Federal Work Study (FWS) Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I have federal work study; what are the next steps?
A. Search for a job. Jobs are posted in the Career Center's Handshake software.

Q. Why will a department want to hire me just because I have FWS?
A. Employers seek students with FWS positions because the wages earned are not charged to the department’s budget.

Q. Do I have to work on campus?
A. No, there are employment opportunities on and off campus.

Q. Can’t I make more money off campus?
A. FWS positions begin at $8/hr. versus North Carolina’s minimum wage of $7.25/hr. Some FWS positions pay more, up to $10/hr., because of the work involved. In addition to hire wages, campus employers allow students to establish a schedule around their classes, sometimes having shifts throughout the day.

Q. Where can I get a job off-campus?
A. Off campus employers include, but are not limited to:
   - American Red Cross
   - Brigade Boys & Girls Club
   - Carousel Center
   - Children’s Museum
   - DREAMS of Wilmington
   - New Hanover County Board of Elections
   - New Hanover County Cape Fear Museum
   - New Hanover County Human Resources
   - New Hanover County Information Technology
   - New Hanover County Parks & Gardens
   - New Hanover County Public Library
   - New Hanover County Social Services
   - YMCA

Q. Can I work in the office with my academic major?
A. Most campus departments have FWS positions, and do not require a specific major. Campus employers include, but are not limited to:
   - Athletic Department (various teams)
   - Biology labs (may be limited to students within the major)
   - Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
   - Film Studies
   - Human Resources
   - Technology Assistance Center (TAC)
   - Theatre Department

Q. When is payday?
A. The UNCW Payroll Office processes pay for on the 15th of each month for the hours worked during the previous month. If the 15th falls on a holiday or weekend, pay day is the Friday before.

Q. What if I have not been awarded Federal Work Study and would like to be considered for this award?
A. If you do not have a FWS award in your financial aid package, please contact your financial aid counselor. If eligible, you will be added to the Wait List. There is no guarantee, but if funds become available later, a FWS award could be added. You will be notified by the Work Study office, if this occurs.