
STUDENT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

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STUDENT EMPLOYEE DEFINITION

A student employee is a part-time employee who is enrolled and regularly attending classes at Grand Valley State University and whose primary purpose for being at Grand Valley State University is to further his/her education. Such employment, therefore, is interim or temporary and incidental to the pursuit of an education. Student employees shall not work more than twenty-five (25) hours per week except with prior approval from the Student Employment Office. A student must be enrolled for a minimum of six credits fall and winter semester.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9)** The I-9 Form is a federally required document that verifies your eligibility to work in the U.S. IT MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE YOUR FIRST DAY OF EMPLOYMENT. If you have worked on campus before, your supervisor may call the Student Employment Office to verify that you have a valid I-9 form on file. Your employer will need to see and verify original identification documents. There is a list of acceptable documents on the back of the I-9 form.
2. **Complete Income Tax Withholding forms (W-4)** Federal, State, and City (where applicable). W-4 forms must be turned into the Payroll Office in Lake Michigan Hall.
PLEASE NOTE: The address you give Payroll will be the address to which your W-2 income tax forms will be mailed. If you change your address, you must notify the Payroll Office. The W-2 forms are mailed out to each employee by January 31 of the year following the end of the tax year.
3. You will be recording your hours using the electronic method of time keep. Depending on where you work you will either be issued a 'swipe card' or a 'badge number'.
 - a. You will receive a badge number or swipe card from your supervisor to log into UltraTime or swipe a timeclock.
 - b. If you are given a badge number, you should enter your hours daily into ULTRATIME. Do not enter time before you have worked. Access Ultratime through Grand Valley's home page under "Quick Links" -- click on [Ultra Time](#)
4. Establish a work schedule with your supervisor.

EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Keep your supervisor informed about your work progress along with any other issues that may arise during your work experience. In addition, make sure that you understand your supervisor's expectations by asking questions when things do not seem clear so that you can determine if both you and your supervisor are in agreement.

TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT

Work Study (a form of financial aid)

ELIGIBILITY: In order to be eligible for work-study, a student must demonstrate financial need, be a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours during the academic year), be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and meet other Federal/State eligibility requirements. A student must apply for financial aid and be awarded work-study as part of the financial aid package. If a student demonstrates financial need as a result of filing the FAFSA, work-study may be awarded. Money awarded under the work-study program is actually earned over the course of the academic year.

Students awarded work-study must accept their financial aid award before they can work.

Students awarded work-study are not assigned to employment, but are asked to search for jobs on-line. Each employer (on and off campus) will have application instructions posted with their job description that the student should follow.

Work study must be applied for each year by completing the FAFSA.

EARNINGS: Work-Study students are limited to maximum earnings equal to the amount of their work-study award.

If the student earns over their work study award the department will be responsible for 100% of those earnings. In some cases, a student may be terminated because the department cannot afford to keep them working. Discuss this possibility with your supervisor.

NOTE: Students may work at more than one job; however, the TOTAL combined hours worked per week must not exceed the maximum (25) allowed. If a work study student, the earnings from both jobs are deducted from their work study award.

REGULAR EMPLOYMENT

Regular (not work-study): student employees are PAID 100% from the employing unit's budget. Regular employees may be receiving financial aid, but were not awarded work study as part of their award package.

Students working regular must be enrolled for a minimum of six credits during the academic year and are limited to a 25-hour work week. Students are allowed to work up to 40 hours per week when school is not in session (ex. Spring Break).

International Students are limited to a maximum of 20 hours per week during the academic year, but allowed to work up to 40 hours when classes are not in session.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

A limited number of jobs are available on-campus during the spring/summer semester. Students must be officially admitted to attend Grand Valley. The student does not need to be enrolled summer but must intend to enroll as a full time student in the Fall. A student employee can work up to 40 hours per week during summer, however, the student must cut back to 25 hours or less per week during the academic year. FICA Tax (7.65) will be charged to the student and the departments account if the student is enrolled for less than six credits.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

Information on Graduate Assistantships can be found on the Graduate Studies web site www.gvsu.edu/gs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

F-1 VISA:

Enrolled international students with an immigration status of F-1 are permitted to work part-time on campus for a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week. During holiday or vacation periods (spring break, summer, etc.) they are permitted to work up to 40 hours per week.

1. W-4 forms should be completed in the Payroll Office, 201 Lake Michigan Hall.
2. I-9 forms should be completed in the International Center, 130 Lake Ontario Hall or the Student Employment Office, 105 Student Services Building.

Questions regarding employment of F-1 international students may be addressed to the Barbara H. Padnos International Center (331-3898) or the Student Employment Office (331-3238).

J-1 VISA:

Enrolled international students with a J-1 visa may be employed on the campus of the school in which they are enrolled to a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week with prior written authorization from the Barbara H. Padnos International Center, 130 Lake Ontario Hall.

1. W-4 forms should be completed in the Payroll Office, 201 Lake Michigan Hall.
2. I-9 forms should be completed in the International Center, 130 Lake Ontario Hall or the Student Employment Office, 105 Student Services Building.

PAYCHECKS

Direct Deposit is strongly recommended. Direct deposit forms are available on-line.

If a student does not elect to use direct deposit:

1. Those who work on the Allendale Campus will have their checks sent to the Student Transaction Center in the Student Services Building
2. Those who work at the Grand Rapids Campus will have their checks delivered to the Student Transaction Center at DeVos.

A chart with pay periods and pay dates can be found at www.gvsu.edu/studentjobs .

BENEFITS

1. **WORK BREAKS:** If possible, student employees should be allowed a paid fifteen-minute break for each four hours of continuous work. If the work period is less than four hours, breaks are not required. Break periods may not be accumulated and are not reason to arrive at work fifteen minutes late or leave work fifteen minutes early. Students must discuss with their supervisor the appropriate times and condition of break periods.
2. **HOLIDAYS:** In general, student employees are not required to work on a legal holiday nor are they paid holiday pay. However, offices of the university may be required to maintain services on certain holidays and students may be scheduled to work. All wages will be paid at straight time rates. Any student has the option of declining work on a legal holiday, but only if their employment was not contingent on working holiday hours.
3. **SICK LEAVE:** Sick leave benefits are not extended to student employees, however it is not intended that students lose their jobs because of reasonable absences associated with illness. In the event of illness, the student employee must notify his/her supervisor as early as possible on each day of absence. Failure to give notification shall be cause for dismissal or other appropriate action.
4. **VACATION:** Vacation benefits are not extended to student employees. Students may make arrangements with their supervisor for time off without pay.
5. **OVERTIME:** Student employees should never work over 40 hours in a week.

DISMISSAL

The university may terminate a student's employment at any time.

Causes for dismissal may be, but are not limited to the following:

1. A student fails to enroll for the required number of credits at GVSU during any term of employment.
2. Unacceptable job performance.
3. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness.
4. Malicious behavior (this is cause for immediate dismissal and termination).
5. A student is convicted of a criminal offense.
6. Lack of funding.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Sometimes conflicts are inevitable.

An employee with a grievance shall first discuss the matter with his/her supervisor no later than five (5) working days from the date of the occurrence. (If the grievance involves a termination of employment, the employee will go directly to Step 2 below.) As used herein, working days are Monday through Friday irrespective of an individual's actual schedule. If the employee is not satisfied with the supervisor's response, he/she may file a formal grievance as follows:

In the event a student employee feels unjustly treated with regard to pay, termination, or other employment related circumstances, that student should:

Step 1: Seek recourse directly with your supervisor. Be clear about your concerns and the desired outcome you would like to have.

- Describe the incident in as much detail as possible; include date(s) of the event(s).
- How did you feel about what happened at the time and presently?
- What was not acceptable to you about that interaction or situation?
- What outcome would you like to have?
- What are you willing to do to create an outcome that you would prefer?

The Student Employment Office can assist you, if you wish, by reviewing your preparation and ensure you understand how to proceed in the meeting with your supervisor, and also make sure that you understand the options available to you.

Step 2: If the grievance is not resolved in Step 1, the employee has five (5) working days in which to appeal in writing to the Student Employment Office. The Student Employment Office has ten (10) working days in which to schedule and hold a meeting with the employee and the supervisor. After the meeting is held, the Student Employment Office will communicate its answer in writing to the employee and the supervisor within five (5) working days.

Step 3: If the grievance is not resolved at Step 2, the employee has five (5) working days in which to appeal, in writing, to the Vice Provost & Dean of Academic Services. The Vice Provost will communicate his/her decision in writing to the employee, supervisor, and the Student Employment Office within five (5) working days. The decision of the Vice Provost shall be final.

All grievances shall be considered permanently settled if the employee does not file at the next step in accordance with the prescribed time limits or upon termination of student status. Time limits may be extended only by mutual consent."

Confidentiality: As with all negotiations that raise to the level of intervention it is appropriate to keep the situation confidential. This includes not discussing or complaining about the situation to others outside of the situation and not having external discussions of the meetings or conversations while a mutually agreeable solution is being reached. This applies to all parties concerned.

HELPFUL TIPS TO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT

1. **TASK COMPLETION:** If you are assigned a project or specific responsibility to be completed, make sure if you encounter problems or have to leave, you have communicated the status of that project to the appropriate person and have made arrangements for completion. Most projects have deadlines that are set and need to be strictly followed.
2. **COMMUNICATION:** If you are given a task and you are unsure of what needs to be done, it is YOUR responsibility to ask questions.
3. **MISTAKES:** Your student position is a great opportunity for personal growth. Don't be discouraged if you make a mistake. Learn from it!
4. **KEEP INFORMED:** It is important that you know what is going on around campus and can act as a resource person and an ambassador for your department.
5. **STAY BUSY:** If you feel you do not have anything to do, ask if something needs to be done. You can always clean and straighten up your work area. Look for things that need to be done. There is more than enough to do for all of us.
6. **CHALLENGE:** Each student employee has a responsibility to continue to improve Grand Valley and your department. Please make suggestions and address concerns on why things are the way they are. If you have an idea or a new approach, SPEAK UP. We are counting on you.
7. **HELP OTHERS:** Go out of your way to help others. Personal service and problem solving for visitors to campus can be critical. When you see someone who looks like they may need assistance...offer your help.
8. **CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT:** Employment for the next academic year is NOT automatic. Students will be rehired based on their performance from the previous year. Students interested in continuing employment for the next year should ask their supervisor what procedure they should follow to apply for work.
9. **ACADEMICS:** Ask your supervisor if your department has a minimum grade point requirement. Your first priority is as a student and it is important that you pursue high academic achievement. You must balance your student job and your academic work so that you can be successful in both. Plan ahead so that you can meet commitments within your department. Review specific needs with your supervisor.