Student Employment

Grinnell College
Office of Financial Aid

Working on campus at Grinnell can help you pay for your educational expenses and develop professional skills. Find out more about how it works before you begin.

Who can work on campus?

Currently, anyone can work on campus, including students who do not receive financial aid. Most students work on campus at some point during their four years at Grinnell.

What is the Federal Work-Study or Student Employment I see included in my financial aid?

While grants and scholarships make up the majority of financial aid provided, on-campus employment is included as one part of each student's contribution toward their educational expenses. Beginning in 2027-28, the standard student employment/work-study is $3,100 for new students and $3,300 for returning students. New students can earn $3,100 by working less than eight hours per week during the academic year, and returning students can earn $3,300 by working about eight hours per week during the academic year. If you decide not to work or don't work enough to earn the amount in your financial aid notice, you will likely need to use other resources, such as outside scholarships, loans, or additional assistance from a family member, to meet your expenses.

What is the difference between Federal Work-Study and Student Employment?

Federal Work-Study means that the federal government funds a portion of your earnings. Conversely, Grinnell College funds all earnings under Student Employment. You can work in almost any position on campus regardless of which type of employment you have in your financial aid.

How do I find a job?

First-year students who have work in their financial aid notice will receive information about working before arriving to campus. They can apply for jobs by searching the online job board (login required) or choose not to work. We recommend applying early. All Grinnell students who are eligible to work in the United States can apply for jobs through the job board.

How do I get paid?

Students are paid every other week for hours worked. Most students set up direct deposit to have their paychecks deposited into their personal bank account. Students can also apply some or all of their earnings toward their billing statement by setting up payroll deduction (login required). If neither option is set up, the student receives a paper check.

Why doesn't my work-study/student employment appear on my billing statement?

Work-study and student employment are not applied as a credit on the bill like grants, scholarships, and loans. Instead, students are paid every other week for hours worked. The wages you earn from a campus job can help you pay your student accounts balance and/or you can use them to cover indirect expenses like transportation or personal expenses.

If employment appears in your financial aid notice, you can begin the semester with a balance due (up to your student employment amount) and make regular payments toward this balance throughout the semester. The balance must be paid in full by the end of the semester. Students who want to use this option must submit the Student Intent to Work form and are encouraged to set up payroll deduction. You must submit the form annually for each academic year you intend to use this option.

There's some paperwork before you get started.

Students will receive an email to their Grinnell email address that invites them to complete payroll paperwork after they have been hired. Additionally, students must bring original documents (no photocopies) that verify their eligibility to work in the United States to campus to complete their employment forms before they can begin working.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions about the employment in your financial aid, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at finaid@grinnell.edu or 641-269-3250. Please direct all other student employment questions to the Office of Student Employment, which can be reached at studentemployment@grinnell.edu or 641-269-4818.