

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION

Comments on Work-Study as an Academic Tool

A Selection from
Resource Materials
Provided to the
Joint Committee on Education Appropriations
of the Iowa General Assembly

January 25, 2007

9:30 am



Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Work-Study as an Academic Tool

Studies of work-study outcomes suggest that there is a strong positive relationship between part-time, on-campus work, and academic success. Like most topics, there are studies that suggest only a small relationship between work and academic success. However, the studies that indicate a strong positive relationship are consistent with anecdotal comments that are frequently made by past and present recipients of work-study assistance. Following are highlights of the findings that suggest positive outcomes.

- Part-time on-campus employment has been found to be related to:
 - Higher grade-point average,
 - Faster degree completion,
 - Self-reported cognitive and affective growth.
- Grades improved for:
 - On-campus work up to 20 hours per week (4 hours per day),
 - Grades declined for those working more than 20 hours per week.
- Full-time (approximately 40 hours per week) employment was negatively associated with high GPA, preparation for graduate school, and graduation with honors.
- The positive relationship between work and college success depends on whether the work is on-campus and whether it is full-time or part-time.
- On-campus research work likely increases a student's interest in further academic programs.
- On-campus work improves future job prospects.
- On-campus work supplants non-productive activities like watching television.

Resources for this summary include the following:

On-Campus Employment as a Factor of Student Retention and Graduation

<http://oipr.depaul.edu/open/gradereten/SOCE.asp>

Answers in the Tool Box

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/Toolbox/toolbox.html>

A Review of the Effects of Student Employment

<http://www.acui.org/Acui/resfiles/effectsreview.cfm>

Learning and Earning

<http://www.brockport.edu/career01/upromise.htm>

Thank you to Roberta Johnson and Ann Wessman at Iowa State University for guidance and information about the relationship between work-study and academic success.

Contacts:

Keith Greiner, Research Director and Legislative Liaison

Tony Girardi, Statistical Research Analyst

Iowa College Student Aid Commission

200 10th Street, Fourth Floor

Des Moines, IA 50309

1-800-383-4222

www.iowacollegeaid.gov

info@iowacollegeaid.gov