



CAREER CENTER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can the Career Center help me?

The Career Center provides *career education* and *job search support* to students and alumni through a variety of services such as career consulting; skill-building workshops such as resume writing, interviewing, job search strategy and networking; and a Career Resource Room housing career-related materials and full-time, part-time, internship and Federal Work Study job listings.

The Career Center administers an on-campus recruiting program (OCR) as well as the Cooperative Education and Federal Work Study programs. Students can also *explore career options* through a variety of career-oriented programs and special events held during the fall and spring semesters.

How can I connect with employers?

Multiple opportunities to connect with employers are offered through programs such as cooperative education, employer information sessions, campus interviews, alumni networking events, career and job fairs, and a variety of career panels and presentations. All GW students have access to the thousands of positions listed on **GWork**, our online job listing service available on our website.

What are the benefits of working while in school?

Each year approximately 85% of GW students participate in work experiences outside of the classroom. Supplementing education with work experiences helps students:

- Experience a professional environment.
- Apply academics in the practical world.
- Expand career knowledge and assess career interests.
- Build leadership, communication and other marketable skills.
- Enhance confidence and earn money.

How does my major affect the job search?

An academic major is not restrictive. Students should investigate how to apply their fields of study to the working world. The Career Center provides information to help students determine their options in traditional and non-traditional careers. The Center supports students and provides them opportunities to explore interests and to develop professional skills.

Where can I find help deciding which career path is right for me?

The Career Center provides one-on-one career consulting sessions on a daily, drop-in basis Monday – Thursday from 1:00-5:00 pm, and from 1:00-3:00pm on Fridays (Monday-Friday, 1:00-3:00pm during the summer). Students can come during drop-in hours to discuss career/job-related questions. If further assistance is needed after the initial visit, scheduled appointments are available. The Center also holds specialized career development workshops throughout the academic year. More information can be found on our website, gwired.gwu.edu/career.

How can I be successful in my job search after graduation?

A variety of factors play a role in finding a job: the competition within a field, an individual's initiative, the time applied to a job search, and the skills and experiences a candidate presents. Those students who are most successful in the job search have made it a priority, used available resources and built a strong resume.

What do GW students do after they graduate?

Based on survey data of the class of 2006, completed six months after graduation, 64% of those who responded indicated they were employed, 28% stated they were enrolled in graduate or professional school, 5% were engaged in travel, or family or other obligations, and 4% were seeking employment. Of those employed, 61% were working in the private/for profit sector, 18% in the public and government sector, 15% in nonprofit institutions, and 7% in the field of education.



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What are the differences between internships, part-time jobs, Cooperative Education and Federal Work Study?

All are ways for students to gain important work experience on-and off-campus, during their education. **Part-time jobs** encompass a variety of paid experiences that may include career-related activities. The Career Center acts as a clearinghouse for part-time job listings.

- **Federal Work Study (FWS)** is a University-sponsored financial aid work program for accepted University students. Part-time work experiences vary widely, and the Career Center student employment staff manages the program.
- **Internships** are work experiences related to a desired field or body of coursework. They vary widely in terms of substantive work and are frequently unpaid or at a stipend level. The Career Center acts as a clearinghouse for internship listings.
- **Cooperative Education (co-op)** offers a structured, paid program that integrates salaried, career-related work with academic programs. The Career Center student employment staff manages the program.

How do students get Federal Work Study awards?

Students must apply each year and meet federal eligibility requirements to receive a Work Study award. Awards are calculated in the student's financial aid package by GW's Office of Student Financial Assistance. You must officially accept your award before seeking a FWS job.

What types of Federal Work Study jobs are available?

The types of Work Study jobs available vary widely. Work Study positions are available at many on-campus departments as well as several off-campus organizations. Some jobs may be substantial and directly related to your major, and others may be more administrative in nature. Work Study positions are very often the first step in your career path. Carefully evaluate what you hope to gain from your Work Study experience and choose the job that best meets your needs.

How do students find Federal Work Study jobs?

- Federal Work Study jobs are listed online on **GWork** through the Career Center website (gwired.gwu.edu/career). These jobs are posted shortly before fall classes commence.
- Attend the **Federal Work Study Job Fair**, held at the beginning of the fall semester.
- Contact departments directly. *(Please note that employers must have a pre-approved agreement with the Career Center in order to hire a Federal Work Study student)*

MORE INFO: fws@gwu.edu / 202.994.8046

What types of internships are available?

The Career Center receives thousands of online internship listings each year, and the types vary widely. Many are voluntary, while others are paid or offer a stipend; some require twenty or more hours a week, others less than ten; some have substantial responsibility, others are clerical in nature.

How do students find internships?

At GW, information about internships is made available in the Career Center's Resource Room, on our website through the GWork system and through individual academic departments. *Students wishing to gain academic credit for their internship should consult with their academic advisor.*

What types of Co-op jobs are available?

The types of Co-op jobs vary widely and are dependent on a student's career field. All co-op positions are paid, major-related work experiences. Cooperative Education is structured to accommodate full-time or part-time schedules (part-time co-ops require a minimum commitment of between fifteen and twenty hours per week). Undergraduate co-op students work a minimum of two semesters for their co-op employer.

How can a student find a Co-op job?

Undergraduates enrolled full-time may participate in co-op when they have completed thirty credit hours with a minimum 2.5 GPA and have declared a major. The first step to obtaining a co-op job is to attend a Co-op Orientation session, which are held regularly throughout the year in the Career Center.

MORE INFO: gwcoop@gwu.edu / 202.994.8046