



**FEDERAL WORK STUDY
HANDBOOK
FOR STUDENTS**

Introduction

This handbook has been prepared for the benefit of NEO A & M Federal Work Study students and their supervisors. It is meant to set forth guidelines and to clarify the working relationship between the student and the supervisor.

Overview

Federal Work Study (FWS) is a need-based, federally funded work program designed to help students meet the Cost of Education. FWS is an financial aid award, not just a job.

The NEO Office of Financial Aid will make every effort to match a student, based on course of study, talents, and knowledge, with the supervisor's needs. NEO faculty and staff understand that FWS students are students first, and supervisors will work around a student's class schedule.

Here are just a few benefits of being a FWS student at NEO:

- Experience for your resume and with the interviewing process
- Letters of recommendation from supervisors
- Opportunity to explore different career interests

Description of FWS Positions

There are two categories of FWS positions at NEO. The first category, on-campus positions, involves such services as clerical support, graders, and tutors. First time on-campus positions pay \$7.50 per hour. The second category, community service positions at mostly off-campus locations, include reading tutors at local elementary schools through the America Reads Program, clerical work for WorkForce Oklahoma and assistance at other community service centers. These community service jobs pay \$8.25 per hour. Some community service work-study positions may require criminal background checks. For example: Reading Tutors are required to have a criminal background check prior to working at an elementary school.

Eligibility

Students must fill out the FAFSA and have unmet need to be eligible for FWS. A student's file must be complete in order to be considered for FWS. Due to limited availability of positions, it is suggested that students interested in the work-study program complete their FAFSA as early as possible. Eligibility must be met each academic year independently, so students must re-apply each year.

Students must also meet all other requirements for financial aid, including:

- Enrollment in an eligible degree, certificate, or diploma program
- Not in default on a student loan or owing a refund on previous financial aid received
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress. A copy of these standards is available in the Financial Aid Office or on the NEO website.

Responsibilities of FWS Students:

- Complete a work schedule with your supervisor at the beginning of each semester.
- You are not allowed to work over the maximum allowed hours per week as listed on your authorization.
- ***YOU CANNOT WORK WHEN YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO BE IN CLASS, EVEN IF CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELED.***
- You should report for work as scheduled and on time. Your supervisor will be depending on you to work the hours that you are scheduled to work.
- Personally contact your supervisor if you will be absent due to illness or for any other reason.
- Act in a professional manner concerning confidentiality of student and college records that you may have access to as part of your job assignment.
- Follow procedures and meet expectations set by your supervisor.
- You are expected to dress and act appropriately; no short shorts, yoga pants, or crop tops. Remember, you represent NEO A & M College in a professional setting.
- Time spent on work-study should be productive to the department.
- Discuss any work-related problems you experience (schedule, job expectations, conflicts, etc.) with your supervisor.
- Keep records of your total earnings, and make sure that you do not exceed your total award per semester as listed on your Authorization to Work form.
- Regardless of your work-study end date, if you do not intend to register for the next semester or are graduating, your last day of classes will end your work-study assignment.
- If you decide to quit your FWS job, you are required to give a notice to your supervisor and submit a Termination / Transfer Form to the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office is under no obligation to locate another position for you if you quit your job.

Other Policies

- A FWS student may work during the summer semester if,
 - work is available,
 - sufficient FWS funds are available to pay the student,
 - The student is enrolled in the summer semester; or is enrolled in the upcoming fall semester and has completed the FAFSA for fall.
- A FWS student may work between semesters if,
 - Work is available,
 - The student is enrolled in the upcoming semester,
 - Funds used between semesters will affect the number of hours a student can work during the upcoming semester.
- FWS students are not eligible for paid lunch hours, vacations, sick leave, or holiday pay.
- FWS students are covered by Workmen's Compensation Insurance, but not by Unemployment Insurance. All work-related injuries should be reported to your supervisor immediately. The supervisor should notify Human Resources and the Office of Financial Aid as soon as possible.

Applying for Federal Work Study

- Federal Work Study is a financial aid award, not just a job.
- Returning students who have previously held a FWS position will be awarded first.
- New students interested in FWS should contact the Office of Financial Aid once they have completed their FAFSA application.
- Once eligibility has been confirmed, new students will be contacted about open positions on or off campus. Students will be given a FWS Authorization to Work form, which will show how many hours a student may work and their rate of pay.
- Students will be directed to campus departments that have open positions for an interview. If the student and supervisor decide that they are a good match for the position, the supervisor will complete the FWS Authorization to Work form and the student will need to return the form to the NEO Office of Financial Aid.
- Financial Aid will finalize the FWS award, sign the form and give a copy to the student.

Payroll Procedures

- Students will take the completed FWS Authorization to Work form to the NEO Payroll Clerk and complete all required paperwork.
- Students must provide NEO with two forms of identification* in order to be hired for a position. *Acceptable documents include, but are not limited to, a copy of the student's driver's license and social security card. A complete list of acceptable documents is available in the Office of Financial Aid.
- Once all required paperwork has been completed, the Payroll Clerk will sign the Authorization to Work form and give it back to the student. Before beginning work, the student must give the Authorization to Work form, with all required signatures, to their supervisor.
- **STUDENTS CANNOT WORK UNTIL ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND SIGNED.**
- Students will record their time worked on a paper time sheet until their position has been established in the Self-Service portal on my.neo.edu. Once a student's position is available in the Self-Service portal, all time worked will be recorded there and approved by their supervisor.
- Off campus students will continue using the paper timesheet in addition to the Self-Service portal to record their time worked. The paper timesheet must be signed by the student's supervisor and faxed, or dropped off at the NEO Office of Financial Aid at the end of each payroll period.
- **FAILURE TO RETURN THE OFF CAMPUS PAPER TIMESHEET TO THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID IN A TIMELY MANNER MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN PAYROLL PROCESSING.**

EMPLOYMENT TERMINATION

Voluntary Termination

If student decides to quit a job, he/she should give at least two-week advance notice to the supervisor so that a replacement may be found. Student employees may voluntarily terminate their jobs at their own discretion.

Involuntary Termination

Supervisors may terminate a student for a number of reasons. Federal Work Study student employees may be terminated from their positions by the Supervisor for inability or unwillingness to comply with the requirements of the position. Some examples of violations that will result in termination with or without warning include, but are not limited to:

Termination with Warning:

- Frequent tardiness
- Repeated unexcused absences
- Scheduling conflicts
- Discontinuation of the job

Termination without Warning:

- Time Sheet falsification
- Theft
- Destruction of College property
- Use of drugs or alcohol during or immediately prior to the work shift
- Violation of College policies
- Violation of Confidentiality Agreement
- Student receives funds that cause them to no longer be financially eligible.
- Student is no longer making Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Federal Work Study earning maximum met.
- Funds for the FWS program are depleted

Dismissal Guidelines and Repercussions

Supervisors may terminate a student's employment for any reasons listed above. If a supervisor is not satisfied with a student's performance and the student's actions or behaviors do not require immediate termination, the supervisor should counsel the student about the situation.

If termination is necessary, the supervisor must submit a signed Termination / Transfer Form to the Financial Aid Office indicating the reason for termination. If possible, once you, the supervisor, have completed the Termination / Transfer Form, review with the work-study student who is being terminated and have them sign. The form must be completely filled out; however, the student's signature is preferred, but not required.

Please note, problems such as dishonesty, theft, and violations of confidentiality call for immediate dismissal. Supervisors should contact the Work-Study Coordinator as soon as possible in such instances.