Hello. Thank you for joining today’s chat to learn more about the work-study (Federal Work Study – FWS) program on our campus. Let’s get started!

1. **What is work-study?**

Work-study is a need-based component of a financial aid package that enables students to obtain a job and earn money to assist with college expenses. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines a student’s eligibility for need-based aid.

2. **How do I get work-study?**

For consideration of work-study, you must select “yes” to the question on the FAFSA, “Are you interested in being considered for work-study?” Work-study funds are limited and awarded as part of financial aid packages until all of the funding is exhausted.

3. **What are the benefits of a FWS job?**

In many ways, work-study it is like any other job you might obtain in college. However, there are a few reasons that a work-study position may be more beneficial.

**Benefits of a FWS job** versus a non-FWS job include:

- **Flexible Schedules** – Supervisors understand schedule changes because of academic obligations. Many students work between 9 – 12 hours a week. Ideally, students do not exceed 20 hours per week.
- **Higher Salaries** - FWS positions pay more than minimum wage. Most jobs start at $8/hour versus NC’s minimum wage of $7.25/hr. Some positions pay even higher.
- **Variety** - Positions are available in almost every department on campus. You may land a job in your academic discipline, enabling you to interact with faculty and administrators and learn more about the field. Most jobs do not require a specific major.

(post section below separately)

- No EFC (Expected Family Contribution – number comes from the FAFSA) - Wages from a FWS job are not included in the calculations for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). As you may know, income and wages within a household affect your eligibility for need-based aid. Report FWS earnings in the following two areas of the FAFSA so that the FWS earnings can be removed from the equation:
1. "How much did you (and your spouse) earn from working in 20XX."

2. In the Student’s Additional Financial Information, "Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, such as Federal Work-Study and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships."

4. What other things should I know about FWS?

- **PAYCHECKS** - The FWS amount on your financial aid award does not reduce your bill. Instead, you receive a monthly paycheck for the amount that you earned during the previous month. Paydays are on the 15th of each month.

- **FERPA TRAINING** – All students must take the short 20-minute online training about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This is accessible in Seanet as a Skillport training session. This is only required once. Instructions appear in your Seanet messages – FERPA training.

- **JOB LOCATIONS** - FWS jobs are available on and off campus. Off-campus jobs exist in non-profit organizations in the community. All job vacancies appear in Handshake. Off-campus employers provide expanded employment opportunities in areas such as youth development, education, disaster assistance/preparedness, information technology and the environment. Partner organizations include The Carousel Center, Coastal Horizons, Dreams Center for Art Education, YMCA and multiple units within New Hanover County government (Library, Parks and Gardens, Social Services, Board of Elections).

5. If I receive FWS, what are my next steps?

1. Accept the FWS Offer in Seanet.
2. Complete the training about confidentiality (you only have to do this once). Instructions appear in your Seanet messages – FERPA training.
3. Search and apply for a job in Handshake. **Having an FWS award does not guarantee that you will get a job.**

Handshake is a job search engine maintained on our campus by the Career Center. Handshake has information about jobs and internships all over the country. This guide explains how to narrow a job search to work-study jobs at UNCW. If you encounter a technical problem with Handshake, contact the **Career Center**.

Most employers seek new-hires who have work experience. Student employment is a great way to enhance your resume while building skills, networking and earning some money. Work-study employment is smart way to earn money!
Additional information about the federal work-study program is available in the brochure, handbook and our webpage. You may also email your questions to workstudy@uncw.edu.

Contact us with your general financial aid questions
http://uncw.edu/finaid/counselors.html
Live Counselor is available Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at www.uncw.edu/finaid

Please share any feedback you have via our Customer Satisfaction Survey:
Stay tuned for future invitations to chat with the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid!