

Description of each box on form W2

Box 1 "Wages, tips, other compensation": This is federal, taxable income for payments in the calendar year. The amount is calculated as YTD earnings minus pre-tax retirement and pre-tax benefit deductions plus taxable benefits (i.e., certain educational benefits).

Box 2 "Federal income tax withheld": This is federal income tax withheld from your pay based on your W-4. If you didn't file a W-4, the default is "single and 0" regardless of your marital status.

Box 3 "Social security wages": Social security wages are calculated as Federal Taxable Gross (Box 1) plus Retirement Deductions (Box 12). The maximum social security wage amount for 2012 is \$110,100.

Box 4 "Social security tax withheld": This is social security tax withheld from your pay. For 2012, the amount should not exceed \$4,624.20 ($\$110,100 \times 4.2\%$).

Box 5 "Medicare wages and tips": This is total wages and tips subject to the Medicare component of social security taxes.

Box 6 "Medicare tax withheld": This is Medicare tax withheld from your pay for the Medicare component of social security taxes. The rate is 1.45% of the Medicare wage base.

Box 7 "Social Security Tips": This is total reported tips subject to social security tax.

Box 8 "Allocated Tips": This amount is not included in boxes 1,3,5 or 7. For information on how to report tips on your tax return, see your Form 1040 instructions.

Box 9 "Advance EIC Payments": Enter this amount on the advance earned income credit payments line of your 1040 or 1040A.

Box 10 "Dependent care benefits": This is the pre-tax deduction under the Select Benefits Program for dependent care. This deduction is already reflected in box 1.

Box 11 "Nonqualified plans": This amount is reported in box 1 if it is a distribution made to you from a nonqualified deferred compensation or nongovernmental section 457 plan.

Box 12 "Box 12 Codes": The following codes are applicable to American University:

Code A—Uncollected social security or RRTA tax on tips.

Code B—Uncollected Medicare tax on tips.

Code C—Taxable cost of group-term life insurance over \$50,000.

Codes D through H, S, Y, AA, BB, and EE.

Use these codes to show elective deferrals and designated Roth contributions made to the plans listed. Do not report amounts for other types of plans. See the example for reporting elective deferrals under a section 401(k) plan,

Code E—Elective deferrals under a section 403(b) salary reduction agreement.

Code F—Elective deferrals under a section 408(k)(6) salary reduction SEP.

Code G—Elective deferrals and employer contributions (including non-elective deferrals) to any governmental or nongovernmental section 457(b) deferred compensation plan.

Code H—Elective deferrals under section 501(c)(18)(D) tax-exempt organization plan.

Code J—Nontaxable sick pay.

Code K—20% excise tax on excess golden parachute payments (not applicable to Forms W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, or W-2VI).

Code L—Substantiated employee business expense reimbursements.

Code M—Uncollected social security or RRTA tax on taxable cost of group-term life insurance over \$50,000 (for former employees).

Code N—Uncollected Medicare tax on taxable cost of group-term life insurance over \$50,000 (for former employees).

Code P—Excludable moving expense reimbursements paid directly to employee.

Code Q—Nontaxable combat pay.

Code R—Employer contributions to an Archer MSA.

Code S—Employee salary reduction contributions under a section 408(p) SIMPLE plan.

Code T—Adoption benefits.

Code V—Income from the exercise of nonstatutory stock option(s).

Code W—Employer contributions to a health savings account (HSA).

Code Y—*Deferrals under a section 409A nonqualified deferred compensation plan.*

Code Z—*Income under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that fails to satisfy section 409A.*

Code AA—*Designated Roth contributions under a section 401(k) plan.*

Code BB—*Designated Roth contributions under a section 403(b) plan.*

Code DD—*Cost of employer-sponsored health coverage. The amount reported with code DD is not taxable.*

Code EE—*Designated Roth contributions under a governmental section 457(b) plan.*

Box 13 "Checkboxes". Check all boxes that apply.

Statutory employee

Retirement plan.

Third-party sick pay.

Box 14 "Other"

Boxes 15 through 20 "State and local income tax information (not applicable to Forms W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, or W-2VI) ".