

Through the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program, undergraduate and graduate students work part-time to help pay for the cost of their education. Schools must use 7% of their FWS Program funds to compensate students employed in community service jobs.

The chapters to follow describe the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program. This chapter focuses on the Work-Colleges Program.

WORK-COLLEGES PROGRAM

The Higher Education Amendments of 1992 authorized the Work-Colleges Program. Schools that satisfy the definition of “work-college” may apply with the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the program. A work-college may transfer funds from its allocation for the FWS Program and/or Federal Perkins Loan Program to fund the school’s Work-Colleges Program.

The Work-Colleges Program recognizes, encourages, and promotes the use of comprehensive work-learning programs as a valuable educational approach when used as an integral part of the school’s educational program and as a part of a financial plan that decreases reliance on grants and loans. The program also encourages students to participate in community service activities.

The term “work-college” is defined as an eligible institution¹ that:

- is a public or private nonprofit school with a commitment to community service;
- has operated a **comprehensive work-learning program** for at least two years;
- provides students participating in the comprehensive work-learning program with the opportunity to contribute to their education and to the welfare of the community as a whole;
- requires all students who reside on campus to participate in a comprehensive work-learning program; and

Purpose of Work-Colleges Program Cite
34 CFR 675.43

Definition of Work-College Cite
34 CFR 675.41

Comprehensive Student Work-Learning Program Definition Cites:
HEA Section 448
34 CFR 675.41(b)

1. See *Volume 2 - Institutional Eligibility and Participation* for the definition of an eligible institution.

- requires providing services as an integral part of the school's educational program and as part of the school's educational philosophy.

A "comprehensive student work-learning program" is defined as a student work/service program that:

- is an integral and stated part of the institution's educational philosophy and program;
- requires participation of all resident students for enrollment, participation, and graduation;
- includes learning objectives, evaluation, and a record of work performance as part of the student's college record;
- provides programmatic leadership by college personnel at levels comparable to traditional academic programs;
- recognizes the educational role of work-learning supervisors; and
- includes consequences for nonperformance or failure in the work-learning program similar to the consequences for failure in the regular academic program.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

Allowable Costs Cite
34 CFR 675.45

The Higher Education Act of 1998 provided for additional flexibility for Work-Colleges in the use of funds. Allocated and reallocated program funds may be used to:

- support the educational costs of students through self-help provided under the work-learning program within the limits of their demonstrated financial need;
- promote the work-learning service experience as a tool of education and community service;
- carry out FWS and Job Location and Development (JLD) program activities;
- administer, develop, and assess comprehensive work-learning programs;
- coordinate and carry out joint projects and activities to promote work service learning; and
- conduct a comprehensive longitudinal study of academic progress and academic and career outcomes.

Additional requirements for the Work-Colleges Program are found in 34 CFR 675, Subpart C.

