



***FEDERAL WORK STUDY
REFERENCE
MANUAL***

Academic Aid Year 2016-2017

PROCEDURES AND FORMS

FEDERAL WORK STUDY PROGRAM
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE

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CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Background
- B. Programs
 - 1. Federal Work Study Program
 - 2. Texas Work Study Program
 - 3. Institutional Work Study Program

II. PROCEDURES

- A. Students
- B. Departments
 - 1. Participation Agreements
 - 2. Electronic Payroll Action Requests (ePAR)
 - 3. Online Job Postings
 - 4. Federal Work Study Departmental Notices

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The Federal Work Study Program was created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Even though it has been revised and restructured throughout the years, the objective has remained the same. The Federal Work Study program was created to provide part-time employment to students who need the extra income to help meet the costs of their education.

B. Programs

There are three work study programs from which a student may earn monies.

1. **The Federal Work Study Program (FWS)** is federally funded and open to all eligible students.
2. **The Texas Work Study Program (TWS)** is funded by the state. The requirements for the TWS are the same as FWS with one exception: along with being eligible for federal work study, students must also be a resident of Texas.
3. **The Institutional Work Study Program (IWS)** is designed for the Emerald Eagle Scholars Program.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Students

1. To be considered for work study, a student must apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and indicate a preference for work study. Work study is awarded based on a student's enrollment status and financial need. A student must be enrolled at least half-time in order to be considered for the program (5 hours for Graduate and 6 hours for Undergraduate students) and meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements. Since work study is need-based and the funds are limited, each student is given a maximum allowable amount which can be earned. The maximum award amount is \$2,500 per term. The work study award may be reduced if a student receives other types of financial aid. If the student or department is concerned about exceeding the award amount, the student may contact the financial aid office requesting their work study be increased. The availability of funds and the student's unmet financial need will determine if a student's work study award can be increased.
2. CWS Positions work not more than 20 hours per week during the semester in which they are employed. Except, students may work up to 29 hours per week between Fall and Spring semesters provided the student has work-study funds available. For example: If a student is awarded fall work-study, the student is able to work after the last day of class on

December 12th through the end of the work-study term on January 15th (refer to II.B.2 Job Code and Date Range chart).

B. Departments

Compared with regular hourly employment, these programs offer a definite advantage to a participating department. Under all programs, a department is charged only 30% of the student's gross earnings. This adds up to a substantial savings for the department.

Example:

If a student earns \$100.00, the work study program is charged \$70.00 (70%) and the department is charged \$30 (30%) of the total gross earnings.

Student's gross earnings	\$100.00
FWS is charged	<u>(70.00)</u>
Department is charged	\$ 30.00

Please keep in mind that 100% of the total gross earnings will be deducted from the student's award, not just the 70% charged to the work study program.

If a department is charged 100% of the gross earnings, it may be because the department didn't submit an electronic Payroll Action Request (ePAR) for the student or the student may have exceeded his/her award amount. **All earnings over the awarded amount will be charged back to the department at a rate of 100%.** Departments are encouraged to closely monitor a student's gross earnings to ensure the earnings do not exceed their award. This is especially important if the student's hourly wage rate is greater than minimum wage or they are employed in more than one department. The departments are responsible for tracking total earnings.

Work Study payable hours are calculated by:

Award amount/rate of pay = total work study payable hours

In order to utilize the work study program, departments will need to sign Participation Agreements, submit job requests and complete payroll authorizations.

1. Participation Agreements

Participation Agreements are contracts between Student Financial Aid and Scholarships (SFAS) and the department. There is a separate contract for the federal and the state program. These agreements ensure that all departments comply with federal and state regulations. By completing both agreements, a department will be able to hire students who have either Federal, Texas or Institutional awards. These forms must be completed and on file with SFAS

before a work study job can be posted, or a payroll action request (ePAR) can be approved for a student.

A new agreement for both the federal and state program must be filed each academic year (September 1 of current year to August 31 of the next year). The Participation Agreements are usually completed and returned during the summer before the new academic year begins. The forms are available through SFAS which is located in the Eagle Student Services Center (ESSC), room #134 and online at: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/work-study>

Completing the Agreements

- Fill in the department name.
- Obtain signature of the Department Dean, Chairman, or Director.
- List all the account numbers from which the department will pay the work study employees. Only the account numbers listed on the agreements may be used on an ePAR and job requests.

If you wish to add account numbers to your participation agreement after they have been submitted, simply email the FWS Coordinator (collegeworkstudy@unt.edu) and request the new account number(s) be added to both agreements. ***Please be aware that delays in approval will occur when an ePAR or job request is submitted with account numbers not listed on the participation agreements.***

Be sure to read *all* of the items listed in both agreements. These points constitute the agreement between the department and SFAS. After the agreements have been reviewed, the FWS Coordinator will sign the agreements and return a copy to the department via fax or inner-campus mail.

2. Payroll Action Requests (ePAR)

Payroll Action Requests (**ePAR**) must be submitted for processing for students who have a work study award. The instructions for submitting an ePAR is located at: <http://bsc.untsystem.edu/epar>

The items verified by the SFAS Office are:

- The account number (must also be listed on the current Participation Agreements);
- The Effective Date (must match Job Code);

Work study job codes are as follows:

Program	Job Code	Date Range
Federal	1711 – Fall	08/16/16 – 01/15/17
	1712 – Spring	01/01/17 – 05/31/17
	1713 – Summer	05/16/17 – 08/31/17
Texas	1751 – Fall	09/01/16 – 01/15/17
	1752 – Spring	01/01/17 – 05/31/17
Institutional	1721 – Fall	08/16/16 – 01/15/17
	1722 – Spring	01/01/17 – 05/31/17
	1723- Summer	05/16/17 – 08/31/17

- The Career Center Requisition Number is obtained through the Career Center. They may be reached at careercenter@unt.edu or Telephone: (940)565-2105.
- Student's award and acceptance of work study.

Payroll Action Requests (ePAR) containing incorrect information will be denied and reason for denial will be noted in the comment section on the ePAR. Authorization will be approved only when all information has been submitted correctly.

Reasons for denial:

- Student has not been awarded and accepted work study
- Job code does not match term and effective date
- ePAR does not have a Career Center Req number
- Payment account is not on the participation agreements

****Important Note:** *Per UNT Policy 05.001 – CWS students are not allowed to work during a scheduled class, even if the class has been cancelled.*

3. Online Job Postings

To post jobs online, a department must contact the UNT Career Center to complete the required online information. The instructions for hiring student employees are located on the Career Center's website at: http://careercenter.unt.edu/fs/supervisors_guide. Click on the link for Job Posting Instructions.

All work study job requests must be approved by SFAS prior to being posted. The items verified are:

- The Job Title (must have a CW# assigned to it);
- The Job Description - must contain the following information:
MUST HAVE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED A COLLEGE
WORK STUDY AWARD TO APPLY FOR THIS POSITION;
- The account number(s) (must be on current Participation Agreements).
- The Pay Rate (must be at least minimum wage);
- Effective Date (must match the academic year and semester).

Once the job request has been approved, it will be routed back to the Career Center. The Career Center will then report the Career Center Requisition number to the department.

4. Federal Work Study Departmental Notices

The departmental notices are provided only to assist departments in keeping records for each student's work study award. The notice will track a student's total award, period earnings, and remaining balance. It is very important that accurate records be kept within each department to prevent students from earning more than their award amount. It will also benefit the department by reducing the student's chances of earning wages over his award which will result in a 100% chargeback of the overearnings to the department. SFAS will send out these notices on the 1st and 15th of each month.