

## FWS Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is Federal Work-Study?

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. A FWS job allows you to earn money to help supplement your income while you're attending school.

### 2. What makes me eligible?

To be eligible for FWS you must meet the following requirements:

- You must have a valid FAFSA on file with MCC
- All items on your [Student Center To Do List](#) must be complete
- You must have unmet [financial need](#)
- You must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits
- You must be meeting [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- You must meet other financial aid [eligibility requirements](#)

### 3. Can I lose my eligibility throughout the semester?

Yes. There are certain factors that can change your eligibility:

- Falling below 6 credits anytime during the semester will result in the cancellation of your FWS and the loss of your job.
- Failure to meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- Changes in your financial aid award may also affect your eligibility. This includes adding additional loans and/or receiving scholarship awards.

### 4. Who determines my FWS eligibility?

Enrollment Services will determine your eligibility for the year. You will be given a FWS eligibility slip with an estimated award amount to give to your hiring supervisor.

### 5. How do I find a job on campus?

You can find a job on campus by visiting Career Services located in building [36N](#) at the Southern and Dobson campus. Campus job postings can also be viewed by visiting the Career Services [Work Study Jobs](#) webpage.

### 6. Does FWS pay my tuition directly?

No. You will receive a regular paycheck from your FWS job. FWS funds from your paycheck cannot be applied directly to your student account.

**7. How do I receive my FWS money?**

Your work-study award is paid out as earnings, and is never directly paid to your student account. You will receive a paycheck from the Maricopa Colleges every 2 weeks for the hours you work. The Federal Work-Study amount you see on your financial aid award summary represents the maximum amount you can earn during your FWS program dates.

**8. Can I work more than 19.5 hours a week?**

No. The purpose of the program is to help you succeed in your classes, so the amount of hours you are allowed to work is limited to 19.5 hours a week. During breaks, you may work more than 19.5 hours but only if you have sufficient FWS funds and you obtain approval from your supervisor.

**9. How long is my FWS award good for?**

Your FWS award is good for one semester at a time and depends on meeting eligibility requirements. Generally, you are awarded for the full academic year (Fall & Spring) if you meet the eligibility requirements for that year. However, it is important for you and/or your supervisor to verify your FWS eligibility with the Financial Aid office throughout the semester, as well as before the start of the following semester to avoid any lapse in FWS funding. You cannot work beyond the last day of the semester.

**10. What happens if I do not earn my entire FWS award?**

Students earn their FWS funds by working. If you do not earn the full amount of your FWS award by the end of the semester the Financial Aid office will return any unused funds.

**11. What is unmet financial need?**

Unmet [financial need](#) is the difference between your Cost of Attendance (COA) and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

**12. What is Cost of Attendance?**

The [Cost of Attendance](#) (COA) is an estimate of your total educational expenses for your enrollment period at MCC. A Cost of Attendance to attend MCC is established for every student that applies for Federal Student Aid and is determined by many factors including, but not limited to, enrollment status, residency status, and living situation.

**13. What is an EFC?**

Your [Expected Family Contribution](#) (EFC) is the number calculated from the information provided on your FAFSA. Your EFC is used to determine the amount of federal student aid you are eligible for.

**14. My Maximum Time Frame was recently approved. Does that mean I am automatically eligible for FWS?**

No, not necessarily. You must be registered in 6 or more credit hours and the credits must be from classes approved on your Restricted Course List.

**Remember: Federal Work-Study is a real job!**

Federal work study jobs are in demand and the process of obtaining a FWS job is very competitive. Increase your odds of getting the job you want by being prepared.

- Practice your interview skills
- Update your resume
- Dress professionally
- Be prepared to speak about the skills you possess and any past job experience that may be relevant to the job you want

If you need assistance with [interview techniques or writing a resume](#), please meet with a [Career Services Advisor](#).