

EMPLOYMENT 'WORKS!'

An article by Elise Aydelotte, Student Employment Manager.



I was a freshman in college when I got my very first job. I had never made a resume. I had no experience outside of babysitting and tutoring. I had never been to a real interview. I wore brown corduroy pants and the ugliest fuchsia shirt to my first interview (and yes, my mom said I looked great). By God's grace I got the job despite my inexperience and questionable fashion choices and continued to work on-campus as a student assistant throughout my college years. It was a formative period in my life, and a challenging first step in discovering, equipping, and stewarding my God-given gifts in service to others and to His glory.

My time as a student employee formed the foundation of my career, and it is my ministry, honor, and personal joy to now manage a student program that is so integral to our students' academic experience and professional development at TMU.

The Master's University Office of Student Employment (OSE) exists to guide, support and advocate for all participants in the University's student employment programs and ensure all applicable federal and state employment laws and regulations, as well as institutional employment policies, are upheld.

In the day-to-day, I manage all aspects of the on-campus employment process for employers and students. I administer the online student job board, coordinate hiring and onboarding, facilitate safety and compliance training, and overall serve as our student employees' human resources representative.



All available on-campus student jobs are posted on TMU's online student job board, Handshake. Students can search and apply for jobs both on and off campus directly from their phone! Students can also set customized alerts to receive a notification whenever TMU or any desired employer posts a job. Jobs are available year-round, though August and January are peak hiring seasons for on-campus jobs.

Student Employment does not place students into jobs; rather, we administer the program and provide resources, tools, and advocacy for students to pursue employment for themselves. It is critical that we use a student's intention to work on-campus as a teaching tool, regardless of any hiring decision.

Applicants are challenged to grow quickly as they navigate Handshake, review job descriptions, refine and tailor their resumes and cover letters, interview, and network within their on-campus community.

On-campus jobs welcome students to participate as part of the campus workforce and offer opportunities for professional growth while affirming academic pursuits and exploring future careers. Furthermore, on-campus employment empowers students to understand their value as employees, enjoy the fruits of their labor, learn budgeting and wise spending, and contribute toward the cost of their education.

Every student job offered at TMU is important – no job is too small! Our departmental supervisors are dedicated to mentoring student employees as they identify their spiritual gifts and strengths, gain confidence in the work they produce, and successfully apply these skills to God's glory in their current workplace and future career.

I wish we had an on-campus job for every student who needed or wanted one; unfortunately, we do not. Student Employment is working fervently to create jobs at the same pace as our growing enrollment. Currently, TMU supports around 400 on-campus jobs for our campus community of 1,000-plus students. A competitive on-campus job market, limited job openings, and scheduling conflicts are major factors in students struggling to secure on-campus employment, despite strong resumes and perseverance in applying.

There is no guarantee of finding work on-campus, regardless of whether a student is eligible for a Work-Study position or not. However, on-campus employment is just one resource for students and families to pursue. TMU is supported by a vibrant community of believers who are passionate about providing opportunities for students to serve and work.

TMU Career Services is a campus partner of the OSE and has developed a dynamic and wide-reaching network of local alumni, church and community partners who are eager to recruit undergraduate students into career-relevant part-time jobs and internships. My heartfelt encouragement to new and returning students is to also consider venturing beyond our campus for employment opportunities – to engage with our Career Services team and connect with local ministries, non-profits, and businesses actively recruiting them.

TMU Career Services offers a dynamic team of dedicated staff and student assistants who meet with students daily and assist in the continuing development and refinement of a student's resume, cover letter, job prospects and professional network. Furthermore, Student Employment and Career Services host monthly workshops and bi-annual job fairs.

A student's professors and academic advisors are also a tremendous gateway to off-campus internships. Pastors, Bible study leaders, and fellow congregants are also partners in connecting students with employment and service opportunities as students root themselves in the local church.

Local, off-campus jobs bring opportunity beyond the limitations of TMU's on-campus program, and offer degree-relevant experience, a wider range of scheduling availability, and higher hourly rates. Students for whom work is an absolute necessity are strongly encouraged to bring a personal vehicle to campus in order to access the full range of employment opportunities and resources offered through TMU.

Student employees are critical to the daily function of The Master's University, and as a campus we are grateful for their commitment to work alongside and serve TMU faculty, staff, and each other. We covet your prayers as we train and prepare your sons and daughters to thrive professionally and shine for Christ in their workplaces.

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