

Wartburg College
Federal Work-Study
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Federal Work-Study?

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a federally-funded form of financial aid. FWS funding is used to pay the wages of students working in the student employment program.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for FWS, students must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, a full-time student, demonstrate financial need, and meet other Federal/State eligibility requirements. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for FWS. If a student is granted FWS, it will be noted on his/her financial aid offer letter.

If I accept my Federal Work-Study award, am I guaranteed a job?

At Wartburg College, a student's FWS eligibility has no bearing on the hiring process. Therefore, a student's acceptance of an FWS award does not guarantee him/her an on-campus position. All students must apply for on-campus jobs through our job board and be hired by the employing departments on campus.

If I did not receive a Federal Work-Study award on my financial aid offer letter or chose to decline my Federal Work-Study award, can I still work on-campus?

Yes. A student without FWS eligibility would be eligible to apply for on-campus jobs through our job board and be hired by the employing departments on campus. Wartburg College budgets institutional funds annually to pay the wages of students participating in the student employment program that are not eligible for FWS.

Will the Federal Work-Study award automatically be applied to my student account?

No, students are responsible for securing an on-campus job and working the respective number of hours/weeks to fulfill their FWS awards. Students may elect the method in which they wish to receive their monthly wages – either via direct deposit to their bank account, applied to their student account, or a combination of both.

By signing up for the Student Payroll Deduction Agreement, students can have all (100%) or a percentage (25%, 50%, or 75%) of their wages applied directly to their student accounts each month.

Is the amount of Federal Work-Study on my financial aid offer letter the most that I can earn?

No. If a student's earnings exceed their Federal Work-Study award, the Financial Aid Office will be contacted to see if the student's FWS award can be increased. If not, the student's future wages will be paid from institutional funds.

Are my Federal Work-Study earnings taxable?

Yes. Federal and state taxes are withheld from FWS wages.

Also, FWS earnings should be reported on a student's FAFSA the following year when reporting total income earned from work and when it specifically asks for total income earned through work-study.

Are Federal Work-Study awards automatically renewed each year?

No, FWS awards are not automatically renewed each year. Students must meet the criteria each year to be eligible for FWS.

If a student is not eligible for FWS next year, but is being retained as a student employee by a department, the student will likely have a Campus Employment award on their financial aid offer letter in an effort to take student employment earnings into consideration of their financial aid package.

Does Federal Work-Study affect future financial aid?

The FAFSA specifically asks for students to report their total income earned from work (including FWS) as well as total FWS earnings. This ensures that the wages a student earned through FWS will not count in the calculation that determines how much financial aid a student is eligible for the following year. Ultimately, FWS will not jeopardize future financial aid eligibility.