

Reduced Work Hours FAQs

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1. What should I do if I receive a UC payment for a week that I was working?

If you believe that a benefit payment was issued to you improperly or in the wrong amount, contact the [UC service center](#) office immediately.

2. I was told by my employer that I may be furloughed or laid off intermittently during the next several months. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

In order to receive benefits, an individual must meet the financial eligibility requirements of the PA UC Law; be unemployed through no fault of his/her own; and be able and available for work. See [Am I eligible for UC?](#) for further information.

If your hours of work have been reduced or you otherwise continue to work less than your normal full-time work week, you may be eligible for [partial benefits](#).

3. Because my layoffs may be intermittent or sporadic, how do I apply for unemployment during this time?

You should file an [application for benefits](#) immediately upon becoming unemployed. Thereafter, you should file biweekly claims for UC benefits as instructed. If you stop filing biweekly claims, your claim will become inactive. If you should be laid off again, you will need to re-open your claim.

4. If my employer reduces my work hours, will I be eligible for UC benefits?

In order to receive benefits, an individual must meet the financial eligibility requirements of the PA UC Law; be unemployed through no fault of his/her own; and be able and available for work. See [Am I eligible for UC?](#) for further information.

Where a claimant works less than his full-time hours through no fault of his own, the claimant may be potentially eligible to receive full or partial benefits, depending on his gross earnings and [Partial Benefit Credit](#) (PBC). A claimant's PBC is the amount equal to 30 percent of his [Weekly Benefit Rate](#) (WBR). Where a claimant is working less than his full-time hours and his gross earnings for a week are equal to or less than the PBC, the claimant's full WBR is payable for the week. When the claimant's gross earnings for a week exceed the PBC, the gross earnings are deducted from the sum of the WBR plus PBC to determine the amount of any partial benefits for which the claimant may be eligible. NOTE: If the claimant's gross earnings for a week are not a whole dollar amount, the earnings are rounded up to the next dollar.

If the claimant's gross earnings for a week are equal to or greater than the sum of his WBR plus PBC, no benefits are payable for the week even though the claimant may have worked less than his full time hours. A claimant working his full time hours is not eligible for UC, regardless of the amount of earnings for the week.

The following examples illustrate how the amount of any partial benefits payable to a claimant who worked less than his full time, is calculated. In each example, the claimant was determined financially eligible for a WBR of \$100. The PBC for each example is therefore \$30 (30 percent of \$100).

Example 1: The claimant's earnings for the week are \$29. As \$29 is less than the PBC, the claimant is eligible for the full WBR (\$100) for the week.

Example 2: The claimant's earnings for the week are \$30. As \$30 is equal to the PBC, the claimant is eligible for the full WBR (\$100) for the week.

Example 3: The claimant's earnings for the week are \$31. As \$31 exceeds the PBC by \$1, the claimant is eligible for partial benefits of \$99 ($\$100 - \$1 = \99).

Example 4: The claimant's earnings for the week are \$31.01. The \$31.01 is rounded up to \$32.00. As \$32 exceeds the PBC by \$2, the claimant is eligible for partial benefits of \$98 ($\$100 - \$2 = \98).

Example 5: The claimant's earnings for the week are \$131. As the claimant's weekly earnings exceed the combined rate sum of the WBR and PBC, the claimant is ineligible for UC benefits for that week.

The information provided on this site does not constitute a determination of eligibility to receive unemployment compensation.