

Information about the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program

What is Federal Work Study (FWS)?

Federal Work Study (FWS) is a form of Financial Aid awarded to students who demonstrate financial need and meet certain eligibility requirements. ECC may offer you aid from the Federal Work Study program if you are an undergraduate or graduate student. This program gives you the opportunity to earn money by working part-time during the school year. It is an excellent way to earn money to meet education expenses while gaining valuable work experience.

Salary and Earnings

The salary for all Federal Work Study (FWS) students is Federal or State minimum wage, whichever is higher. For the **2026-2027** academic year the rate will be \$15.92 per hour as of as of January 2026.

If you accept FWS as part of your aid package, please remember that you **cannot** earn more than the total award shown on your Financial Aid notification. The money you earn is not included as student income when you apply for Financial Aid for the next year. Earnings from the FWS program are subject to all applicable federal, state, and local taxes.

Unlike grants and loans, your FWS eligibility does not defer payments of tuition and fees and other college charges. Instead, you receive bi-weekly paychecks as you work. You can use your earnings toward day-to-day educational and living expenses, or you can save your earnings made during the one term toward tuition and fee expenses during the next term.

FWS students can only work a maximum of 15 hours per week unless otherwise noted by the Financial Aid Office.

Eligibility and Application

You must complete the FAFSA application and have a demonstrated financial need to be eligible for the FWS program. You must also ensure that you complete the FWS application and submit it to our office by the designate deadline on the application. Other eligibility requirements include registration of at least 6 credits or more for Fall/Spring and maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

How do I apply?

FWS applications will be available on or about the third week in April until the third week in October (unless otherwise noted). Applications will re-open the second week of December until the second week in February (unless otherwise noted), for students who are enrolled in the Spring semester only, who did not enroll in Fall.

Once you complete your FAFSA® and submit all necessary documentation you should complete the FWS application and submit it to the Financial Aid office. You will receive an email within 2 weeks with additional information concerning your eligibility. If you are eligible, you will be notified to attend an orientation session and be placed in a department.

Types of FWS Jobs

FWS positions can include a variety of tasks including working with computers, students, general clerical and office work, mentoring, working with children, tutoring, etc. Some of the available departments' students may be assigned to include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Computing
- Accounting
- Africana Institute
- Biology and Chemistry
- Business Division
- Child Development Center
- Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)
- Financial Aid
- Graphics
- Humanities Division
- Information Technology
- Learning Center
- Social Sciences
- Student Development Center
- Student Life & Activities
- Welcome Center

Community Service opportunities may also be available off-campus for students to work. If interested, please ensure to contact Ms. Saint Jean.

For further inquiries or information please contact:

Laura Menture
FWS Coordinator
Financial Aid Office
lmenture@essex.edu
973-877-3097

Shirlgandy Saint Jean
FWS Job Placement
Office of Student Development & Counseling
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973-877-3399

Essex County College Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with the requirements of USDE Guidelines IV-O, Title VI: 34 C.F.R. § 100.6 (d), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and other federal, state and local laws, Essex County College ("ECC") does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, disability, creed, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, gender identity, or gender expression. Essex County College prohibits sex discrimination in any of its services, education programs, and activities that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to Essex County College's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. ECC's Title IX Coordinator is:

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