



*The*  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* **VERMONT**



# Federal Work Study Program Manual

## 2014-2015

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## Definition of Federal Work Study

Federal Work Study (FWS) is a form of financial aid that provides employment opportunities to help students meet educationally related expenses. FWS is awarded in combination with other aid programs to meet students' financial needs. An undergraduate, graduate or professional degree student that is enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student that demonstrates financial aid may be eligible for FWS. International, Global Gateway and/or Continuing Education students cannot be considered for FWS.

All FWS employment is governed by employment conditions (including pay) that are appropriate and reasonable according to the type of work performed, the geographic region, and the employee's proficiency. Federal, state, and local laws governing regular employment also apply to FWS. FWS employment may not be used to replace or displace regular employees. Moreover, if the employer is not the school itself, the school must have a written agreement with the organization providing the job. The link to the US Department of Education FWS program manual is included in the Regulation Resource section of this manual.

**As a need-based federal financial aid program, FWS cannot be awarded to students who do not file a FAFSA and that do not demonstrate financial need.**

## US Department of Education FWS Regulations

**ACADEMIC CREDIT** may be earned as well as compensation for FWS jobs. Such jobs include but are not limited to internships, practicum, or assistantships. However, a student employed in an FWS job and receiving academic credit for that job may not be:

- Paid less than he or she would be if no academic credit were given;
- Paid for receiving instruction in a classroom, laboratory, or other academic setting; and
- Paid unless the employer would normally pay a person for the same job.

**WORKING FOR A PROFESSOR** is permitted as long as the area of work involved is the type which the institution would normally support under its own employment program. The assignment of students to serve as research assistants to professors is one example. This is appropriate as long as the work performed by the students is in line with the professors' official duties and is considered work for the institution itself.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** positions (on or off campus) must equal at least seven percent of the institution's FWS allocation with at least one FWS student who serves as a reading tutor for children who are preschool age or are in elementary school. *Community Services* are defined as services that are identified by an institution of higher education through formal or informal consultation with local nonprofit, government, and community-based organizations, as designed to improve the quality of life for community residents, particularly low-income individuals, or to solve particular problems related to their needs. These services include but are not limited to; fields such as health care, child care, literacy training, public safety, crime prevention and control, recreation, rural development, community improvement, support to students with disabilities, mentoring, tutoring, supporting educational and recreational activities, and counseling.

**WORK OFF- CAMPUS for NONPROFIT or GOVERNMENT AGENCY** is encouraged but not required. Work performed off campus must be in the public interest which is defined as work performed for the welfare of the nation or community rather than work performed for a particular interest or group. The nonprofit organization must be incorporated as nonprofit under federal or state law. All off- campus employers must have a written agreement with the institution in which the students are enrolled. The agreement should specify what share of student compensation and other costs will be paid by the off-campus organization.

**POLITICAL EMPLOYMENT** positions must be free of political involvement. Under this prohibition, students cannot be assigned to work for individual members of Congress. However, students could be assigned to the staff of a standing committee of a state legislature if the selection of staff for such a committee and the work performed by such a staff is conducted in a nonpartisan fashion. Further, the political support or affiliation of students may not be prerequisites or considerations of employment. Positions that involve lobbying at the federal level are also prohibited.

**RELIGIOUS EMPLOYMENT** positions must not involve constructing, operating, or maintaining any part of a building used for religious worship or sectarian instructions. The key issues in determining “religious work” in regards to work performed by FWS students are:

- 1) the main purpose of the building in which the work is taking place
- 2) the actual job that is being performed.

For example; FWS students may work in a non-profit day nursery operated by a church, as long as the nursery is open to the public on the same basis as for members of the church (i.e., is in the public interest) and as long as the particular positions to which the students are assigned do not involve sectarian instruction or the religious activities of the church. In determining whether any FWS employment will violate this restriction, the FWS office will consider the purpose of the work rather than just the nature of the employing organization. An example of employment not eligible for FWS is work maintaining a chapel which does not serve any but religious purposes. Maintenance of college auditorium which is only occasionally used for religious services would be eligible employment under FWS. In this case, the main purpose of the auditorium is not for religious worship or sectarian instruction.

**TIMESHEETS** for students that are employed through an off-campus employer are required and must be certified by an official at the off-campus site. Timesheets must show each day’s worked hours separately, and the total hours worked during the job’s payment cycle (every two weeks). These amounts and hours recorded must match the hours for which the student is paid through PeopleSoft. The Organization will provide payment to the Institution per the invoice terms (UPON RECEIPT) and made payable to UVM. Payments and corresponding timesheets are to be mailed or brought to the Student Employment Office, 237C Waterman Building, 85 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405 within the week the invoice is received. Original copies of off-campus employer timesheets must be maintained by the school for seven years.

**WAGES** are based on an hourly basis only and must be at least the federal minimum wage in effect at the time of employment. In addition, a school may not count fringe benefits as part of the wage rate and may not pay a student commissions or fees. In determining an appropriate rate, the employer must consider:

- the skills needed to perform the job;
- how much persons with those skills are paid in the local area for doing the same type of job;
- rates the school would normally pay similar non-FWS employees; and
- any applicable federal, state, or local laws that require a specific wage rate.

## UVM FWS Program Requirements for Supervisors

<b>FWS Program begins the first day of the fall semester and ends on the last day of spring final exams. If any of the required tasks to secure a student's FWS award aren't completed the award will be canceled on the applicable deadline.</b>		
<b>FWS Award Options</b>	<b>Required Task to Secure FWS Award</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Fall or Full Year	Accept FWS Award & Agree to the FWS Terms & Conditions	1-Oct
Fall or Full Year	Be hired into a FWS job & receive approved hire email notification from SEO	1-Oct
Decline Fall & Keep Spring	Email or go to Student Financial Services to cancel fall & keep spring award	1-Oct
Spring Only	Be hired into a FWS job & receive hire email notification from SEO	15-Feb

**Special Note:** once a student secures a FWS job, they may be hired into additional FWS employment positions up to a maximum of three jobs.

**HOLIDAYS AND DATES OF NON-ATTENDANCE** during the academic year are allowable working days for students with FWS as long as the student is enrolled for the spring semester. Spring semester begins the day after the last day of fall final exams. If the student isn't enrolled for spring then they're FWS award is final on the last day of Fall final exams and any amount earned thereafter will be charged to the department regardless of the student earning their full Fall award potential or not.

**HOURLY RATE** of pay for students with FWS cannot exceed \$13/hour.

**HOURS** that a student works in a day or week do not have statutory or regulatory limits, provided no over award occurs. UVM strongly encourages supervisors to **NOT** place their needs ahead of a student's academic focus and overall health and well-being. Students cannot earn more than half of their full year award within the fall semester. A student's FWS award may also change in the midst of the academic year due to a variety of reasons (see Work Study Award Changes section of this manual). The more hours you provide a FWS student with the faster they will use their award which inevitably may be a disservice to them.

**MANAGING FWS AWARDED STUDENTS** will allow you to best support a student's opportunity to earn consistent wages, the UVM FWS program and to adhere to particular terms and conditions of your Supervisor Agreement. Please feel free to utilize the below recommendations into your FWS management practices.

### **Scheduling:**

Halve the students' full FWS year award, divide by the # of weeks in the semester then divide by the hourly rate. This number is the weekly allotted hours the student can work. **Special note:** students with FWS cannot earn more than \$13/hour.

$$\$800(\text{half of the full year award}) / 14.5(\text{weeks in semester}) = 55.17 / \$10.30(\text{rate}) = 5.36 \text{ hours/week}$$

### **PeopleSoft Time Sheet:**

A student's FWS award, earnings thus far and remaining earnings are noted on the bottom of their time sheet in PeopleSoft. You can access this information by selecting the following in PeopleSoft: Manager Self Service> Time Management>Report Time>Timesheet. Enter your Supervisor ID and then click to get employees. Choose the student whose time sheet you wish to see this information for and if they have more than one PeopleSoft record be sure to select their Work Study record.

## Work Study Award Earnings Report:

1. Login to PeopleSoft: HR System
2. Select UVM Reports: Payroll Reports: Work Study Award
3. No need to enter a Run Control Id, simply click on the Search button
4. In the Search Results box, select the Run Control ID you want or create a new run control report (no spaces) by clicking on Add New Value
5. For Fiscal Year, enter the year in which the academic year will end. IF you are using a saved Run Control ID (this will populate updated information) enter the Dept ID or your Supervisor ID. IF you're not using a saved Run Control ID simply click Run.
6. Process Scheduler Request Screen- simply click OK
7. Click on Process Monitor
8. The report you just generated will be the top one in the process list and should have a "Queued" run status, click the refresh button (may need to happen multiple times) until the run status changes to Success and the Distribution Status is Posted- then click Details
9. Click the View Log/Trace button at bottom of screen
10. Click on the report that ends with .PDF
11. Voila! UVM Work Study Award and Earnings Report

**Special Note:** You will only see what the student(s) have earned in your department. If the student has more than one FWS job, it will be noted in the last column of this report and you will need to discuss how to schedule hours according to their overall remaining FWS award.

**TIMESHEETS** for on-campus FWS employment positions are not required. It is however, considered to be a "best practice" especially for departments whose supervisors are not the ones approving student hours in PeopleSoft. **Remember**, no one except the student can enter worked hours in PeopleSoft except the student who worked them. This policy is clearly stated on the bottom of an employee's time reporting sheet in PeopleSoft: "By pressing the submit button below, I certify that all hours reported as being worked by me are correct and I understand that falsification may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment".

## Work Study Award Changes

A student's FWS award may sometimes change due to the listed reasons below. In the event that any of the listed reasons below occur, you will be notified to discuss the change in the student's award and modify their schedule accordingly (which may include immediate removal). In the event that the student has earned more than the amount that their award has been changed to, your department will be charged the overage and their record in PeopleSoft will be terminated.

Possible reasons for changes in a student's FWS award:

Student has withdrawn from school for the current or upcoming semester  
Student has dropped classes and is now enrolled less than half-time  
Student has received an additional financial aid award which meets their financial need  
Student has been academically dismissed and financial aid has been cancelled  
Student is not meeting the university satisfactory academic progress standards for financial aid eligibility and financial aid is cancelled. Student may keep what has already been earned  
Student owes a refund to a federal grant program or is in default on a federal loan  
Student's budget has decreased resulting in decreased financial need which is met or exceeded by other awards and FWS earnings to date  
Student's expected family contribution has increased, resulting in decreased financial need which is met or exceeded by other awards and FWS earnings to date  
Student has graduated or is not eligible for second semester

## Regulation Resources

[UVM Code of Academic Integrity](#)

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)

[US Department of Education Federal Work-Study Program](#)

[UVM Supervisor Terms and Conditions for Student Employment](#)