Work-Study FAQ

What is work-study?

Funds that can be earned by working in exchange for wages. Employment earnings do not have to be repaid. Departments hire work-study students because it helps their budget. Departments pay 25% of the wage and the work-study funding pays 75%.

What is the benefit of having work-study?

Departments love work study students because of the budget benefit so funding gives you an advantage during employee selection. Then later when filling out next year’s FASFA your work-study earnings are not counted as income and might help you gain eligibility for more aid.

How do I get work-study?

Fill out the FASFA and answer ‘yes’ you would like to be considered for work-study funding. You need to complete the FASFA by the dates listed on the work-study timeline.

I am eligible for financial aid; why didn’t I get work-study?

Work-study is a limited funding.

How do I get the work-study money once I have been awarded?

You need to find a job, apply, and obtain the position through AGGIE Handshake. You will submit a time sheet for hours worked and receive a pay check every two weeks.

How many hours can I work?

It is between you and the department but the average is around 20 hours a week.

How many jobs can I have on work-study?

You can have two work-study jobs if needed. Your employers need to be aware you have a second job and coordinate your hours so you do not go over a combined total of 40 hours EVER.

Can I get work-study for summer?

Yes, you may be able to receive summer work-study if funding is available. Summer work-study is a separate awarding from fall and spring. Summer Aid Applications are available March 1, in the Financial Aid Office.

When can I start working?

You can start working the first day of classes.
**How many credits do I need to have work-study?**

You just need to be enrolled for credit.

**Can my employer schedule me during class time?**

Students are not permitted to work in FWS positions during their scheduled class times. Exceptions are permitted if an individual class is cancelled. Any such exception must be documented with the supervisor. Students may be required to submit their course schedule to their supervisor in order to ensure that they are not working during class time. If an employer requires a student to work during class time, the student should report this to the FWS Coordinator.

**Will work-study effect my student loans?**

Maybe. If you do not have enough unmet need for work-study and loans you may have to choose between them. Usually students can have both.

**What if I can't find a work-study job?**

You can apply for on-campus part-time, wage hourly positions in AGGIE Handshake and let the employer know you have work-study funding. It could increase your chances of the getting the position because part of your wage would be funded (75%).

You can also talk to your academic department or professors and let them know you have this funding. Sometimes a position might be created for you because of the funding assistance.

**What is America Reads?**

This is work-study funding set aside for tutors to work in elementary schools.

Currently, 120 students are working in 20 different elementary schools in Cache Valley.

These jobs are posted in AGGIE Handshake or email Todd Milovich at todd.milovich@usu.edu.