non-profit, non-partisan organization and be paid as long as certain conditions are met.

Q: How does someone qualify for work-study?

Students must demonstrate sufficient need (by completing their FAFSA) to be awarded Federal work-study funds. Because the funds are limited, students seeking summer work-study funds must already have a job to be granted funds.

Q: What is the application process?

A: To be considered for work-study a student must complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and fill out a Delaware Law Financial Aid Data Form for the academic year for which the funds are to be awarded by the *priority filing deadline*. Additional forms will be required.

Q: How does it work?

A: The wages a student earns are funded partially from their Federal work-study award and partially through an employer contribution. If you are working on campus, your department is charged the employer portion. If you are working off-campus, an employer contribution is required.

Q: What if my off-campus employer can't pay anything?

A: For Pennsylvania residents working for an approved Pennsylvania employer (court systems, non-profits, etc.) the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) will pay the employer portion. For other students intending to work off-campus (non-Pennsylvania residents, Pennsylvania residents not working in Pennsylvania, etc.) your employer is responsible for the employer portion unless you obtain funding through Delaware Law's Summer Service program.

Q: What is Delaware Law's Summer Service program?

A: Delaware Law has a program that will pay the employer portion for eligible employers. The program has limited funding and is awarded on a first come, first served basis. There is a placement form that needs to be completed and returned to the Financial Aid Office to reserve your place. Additional paperwork will need to be completed by your employer in a timely manner in order to receive funding under this program.

Q: If I do not receive funding under the Delaware Law Summer Service program, what are my other options?

A: Your employer could elect to be responsible for 35% of your earnings. Students working off-campus earn \$10.00/hour. This means your employer would be responsible for \$3.50 of every hour worked. If your employer is unable to make this commitment, then you may not use your work-study award to fund your employment.

Q: How much can I earn?

A: Students are given a maximum award amount when your eligibility is determined. Award amounts vary year to year based on funding.