

Work study offers money, experience

Experience is a valuable tool these days. Experience, knowledge and income are gained from the job.

Clackamas Community College Work-Study Program is one of many ways a student can obtain needed financial help as well as on-the-job training, according to Richard Thompson, Financial Aid Officer.

"Work-study jobs are plentiful," said Thompson. "There are plenty of opportunities."

Students involved in work-study may work up to 20 hours per week at a minimum rate of \$2.50 per hour. Qualification is based on need - not scholastic achievement, although the participant must maintain satisfactory academic standing, and receive one or more credit hours per quarter for participation, said Thompson.

Students needing work-study students should contact the Financial Aid Office and a referral should be put up on a request board. When the board is granted work-study money, a student is chosen from the requests.

If a student has a particular interest and a referral they can create a job by

going to the instructor and saying 'Hey, have you thought about this for a work-study job?'" said Thompson.

Possible jobs include lab assistant, P.E. assistant, custodial and grounds helper, secretary, security officer, library assistant, audio visual helper, and many other on-campus positions. Some jobs in off-campus non-profit organizations are possible. Those may include sewage treatment plants, libraries, non-profit boys' home, etc.

A student on work-study is paid by check on a monthly basis and receives money for the hours worked, less taxes. A student working 20 hours per week can earn about \$1,800 during the academic year. If eligible, more money may be earned during vacation period when 40 hours a week work is permitted.

Money for the work-study program is allocated through the federal government (80%) and the CCC board (20%). There is close to \$1,000,000 to be spent on financial aid at CCC this year, according to Thompson, with work-study using one-fourth of that total.

There are also other possible ways a student can obtain needed financial help in the form of grants (not to be paid back to the issuer, no strings attached) and loans (to be paid back, usually after schooling is completed).

Some of these include the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG), State Need Grants, Oregon State Guaranteed Loans, tuition waivers for need and for performing or athletic skills, (SEOG) State Educational Opportunity Grants.

To determine eligibility for college work-study or other federal financial aid, a student must fill out an official financial statement called the Financial Aid Form (FAF), and a financial aid application.

Eligibility is based on nation-wide standards and regulations set by the federal government, according to Thompson.

Interested students may stop by the CCC Financial Aid Office, located in the Community Center Building, for the necessary financial aid forms.

"We're always interested in spending the money we have allocated for the year," said Thompson.

Placement center finds survival jobs

Students who are looking for part-time help to help them survive the school year should contact Marv Thornley, Clackamas Community College Placement officer, at the placement office located in the CCC Community Center.

"We get into part-time work to help students survive to school," said Thornley, "but

the students have to come to up and sign up - we can't go to them."

Thornley, who has six years experience in working with employers in the Clackamas County-Portland area, is willing to help students find jobs by telling them where to look, who does the hiring for various businesses and by getting them ready for interviews.

"We get them ready and give them support and encouragement," said Thornley. "There are many good workers who are not good at interviews and have a hard time finding employment. The part-time market is very competitive in the Oregon City-Milwaukie core area. There are not many jobs and with high school students, college students and full-time workers moonlighting, there are lots of applicants."

Thornley also says students should seek part-time jobs in their areas of study even if they don't pay as much as other jobs.

"A man who wants to be a teacher and spends his summer laying sheet-rock or driving truck is going to be passed over in favor of those who have spent time in people-related jobs or volunteer work."

Part-time jobs are also a good place to get a "foot-in-the-door" according to Thornley. Many employers will hire full-time employees from among their part-time staff because they already know the business and have an idea of what the job is all about. "It's a matter of being in the right place at the right time," he said.

Thornley admits, however, that for most transfer students part-time jobs are a means of survival, a way to pay the rent and get through school.

"We do get good jobs and I can give students good information about employers that don't list job openings through me," he said.

Precautions

Students to budget

The Veterans Administration cautions students that advance payment of educational allowances, which can amount to as much as two month's benefits at the start of each school term, are advanced on future allowances.

When a student requests advance payment, and the school agrees to process it, the interval between the first recurring VA check received will be 80 to 90 days.


For example, if a veteran accepts advance payment upon registering in September, it represents allowances for classroom attendance during September, and October. Additional benefits will be paid until the end of the school year, covering classroom attendance for the remainder of the year.

The Director of Veterans Affairs, Max Cleland, has put his agency on alert status to watch the way for veterans making the transition to the new procedures.

Cleland urged students to analyze what the change will mean to their individual situation and to plan for any gap in their financial payments.

Students who can't find needed campus work should inquire about the VA's work-study program. Cleland advised. Eligible students can be advanced \$250 toward a maximum \$625 that can be earned in work-study projects during a school semester. Educational loans, which provide up to \$500 per academic year, may be granted to students needing assistance beyond regular allowances.

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