



The 14-lane, 25-yard Olympic sized Mangione Pool with a diving well and warmup area where I lifeguard.

The Cost of College

By Cindy Pino

Taking steps toward financial independence is hard—it hits most college students like a brick. Without parents to monitor spending or to pay for a dinner out, students around me have started sinking. The government plans for this by awarding many students Federal Work-Study with their financial aid package. This simply means that you are a high priority to have an on-campus job as a way to supplement your tuition payments. However, work-study is not a requirement to hold a job in college, and employment can support a college student in a variety of ways.

I grew up a competitive swimmer, and the sport was one of the largest parts of my life for a long time. This connection that I had to the pool made it easy to choose my first job—I love lifeguarding like it's still my first day. Abby Kiewe '24, also deeply connects with her job as a Tour Guide. She says, "the most fulfilling part of my job is having the ability to be in somebody's reasoning as to why they chose Loyola."

My First Job

At freshly 16 years old, I got my lifeguarding certification. Now, as a freshman in college, I am holding the same job I held then, but with a multitude of benefits that didn't serve me until I enrolled at Loyola. First off, the hiring process was incredibly easy. The Director of Aquatics advertised for lifeguards, collected my email, and interviewed me. It is worth noting that work-study students get priority over non-work-study students, but jobs are plentiful nonetheless. When I first started working at the Fitness and Aquatics Center (FAC), I was surprised to find out that every 30 minutes I would be switching with a coworker. During this period of time, I am not allowed to be on my phone. It provides a perfect opportunity to balance my studies and complete lingering assignments. In fact, most jobs are structured this way on purpose: they encourage you to do homework while on the clock. For example, Desk Assistants in the dorm halls are there to make sure everyone swipes and to answer lingering questions. Besides this, they spend most of their shift waiting for people to come through. To pass the time, bosses encourage students to do something productive that will not impede them in the case of an event in the building, to which schoolwork sounds like the perfect resolution, once again.



Huge student turnout during the Activities Fair in the quad this fall — employers will advertise jobs here.

Looking to the Future

Others, though, choose jobs that can broaden their perspectives for their intended full-time career. Some jobs, such as a Writing Center tutor, or Sellinger School office worker, can help narrow down both your major and plans beyond college through the ins-and-outs of a specialized on-campus job.

You Decide: Create your own Schedule

While balancing school and work will not be easy when midterms and major assignments start piling up, the discipline, time management, and ethic (skills that only improve with practice!) that you will have to display will serve you daily throughout your lifetime in both personal and professional life. For Abby '24, she shared that "it has forced me to be more organized because I am aware of when my shifts are so I have to make sure I will have time after a shift to complete an assignment." It is worth noting that schools will put a weekly limit of 20 hours/week for work-studies as not to overload students who have a heavy financial burden. Other than this, your schedule is free to tailor as you would like—it's up to you how big or small those paychecks will come in! I work every Saturday, but every time a Friday shift opening comes up, I take it. Since I only have one class on Friday, it gives me an opportunity to cure my boredom and be productive when I otherwise would have been napping. It takes up a perfect space of time. A three-hour shift? Where I can watch my favorite sport and get my homework done?! Sign me up.

New Experiences

Whether you are on the hunt for a job in order to pay for your tuition or to have some extra money to buy dorm decor, as a freshman, anything can be daunting. Lifeguarding for me was a great way to meet new people I never would have crossed paths with otherwise. In your first year, it can be easy to only reach out within your grade level—upperclassmen can be intense! Fortunately, I was able to meet people from all grade levels as I collaborated with them during in-services, meetings, and my weekly shifts. These connections are extremely valuable to make, and at the very least, your older counterparts can show you the ropes and lead with experience.

"[My job] has forced me to be more organized ...

I have to make sure I will have time after a shift to complete an assignment."

Abby Kiewe '24

Which Job Will You Choose?

Everyone complains about their bank accounts, and luckily, you won't be in the same boat should you choose to maximize your employment opportunities at Loyola. Any topic related to money can become one of the biggest learning curves you'll come across, and I hope you'll take advantage of this chance to improve your resume with work experience, find your niche, meet new people, and of course, grow your bank account. Who knows, maybe you'll be the newest hire as Iggy the Mascot!



Entrance to Loyola's Fitness and Aquatic Center (FAC), and home to hundreds of job opportunities for both work-study and non-work study students. Positions include desk assistant, rock wall attendee, and



You can even find a job in the shared Loyola-Notre Dame Library, pictured above. Tailor it to your interests!