RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN · STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Student Wage Levels 2027

Starting with hours worked on January 1, 2027, every hourly student job at RISD is paid at one of four wage levels, all above the Rhode Island minimum wage of $17.00 an hour. Each level reflects the skill, responsibility and experience the job requires.

LEVEL I	$17.00 / hour was $16.05 in 2026	**Entry-level, routine or repetitive tasks.** Little or no prior experience needed; training and close supervision provided. Examples: dining counter helper
LEVEL II	$17.05 / hour was $16.10 in 2026	**Basic understanding of assigned tasks.** Some previous work experience; works under regular supervision. Examples: print center monitor, library materials assistant
LEVEL III	$17.10 / hour was $16.15 in 2026	**Demonstrated understanding and relevant experience.** Works more independently and may support complex workflows; limited supervision. Examples: gallery monitor, student ambassador
LEVEL IV	$17.15 / hour was $16.20 in 2026	**High proficiency or specialized knowledge.** Often includes supervisory duties and/or advanced coursework; works independently with minimal supervision. Examples: woodshop monitor, undergraduate teaching assistant, open studio assistant

Choosing a level

The department picks the level based on the job's written description, not the student. Most jobs belong at Level I, II or III; save Level IV for work that truly needs specialized skills or supervising others.

Paying above Level IV

1. Write a job description explaining the duties and why the work needs a higher rate.
2. Send it to Student Employment before the job is created or posted.
3. Wait for approval before hiring at the higher rate.

Jobs already approved above the table keep their rate; any below $17.15 are raised to $17.15 on January 1, 2027.

Federal Work-Study jobs are paid at the same four levels. At the higher rates, students use up their awards a little faster; supervisors get a Workday alert when a student has $500 left.

Graduate assistantships are not covered by this table.

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