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?

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.

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 checking or savings account. Students also have the option to apply some or all of their earnings toward their billing statement. If employment appears in a student’s financial aid notice, they can begin the semester with a small balance due and should set up a Payroll Deduction Agreement by contacting Payroll. If neither of these are set up, the student will receive a paper check.

How do I find a job?

First-year students who receive need-based financial aid will be placed into a job over the summer before they arrive on campus. They can keep this job placement, apply for other jobs by searching the online job board (login required), or choose not to work. All Grinnell students who are eligible to work in the United States can apply for jobs through the job board.

There’s some paperwork before you get started.

In early August, all new students receive an email to their Grinnell email address from Paycor (Grinnell’s payroll vendor) that invites them to complete payroll paperwork. Additionally, you must bring original documents (no photocopies) that verify your eligibility to work in the United States to campus with you to complete your employment forms before you can begin working.

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 2024-2025, the standard student employment/work-study is $3,000 for new students and $3,150 for returning students. New students can earn $3,000 by working less than eight hours per week during the academic year, and returning students can earn $3,150 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, 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.

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 Mark Watts, Director of Payroll and Student Employment, who can be reached at watts@grinnell.edu or 641-269-4652.