

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AT SUNY CANTON

Handbook for Students and Supervisors

**Federal Work Study, Foundation Assistantship,
and Student Assistantship payrolls**

Financial Aid and Human Resources Office

Updated September 2021

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A. Who is Eligible for Student Employment?

Student employment is available to students currently enrolled at SUNY Canton under the Federal Work Study, Foundation Assistantship or Student Assistantship Program. Students who have been withdrawn or have been dismissed from school must immediately stop work.

1. Student Assistantship Program

Available only to departments with a budgeted Temporary Service allocation. All registered students are eligible to apply directly with the department. Financial need is not required. This is not a guaranteed source of allocation annually. The maximum number of hours that can be worked during the Thursday through Wednesday work week is **29**.

2. Foundation Assistantship Program

(a) What is a Foundation Assistantship?

This is a small work program funded by College Foundation/College Association. Up to 10 students awarded each year.

(b) How do students apply for Foundation Assistantship monies?

Students apply by contacting the Financial Aid Office and being placed on a wait list. Also financial need is not required.

(c) When are awards made?

Students will be notified of eligibility in August.

3. Federal Work Study Program

(a) What is Federal Work Study?

Federal Work Study is a federally funded financial aid program. Students who work under this program will receive a paycheck that can be used to assist with their educational expenses. In addition, this program provides students with valuable job experience.

(b) Who is eligible for Federal Work Study?

The Federal Work-Study program at SUNY Canton follows the guidelines set forth by the Federal Department of Education. Eligibility is based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and funds availability.

Generally to be eligible to participate in the FWS program a student must:

- Have a high school diploma or recognized equivalent
- Be enrolled at least half-time as a matriculated (degree) student
- Be either a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be making satisfactory academic progress in a degree program
- Demonstrate financial need (FAFSA)
- Complete the FAFSA by the March 1st priority deadline

(c) How do students apply for Federal Work Study monies?

Students who wish to be considered must:

- Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov after January 1st but **BEFORE MARCH 1st** prior to the start of the academic year and must have indicated on the FAFSA that they wanted to be considered for Federal Work Study. Once the results are received by SUNY Canton they are reviewed for an award package. Financial need is determined by the Cost of Attendance minus the calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA.
- Once packaged an award notification will be sent to the students to accept or decline their awards on UCanWeb.
- Federal Work Study funds are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis to those who are eligible and requested FWS on the FAFSA until funds are depleted.
- Students who are eligible but not awarded may request to be placed on a waiting list that will be reviewed several times during the academic year should funds become available.

(d) Proof of Eligibility for Federal Work-Study

Students who have accepted a Federal Work-study award in their award package will be emailed in late July or early August outlining the steps to being hired upon arrival at SUNY Canton. The student will pick up an employment packet once arriving to campus. Enclosed with this packet will be a yellow card with their name, ID and FWS award listed on it. The card will include an expiration date after which the award is not valid without authorization from the Financial Aid Office. They must have this card with them when meeting with the prospective employer/department or they cannot be hired.

4. Employment of International Students

All students must have a US social security number to be placed on the payroll. A generated student ID cannot be used for payroll processing. Students wishing to apply for a social security number should contact the Director of International Programs in the Faculty Office Building (FOB) room 232 to obtain the appropriate documentation required by the Social Security Administration Office in Ogdensburg, NY. To apply for a social security number students must obtain an employment letter from their immediate supervisor.

Students who are non-US citizens must report to the Human Resources Office with the appropriate visa documentation. Please note that per USCIS regulations, students in F-1 status are allowed to work 20 hours per week during school session and may work full-time during official school breaks.

B. Student Assistantship Budget Allocations/Foundation Assistantships/Federal Work-Study Awards

1. Student Assistantship Budget Allocations

Student Assistantship funding is requested as Temporary Service Funds in a department's annual budget request. This is not a guaranteed source of funds.

2. Foundation Assistantship Funds

Foundation Assistantship Funds are determined by the Director of Financial Operations of the College Foundation during the summer and reported to the Director of Financial Aid. Generally there is enough funding to award up to 10 students.

3. Federal Work-Study

The FWS program is a federally funded program so does not affect SUNY Canton's budget. Therefore, supervisors should try to expend all FWS funds that students may have before expending Student Assistant/Temp Service funds. This also helps to ensure that SUNY Canton uses all of the annual funds given to us by the US Dept. of Education. Allocations for FWS funds are reviewed annually by the Financial Aid Office. Once the allocations have been determined, the Financial Aid Office will notify departments of their funds for the academic year. Departments have the flexibility to hire as many students as their allocation and the student's awards will allow. Keep in mind that the department allocation and the student allocation (award) may be different. It is very important that a student does not earn more than his/her award. The maximum earnings for each federal work-study student are determined by the amount of the Work-Study award. The amount of the award is listed on the student's award screen on UCanweb and their yellow proof of eligibility card. Federal work-study cannot be paid on the federal work-study payroll for more than their award amount. If the department lets the student earn more than the award allows, the department will be responsible for transferring the student to a student assistantship position and will need to fund those additional hours with departmental funds.

At the point of hire, students and supervisors should discuss the maximum earnings allowed for the appointment. A procedure should be established to insure that the student's earnings are monitored against the available award and allocation that was granted.

Students must stop working when their allocation is exhausted!!

FWS Supervisors can request access to their allocation account via the SMRT system by contacting Melissa Tulip in the Business Office at x7555. Supervisors receive their

account numbers in their allocation email. Please note that the SMRT system figures will lag behind the actual payroll expenditures.

4. FWS Allocation Process/Management

1. Process

Each Spring semester the Financial Aid Office will have an Allocation Request Form to be completed by March 31st or date indicated in email. Requests can be made year-round but will be dependent upon fund availability.

Departments requesting the same allocation as the prior year must submit the Allocation Request Form. Departments requesting new or increased departmental FWS allocations must submit the Allocation Request Form and provide a justification for the new or increased allocation. The justification must fall into one or more of several categories listed on the FWS Allocation Request Criteria. Both forms can be found at www.canton.edu/fin_aid/workstudy.html.

The Financial Aid Office will notify supervisors of allocations for the next academic year before the end of the Spring semester (barring any technical issues).

2. Management

The FWS Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that they do not overspend their allocation. They will have access to their FWS account through the SUNY SMRT system or can check with the Payroll Office directly.

Important Note: If employing summer students – earnings through June 30th will be applied to the PRIOR year allocation while earnings from July 1st forward will be applied to the NEXT year allocation.

C. Summer Employment

1. Student Assistantships

Individual departments may have summer positions available. Students may only work a maximum of **29** hours per week, Thursday through Wednesday.

2. Foundation Assistantships

Funding is not available for summer employment.

3. Federal Work Study

There are a limited summer positions available for summer employment.

(a) Applying for summer FWS

In addition to the required FAFSA there is a separate summer application that must be filed for all aid, including FWS awards. The application is available on www.canton.edu/fin_aid/forms once summer registration begins. Completed

applications are submitted to the Financial Aid Office for eligibility determination.

- (b) Supervisors would have to have summer positions requested in addition to the academic year requests in order to have allocations. Once notified of an allocation the position can be advertised on Jobs4Roos.
- (c) Summer earnings are paid out of prior year allocations through June 30th and upcoming year allocations from July 1 on.
- (d) Students would report directly to the department of choice to begin the paperwork and then take it to the Human Resources Office to finalize.

D. How Are Jobs Advertised?

Employing departments may post their job openings to Be A Roo. Postings will be opened once departments receive their allocation. The Career Services Office will provide instructions to supervisors on posting job description.

E. How do Students Apply for Jobs?

There are a limited number of positions available each year. Regardless of the type of employment students are urged to contact departments early in the semester, within the first two (2) weeks is recommended for the most choices.

- FWS and Foundation Assistantship students will receive a letter with a colored card during August that explains exactly what the student needs to do to get a job. The card will serve as proof that they have an award. Students who have not initiated contact with a department within the first two weeks may have their awards cancelled.
- Student Assistant positions are very limited and not guaranteed for departments every year.

FWS and Foundation Assistantship students may only work for one department at a time. If a student wants to switch departments they must notify the department that hired them. The new department will then need to complete a new Student Employment Form to transfer future earnings to their account allocation.

Departments conduct their own interview process. The Ready Canter recommends that they request a copy of a student's resume for the interview. This will help the student prepare for future job interviews.

Sample Interview Topics

- Detailed description of job requirements, attendance, performance and any skills required or preferred.
- Rate of pay

- Schedule of hours (be sure the student can work the number of hours per week that is expected. Also be sure that the student's class schedule does not conflict with the times he/she would be expected to work).
- Discuss any training opportunities available.
- Discuss department policies relating to confidentiality, professionalism, phone courtesy, dress, breaks and absences.
- It is an expectation that the student will commit to work the agreed upon schedule. If conflicts arise, discuss the expectations of how to request permission in advance to be absent, or outline who the student should contact if a last minute absence should be necessary.

F. Rates of Pay

Students may be employed at varying rates of pay. Differences are dependent upon the funding source from which they are paid, job duties, longevity in the position, etc.

The current minimum hourly rate is \$12.50 (NYS minimum wage). The maximum rate is dependent upon the funding source not to exceed \$21.89

Students are not eligible for overtime pay.

1. Federal Work-Study & Foundation Assistantship

FWS & FA students can be paid from a minimum of \$12.50 per hour, up to a maximum of \$21.89 an hour with increments of up to 25 – 50 cents per hour. The student's wage may be increased for the following reasons:

- If the student is returning to the same position as the year before.
- If the position has a higher skill level requirement.
- If it is a hard-to-fill position (ex. Based on the type of job or time required to work).

Also note that the higher the rate the student is paid, the fewer hours it will take that student to earn his/her award. For example, a student with a \$2000 award can work approximately 5.5 hours per week over a 30 week academic year at \$11.80/hour. At \$12.60 per hour they can work approximately 5 hours per week. Their award amount will not change with a pay increase.

It is not appropriate to base the wage rate on need or any other factor not related to the student's skills or job description.

Be extremely cautious if you have students with different pay rates as it will be very easy to over-expend your allocation. Please monitor your payroll expenditures frequently, as your allocation is for the academic year and cannot be increased.

2. Student Assistants

Student Assistants can be paid a minimum of \$11.80 per hour and up to \$20.00 per hour. Student wages will be determined by the Department Supervisor. Only departments with a Temp Service allocation can utilize Student Assistants.

Management of allocation is handled by the department. Students are allowed to work up to a maximum of 29 hours per week (for those students working in multiple positions, this is a combination of all hours submitted - not 29 hours per position).

G. Work Schedules/Breaks

FWS and Foundation Assistant student workers are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week while classes are in session. These students are also allowed to work up to 40 hours per week during intercessions (summer/winter) as long as they are not also attending classes. **Student Assistants are limited to 29 hours per week year round, including breaks with NO EXCEPTIONS! When determining number of hours please use Thursday – Wednesday as the work week.**

Students working more than six (6) consecutive hours are required to take a one-half hour break, which must be recorded on the time record.

Breaks should be established for the student employees in the same manner as granted to other employees within your department.

H. Benefits

Students are in the non-competitive class of Civil Service and are not assigned to a bargaining unit. No fringe benefits are accorded to individuals in these positions. Their work status is temporary and no long-term commitments are possible. Student employees are paid at an hourly rate and only for hours actually worked.

1. New York State Employees' Retirement System

Student employees are eligible to enroll in the New York State Employee's Retirement System. Enrollment requires a 3% salary contribution to the Retirement System. The equivalent of ten years of full-time service is needed to become eligible for pension benefits.

2. Worker's Compensation

Students are covered by the College's Worker's Compensation Policy. If injured while on-the-job, the student should complete an Accident Report form, available from University Police as soon as possible. They should seek medical care where appropriate and tell the medical provider it is a work-related injury and all bills should be directed to the State Insurance Fund. If prescriptions are needed, these too should be billed to the State Insurance Fund and the pharmacy should be told it is a work-related injury. The supervisor should notify Human Resources of the accident. Students are not paid for time lost due to injury.

3. Supplemental Retirement Annuity

The State University of New York provides employees with the opportunity to save for their retirement through the SUNY Voluntary 403(b) Tax-Deferred Annuity Program and the NYS Deferred Compensation Plan. Participating in a tax-deferred voluntary savings plan is a great way to build your retirement savings and reduce current taxes. All employees, including students, are eligible to participate in the SUNY Voluntary Savings Programs. More information is available at: <http://www.suny.edu/benefits/vsp/>.

I. Social Security and Medicare Withholdings

Student employees are typically exempt from Social Security and Medicare withholdings as long as they are enrolled full-time in classes. During the summer, FICA is withheld from student checks unless they are enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours for summer classes. Students holding J-1 and F-1 visas are always exempt.

J. Forms Required For Appointment To the Payroll

The employing department representative and newly hired student must complete the following forms.

- Student Employment Form
- Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification, and
- Form W-4 Federal Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate
- Form IT-2104 NYS Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate or IT-2104E Certificate of Exemption from NYS Withholding.

These forms must be **fully completed** and delivered to Human Resources **BEFORE** work begins. Appointments to the appropriate payroll cannot be processed until all forms are complete and filed with Human Resources. Do not allow a student to begin work until these forms are completed and delivered to Human Resources. Appointments to the payroll are processed on a biweekly cycle with a strict deadline schedule imposed by the Office of the State Comptroller. Any contracts not received by the appropriate deadline will have to be recorded within the next payroll cycle, which will result in a delay of the first paycheck.

1. Student Employment Form

Student Employment Forms are available on the Human Resources webpage. These forms contain the basic appointment information (appointment dates, pay rate, account number to be charged, as well as information relating to the student employee). This form is also in the employment packet picked up by each student.

Any change to this initial data (pay rate, account number, appointment dates) will require that a new form be submitted to Human Resources with the effective date of the change.

2. I-9 Form Employment Eligibility Verification

This form is required by federal law to show eligibility to work in the United States. To complete the I-9 Form, students must present the original copies (photocopies are not acceptable) of the documents listed on the I-9 Form. One document from List A, or a combination of one document from List B and one from List C is required.

4. Tax Withholding Forms

Student salaries are subject to federal and NYS tax withholdings. All student employees must complete a W-4 and either an IT-2104 NYS Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate or an IT-2104E NYS Certificate of Exemption from Withholding. These forms should be read carefully to determine the appropriate withholding status. Students ARE NOT automatically exempt from tax withholding. If no form is completed the system will default to single with 0 dependents for withholding purposes.

K. Time Records

The Office of Human Resources uses an electronic time reporting system called SUNY HR, which is accessible from any computer with internet access. Timesheets are completed electronically via SUNY HR under Time and Attendance, the direct link to SUNY HR is www.suny.edu/hrportal.

Student employees are paid at an hourly rate only for actual hours worked which must be indicated in one-quarter hour increments (i.e. 2:15 pm – 4:45 pm, not 2:17 pm – 4:43 pm). It is very important that the student complete the appropriate time record for the job they are hired under. Please keep in mind that time records cannot be accessed until the Student Employment Form, the I-9 and tax forms are on file in Human Resources.

Students and supervisors should review each time record for accuracy and completeness before submitting to Human Resources for processing. Please remember, it is the responsibility of the student and the supervisor to insure that the information provided is as accurate as possible.

You will know the student has been hired by reviewing your Supervisor Work Roster. A PowerPoint of the directions to use the Time and Attendance system for both the students and supervisors can be found at: http://www.canton.edu/human_resources/payroll_student.html

Students and supervisors should make sure time records are submitted to the Human Resources Office by the established deadlines. Time records received after the established deadline will be processed with the next payroll cycle. The deadlines are strict deadlines set by the Office of the State Comptroller. They are not campus deadlines that can be changed for "special circumstances".

L. Paychecks

Paychecks are issued on a **delayed** biweekly cycle, on Thursdays. Paychecks are available to be picked up in the Student Service Center in the Campus Center during normal business hours. Students **MUST** have a photo ID to pick up pay checks or stubs. During breaks if students would like their checks/stubs mailed to them they need to request it at the Student Service Center.

M. Direct Deposit

Students may have their paychecks (or just a portion of each paycheck) deposited electronically into their checking and/or savings accounts at one or more financial institutions. A direct deposit advice (stub) will be issued each payday and can be picked up from the Student Service Center. In addition to the usual information on specific earnings and deductions, the direct deposit advice (stub) indicates how much was deposited to each account at each financial institution.

Direct deposit offers you a safer, faster and easier way to receive your pay. Direct deposited funds are available on the actual pay date. It is a timesaver, you no longer have to stand in line to pick up the check and take it to your bank for deposit.

To enroll in direct deposit you need to complete an enrollment form that is available in the Human Resources Office or online at <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/payroll/files/ac2772.pdf>. If you are depositing to a checking account just bring the form with a voided check to the Human Resources Office. If you wish to deposit to a savings account, your financial institution needs to complete a section of the enrollment form verifying your account information.

Student may now elect to opt-out of receiving an advice if they are 100% enrolled in Direct Deposit. In SUNY HR where students complete their time record there is also an icon labeled "NYS Payroll Online", this is where students will go to opt-out of their advice. Once they log in they will choose the option to Update Pay Statement Option.

N. W-2 Forms

W-2 forms report the student's earnings for the calendar year, and are necessary for filing federal and state income tax returns. W-2 forms are printed by the Office of the State Comptroller in Albany and mailed to the address that appears on your paycheck/direct deposit stub. Students need to notify Human Resources of home address changes, it is not updated from the Banner system.

O. Self-Service Options

By logging in to "NYS Payroll Online" in SUNY HR students have the ability to do the following:

- View Paychecks – view your past and present pay stubs
- View Direct Deposit Account(s) – view your direct deposit account details
- Go Paperless – opt out of receiving printed pay stubs
- Update Tax Withholding – view and update your Federal, State, and Local tax withholding information

View W-2 – View and print your past and present W-2s

P. Student Rights

Students have the right to:

- Receive confidentiality in all matters relating to your financial background and award.
- Be given meaningful work in an amount sufficient to earn your full award.
- Contact the Financial Aid Office or Human Resources Office if a serious matter develops in the work situation that cannot be resolved.
- Know the reasons for being dismissed if it happens.

Q. Student Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility to:

- Contact supervisors to arrange interviews.
- Submit all required paperwork to the Office of Human Resources prior to beginning work.
- Honor the employment contract for the entire academic year. Once the work begins, the student should remain employed with the employer for the period specified. The student should understand the job requirements before agreeing to be hired.
- Report to work on time each scheduled day. If there is a need to be absent due to illness or emergencies, it is your responsibility to contact the supervisor immediately. Permission to be absent should be requested, not expected.
- Maintain the same standards of conduct as those expected of other employees.
- Dress appropriately for the work environment.
- Act in a professional manner.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.
- Report only actual hours worked on each time sheet. Under no circumstances may non-worked hours be reported.
- Keep track of your earnings. Discuss with your supervisor the maximum amount you are allocated to earn. Federal Work Study students cannot earn more than their award amount.
- Discuss with your supervisor any intentions of terminating employment. You should give your employer two week's notice.
- Ensure that you do not exceed more than the federal limit of 20 hours per week for all FWS students.

R. Supervisor Rights

Supervisors have the right to:

- Hire students that you feel are the most qualified for your positions.
- Expect students to report on time unless the student has made other arrangements with you in advance.
- For the students you employ, you have the right to know their FWS or Foundation Assistantship award amount to assist them in tracking their earned

wages. Remember that students may not earn more than their FWS/Foundation Assistantship award amount.

- Be given notice if students wish to terminate their employment.

S. Supervisor Responsibilities:

Supervisors have the responsibility to:

- Interview students for allocated positions. Establish and discuss specific guidelines and expectations with the student before they work. It is highly recommended that you request a resume from each student.
- Complete all necessary paperwork with the student. Be sure the paperwork is delivered to Human Resources before allowing the student to begin work.
- Check for a colored proof of eligibility card from FWS or Foundation Assistantship students before hiring them.
- Notify the Human Resources Office (Career Services?) when all allocated positions are filled.
- Provide job training.
- Ensure adequate supervision.
- Provide sufficient work for scheduled hours.
- Provide safe and reasonably comfortable working conditions.
- Verify and submit electronic time records. Pay close attention to submission deadlines. Late timesheets may cause late paychecks for students.
- Keep track of biweekly earnings of the student and be sure that the student does not earn more than his/her award allocation (FWS and Foundation Assistantship). It is the department's responsibility to pay for any wages earned in excess of these amounts.
- Ensure that students do not exceed the 20 hour workweek while classes are in session.
- Track department FWS allocation to ensure no overspending.

T. Confidentiality Statements

It is highly recommended that student employees sign a statement of confidentiality. This statement ensures that students understand their responsibility to protect confidential or sensitive information seen or heard at their workplace. Statements should be discussed between the supervisor and student, and signed prior to employment.

U. Campus Policies

1. Non-Discrimination Notice

SUNY Canton's policy can be found at

www.canton.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination.html.

2. Harassment on the Basis of Protected Characteristic(s) Other Than Sex

SUNY Canton's policy can be found at www.canton.edu/human_resources/affirmative_action.html.

3. Sexual Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence

Title IX guidelines can be found at www.canton.edu/titleix/.

4. Generally Applicable Management Policies and Procedures

The New York State Governmental Accountability, Audit and Internal Control Act of 1987 (Chapter 814 of the laws of 1987), which became effective April 1, 1989, includes a provision requiring the University to "make available to each officer and employee of the agency a clear and concise statement of the generally applicable management policies and standards with which the officer or employee of such agency will be expected to comply".

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with the statement of generally applicable management policies and standards as required by the New York State Governmental Accountability, Audit and Internal Control Act of 1987. In addition to these generally applicable policies and standards, you are expected to comply with those standards and policies applicable to your specific duties and responsibilities.

Specifically, you are expected to comply with those policies and standards applicable to all campus employees including the campus smoking policy, the campus traffic and parking regulations, the sexual harassment policy and other policies and standards. You may review these policies in the Office of Human Resources.

V. Termination of Employment

Appointments to all student payrolls are temporary. The student, or the supervisor, can terminate the appointment at any time.

The student and supervisor should work together to try to resolve any problems, if at all possible, that might arise that could lead to possible termination (*unacceptable work performance, excessive tardiness or absence without prior notification, improper dress, breach of confidentiality, etc.*).

Students should notify the supervisor as soon as possible if they cannot continue in their job for any reason. It is preferable that a two-week notice be given.

Supervisors should first notify the student of any problem with verbal warnings. A meeting between the supervisor and the student should be held detailing the problem, suggested possible solutions, and a date established by which these improvements should be noticeable. It is important that any dates set should be promptly monitored.

If the problem still persists, a job change or termination may be necessary. The supervisor should notify the student in writing of the termination, with an appropriate effective date, with a copy to Human Resources for processing.

Any student that goes more than 3 months without working will be automatically terminated. To be rehired a new Student Employment Appointment Form will need to be submitted.

W. Who to Contact with Questions

- Financial Aid Eligibility and Awards
Vicky Ashley – Program Aide
Phone – (315) 379-3937
Email – ashleyv@canton.edu
- Appointment and Payroll
Natasha Flanagan – Payroll Examiner
Phone – (315) 386-7012
Email – flana110@canton.edu
- Posting Job Descriptions
Shelly Thompson – Program Aide
Phone – (315) 386-7119
Email – smiddys@canton.edu