

**Bunker Hill Community College**  
**Federal Work Study Student's Handbook**  
**2026-2027**

Welcome to the 2026-2027 academic year! The Financial Aid Office looks forward to working with you and your supervisor another successful year. This handbook should be used to guide you through working in the Federal Work Study program. Always feel free to contact the Student Central Office with any questions that you may have regarding the Federal Work Study (FWS) Program.

### **PURPOSE OF THE FWS PROGRAM**

The purpose of the FWS program is to provide students with flexible work experiences that allow them to earn money toward their educational expenses and gain skills that may translate to future employment. As a FWS student employee, you are gaining valuable work experience.

### **DETERMINING YOUR ELIGIBILITY**

In order to qualify to have FWS funds added to their financial aid award, you must:

- demonstrate financial need as determined by the FAFSA
- meet Title IV financial aid eligibility requirements
- be enrolled in and attending at least 6 credits per semester
- be able to provide identity and work eligibility documents

The financial aid office will assist you in determining your eligibility for FWS. If you are unsure of your eligibility for FWS funds, please contact the Student Central Office at any time for assistance.

Please be aware that you may lose eligibility for FWS during the semester if there are changes to your financial aid file or your registration status (withdrawing from courses or the college, NA grades, etc.).

### **COMPLETING THE HIRING PAPERWORK**

Listed below are the step requirements for all students, depending on whether you are new or returning.

#### **New Student:**

A new student is defined as a student that has never worked at Bunker Hill Community College previously.

New students must complete:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year FWS contract is completed and signed by supervisors and students. The federal work-study contract will be sent to you electronically by your supervisor once you have obtained a job.
- I-9, W-4, and direct deposit forms are part of the student electronic form library, and you will be directed to complete these forms once you have received your federal work-study contract. Once you complete these forms as well as submitting all required I-9 documents, you will be notified to select a date and time to set an appointment with Student Central Office to review your hiring documents in-person. **Please do not start working before these steps are completed. Students those work prior to complete these steps may be removed from the FWS program!**
- Once all the hiring documents are verified and completed, you will receive an email from Financial Aid office to notify you about your employee ID and instructions for logging in your weekly hours through Mass State HRCMS system.

#### **Returning Student:**

A returning student is a student that has worked through the FWS program during the previous academic year.

Returning students must complete:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year FWS contract is completed and signed by supervisors and students. The federal work-study contract will be sent to you electronically by your supervisor once you have obtained a job.
- Once eligibility is confirmed, we will send an email to let you and supervisors know that the student is approved to begin working.
- Students can log into Mass State HRCMS system at <https://www.mass.gov/employee-self-service> to update W-4, direct deposit form **if** students have updated information (i.e., name change, change of bank account, etc.). For further assistance, please contact Payroll Office at [payroll@bhcc.edu](mailto:payroll@bhcc.edu).

## **BUDGETING HOURS**

Federal Work Study funds are allocated each year to Bunker Hill from the Department of Education. Once the funds for the year are spent, we must end the FWS program for the year.

It's important for you to budget your FWS award carefully. The average FWS award allows first year students to work about 375 hours and 388.50 hours for second year students. Working more hours per week means that your award will run out sooner. Please work with your supervisor, so that you both understand how long your FWS award will last. If you run out of money, you can request an increase by using the increase request form found at the back of this handbook, however, an increase **IS NOT guaranteed**.

To assist you in tracking earnings, the Financial Aid Office will be sending earnings reports to you and your supervisors regularly. If you have questions about contract amounts or earnings, please contact the Student Central Office. Please make sure that you are monitoring your BHCC email address for FWS related information.

## **REQUESTING AN AWARD INCREASE**

You can request an increase to your Federal Work Study award by completing the attached Award Increase Request Form. Please work with your supervisor to help determine the appropriate amount to request. Please note that increase requests are only approved if available funds remain in this year's budget. Requests may be approved, denied, modified, or placed on hold by the Financial Aid Office. You are not eligible for consideration for an increase until you have earned 75% of your original award amount (\$4,500 for first year students or \$5,250 for students that have been in their position for at least 1 year). This form can be returned to the Student Central Office or via email to [kvdavisr@bhcc.edu](mailto:kvdavisr@bhcc.edu), or [tnguyen@bhcc.edu](mailto:tnguyen@bhcc.edu). Electronic signatures are acceptable for this form. If approved, an email will be sent to you and your supervisor. Please allow 5 business days for a response to your request.

If the Financial Aid Office cannot approve an increase for you, you must stop working when you have earned your awarded FWS amount. If your supervisor's office has a budget for student employment, your supervisor can rehire you by completing a Payroll Action Form with the department's budget information.

## **CHANGES TO A FINANCIAL AID AWARD**

Federal Work Study is awarded to you based on need, as demonstrated on your FAFSA. It is also limited by your cost of attendance (tuition, fees, books, etc....) Student financial aid awards and eligibility sometimes change during the year. If you add an outside scholarship or student loan to your award, this may impact the amount of your Federal Work Study award. Should this occur, you will be contacted by the Financial Aid Office with a revised award amount.

## **SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Guarantee that the student **does not work** more than 18.5 hours per week or **at any time when he/she has a scheduled class**.
- Guarantee that work-study position is not replacing a temporary, part-time, or full-time employee.
- Set your student employee's schedule and provide them with contact information and procedures for schedule changes

- Provide a clear understanding of job responsibilities and expectations to your student
- Provide training, instruction and supervision needed by the student.
- Assist students in monitoring and budgeting their FWS award
- Train FWS student employees in the importance of following FERPA and other student privacy guidelines
- Approve weekly timesheets through the online payroll system [www.mass.gov/massshr](http://www.mass.gov/massshr)

### STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Report promptly for work as scheduled.
- Notify supervisor in advance if re-arranging regularly scheduled hours.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information.
- Document accurate hours worked.
- Refrain from conducting personal business on the job.
- Monitor earnings in relation to work award.

### BREAKS

Massachusetts state law requires that all employees who work more than 6 hours receive a thirty-minute unpaid break. This law does apply to FWS student employees.

### EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER

Student employees will be assigned an employee ID number by the Human Resources and Payroll Office when their hiring paperwork is processed. Your employee ID number will remain the same from year to year. Returning students can contact Payroll Office or Student Central Office to be reminded of their employee ID number.

For new students, you will be sent an employee ID number by HR once your hiring paperwork is completed. Supervisors can view your employee ID number by looking under Direct Line Reports and clicking the "Job Details" tab. Your employee ID number is a 6 digit number (most employee ID numbers begin with a 4). The Payroll Office can also assist in finding a student's employee ID number for the first time.

### PAYROLL

It is important that you log accurate hours each week. Please also be aware that hours must be reported and approved by all published Payroll deadlines. Generally speaking, this means that students must report their hours on Thursday and supervisors must approve them on Friday. Delays in reporting or approving hours may result in your paycheck being delayed. You must report hours worked during each week that you work. Inaccuracies or intentional delays in reporting time may result in a student or supervisor being terminated from the FWS program.

### LOGGING INTO THE PAYROLL SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME

- 1.) Go to [www.mass.gov/massshr](http://www.mass.gov/massshr)



- 2.) Click on "The Blue Button" that says **Login to Employee Self Service**

- 3.) Type in your User ID (Employee ID #):

**Example      User ID:    123456**

For first-time users your Password: Capital first letter of first name, lower case first letter of last name, your Employee ID# + **the last four digits** of your social security number.

**Example Password: Js123456\*\*\*\***

4.) Click on password expired

5.) Create a new password 8 letters 1 digit or a mixture of the two.

**6.) The next screen should appear as the following.**

Menu

**-Self-Service**  **Click On**

-Change Password

-My Personalization

-My System Profile

**\*If you need your Password reset please call (617) 228-3280, or email at [payroll@bhcc.edu](mailto:payroll@bhcc.edu)**

### **ENDING EMPLOYMENT IN THE FWS PROGRAM**

You may be removed from the FWS program for several reasons. All FWS students are removed from payroll at the end of the academic year. You may be removed before this time because of changes in eligibility, enrollment, or earning your full contract amount. You and your supervisors will be notified via BHCC email when you are being removed from the FWS program.

You may voluntarily terminate your FWS employment. We encourage you to give your supervisor at least two weeks notice. If you are unable to give two weeks, please give your supervisor as much notice as possible. Failing to appear for your shifts without giving your supervisor notice may result in you losing eligibility for future FWS job opportunities.

Supervisors also have the right to end employment of a student employee due to unacceptable performance, failure to follow procedure or schedule, or falsification of records. Before releasing an employee for unacceptable performance, your supervisor will document, both verbally and in writing, areas that you must improve upon to stay employed. You should be given the opportunity to improve performance before being released. Remember the FWS is a job and departments are relying upon you to complete work that helps keep the College running. While there is flexibility within the FWS program, you are required to meet the job expectations that your supervisor outlines for you. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Student Central Office.

FWS Award Increase Request  
Bunker Hill Community College

This form is to be used by students requesting an increase to their Federal Work Study award. Please work with your supervisor to determine the amount of your request. Please note that increases requests are only approved if available funds remain in this year's budget. Requests may be approved, denied, modified, or placed on hold by the Financial Aid Office. You are not eligible for consideration for an increase until you have earned 75% of your original award amount (\$4,500 for first year students or \$5,250 for returning students). This form can be emailed to [kvdavisr@bhcc.edu](mailto:kvdavisr@bhcc.edu) or [tnguyen@bhcc.edu](mailto:tnguyen@bhcc.edu). Electronic signatures are acceptable for this form. All communication will be sent to your BHCC email address.

If approved, an email will be sent to you. Please allow 5 business days for a response to your request.

BHCC ID:

Student Name:

BHCC Email:

Supervisor's Name:

Supervisor's Email:

Hourly Pay Rate: \$16/hour

Average hours per week currently working:

Number of weeks left to work:

Increase request amount: \$

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **Pay Schedule for the 2026-2027 Academic Year**

## **Fall 2026 Pay Schedule**

July 17

July 31

August 14

August 28

September 11

September 25

October 9

October 23

November 6

November 20

December 4

December 18

## **Spring 2027 Pay Schedule**

January 1

January 15

January 29

February 12

February 26

March 12

March 26

April 9

April 23

May 7

May 21

June 4

June 18

July 2

July 16

Please complete your direct deposit form to have your check automatically sent to your bank account. It may take up to four weeks to receive your first paycheck. Please complete all required documents quickly to help us speed up the process.