

Southern Utah University

PURCHASING CARD GUIDE

The Southern Utah University Purchasing Card is a campus owned credit card issued to an employee to assist in their daily purchasing activities. The Purchasing Card allows SUU employees to buy goods and materials without the use of a purchase order or requisition. The Purchasing Card is a *Visa* credit card and is provided by U.S. Bank.

“What can I buy with the Purchasing Card?”

Just about any item required to support the normal daily activity of your department. The Purchasing Card falls under the guidelines of the University’s Purchasing Policy. The restrictions in place within that policy are in effect for the Purchasing Card. The policy can be found on the SUU home page under “Policies and Procedures.”

For the purchase of flowers (non-landscaping), refreshments, and grocery items for departmental meetings, parties, or open houses for faculty and staff members require approval from the department’s Vice President, Dean, or the President of the University prior to the purchase. The VP, Dean, or President must also sign the receipt/documentation after the transaction. Flower purchases must be accompanied by the Flower Certification Form. When the card is used to purchase any food from a restaurant, grocery store, or other non-restaurant business, the Business Meal and Non-Instructional Food Certification Form (Meal Form) must be filled out, signed by the VP, Dean, President, or designee, and submitted to your account manager along with the associated receipt and statement. This approval process is mandatory and loss of purchasing card privileges may result if not adhered to.

IMPORTANT – The purchasing card is generally not open to make purchases for food (restaurants or meals). This means that if you as a Cardholder attempt to use your Purchasing Card to purchase a meal the transaction will be declined. However, cardholders may request that their Purchasing Card be authorized to make these types of transactions through filling out the Adjustment Request Form and having it approved by the VP, Dean, or President.

Purchasing Cards are open for travel which includes: airline tickets, hotel rooms, and rental cars. Fuel cannot be purchase on the card.

The Purchasing Card is not designed to act as an individual Travel Card, and University travel policies still apply. If Purchasing Cards are used to pay for meals while traveling, per diems still need to be followed.

Individual transactions are generally limited to under \$1,000. Monthly limits are set at \$5,000. Capital items cannot be purchased using the Purchasing Card. Transactions cannot be split to circumvent the \$1,000 per transaction limit. Splitting an order will result in the loss of privileges and potentially other consequences relating to employment.

Gift cards may not be purchased using a Purchasing Card.

“Where can I use my Purchasing Card?”

Any vendor who accepts a Visa card will take the Purchasing Card. The transactions are completed by simply going to the vendor and using the Purchasing Card as you would use a personal credit card. The Purchasing Card can also be used over the phone and internet with vendors locally or out of the area. The Purchasing Office requests that caution be exercised in using them in this manner to assure proper security. When you need to purchase something on campus (from the bookstore, copy shop, etc.), use your department’s index code instead of the Purchasing Card.

“What do I tell the vendor?”

Indicate to the vendor that you are using a campus credit card to make the purchase. You must tell them that the University is tax-exempt so no Utah State sales tax will be paid. The University tax exempt ID number is provided on the card itself, which is given to the vendor upon request. At times, a vendor will request a written form proving the status. Please refer these requests to the Purchasing Office.

Important – When placing an order over the phone or through the Internet, please be sure that the vendor places your name or some other contact person on the shipping documents. If a contact name does not appear you will not receive your purchase. This is necessary for any purchase that requires shipping.

“Do I need to get receipts or documentation?”

As a Cardholder, one of your few responsibilities is to insure that you receive some form of documentation for each transaction. This can be a simple cash register receipt or a printed confirmation from an electronic purchase. It must provide sufficient itemized information allowing your supervisor enough detail to accurately know what was purchased. Furthermore, you are required to provide documentation on or with the receipt explaining the business purpose of the purchase (i.e. office supplies, department meeting, event, project, registration, conference, etc.). Please remember that this responsibility is critical and failure to obtain proper documentation for each transaction may result in losing your Purchasing Card privileges.

“Can I give my Purchasing Card to someone else to use?”

Under no circumstance is anyone else allowed to use your Purchasing Card. The security of the Purchasing Card is the responsibility of the Cardholder and that person is solely responsible for all transactions. The Purchasing Card must be kept in a secure place at all times.

“Do I reconcile my Purchasing Card statement each month and how are they filed?”

Each department is assigned an “Account Manager” whose responsibility is to both reconcile and file your monthly statements. Depending on internal departmental procedures, it is prudent that you as the Cardholder reconcile your statement to ensure that all charges are accurate. After reconciling you must submit all documentation, including your statement and receipts, to your Account Manager in a timely manner to ensure proper recording.

Account Managers are responsible to take the statements, receipts, and documentation for each Cardholder within the department to the immediate supervisor for approval before the end of the current month. The supervisor will review each cardholder’s statement and receipts, sign as approved, and return to the Account Manager for filing. See Purchasing Office Procedures Manual.

“Can I buy personal items with the Purchasing Card and reimburse the University?”

It is against University policy to purchase goods for personal use and reimburse the University.

“What if the vendor rejects the Purchasing Card?”

If the vendor for any reason rejects the card, contact the Purchasing Card Coordinator as soon as possible. If the vendor simply does not accept Visa cards, likewise, contact the Coordinator.

DOs and DON'Ts of the Purchasing Card

- Don't – Let anyone else use your card
- Don't – Pay sales tax in Utah
- Don't – Use the card for personal expenses
- Don't – Use the card for meals or food unless properly authorized
- Don't – Use the card for gas, including for rental cars (use Check Requisitions for reimbursement of fuel expenses)
- Don't – Use the card on SUU's campus (use Interdepartmental Invoices for on-campus purchases)
- Don't – Split transactions to circumvent your transaction limit
- Don't – Forget the detailed/itemized receipt or documentation
- Don't – Purchase computers, including iPads, with the card (contact IT)

- Do – Use the card when possible instead of a PO
- Do – Provide Utah sales tax exempt information to the vendor
- Do – Pay for travel & conference fees (registration fees, hotels, airline tickets, checked luggage, shuttles, and taxis)
- Do – Get a receipt every time you use your card
- Do – Protect the purchasing card information like you would your own personal card
- Do – Include the business purpose on or with each receipt

“What consists of a violation and what are the consequences?”

All items purchased with University funds must have a clear business purpose. Purchasing cards are one method of making necessary purchases. Purchasing cards have a number of important advantages, but also come with some inherent risks. It is important to ensure that purchasing laws and policies are adhered to so as not to threaten the entire purchasing card program across campus. Accordingly, having a purchasing card is a privilege, not a right. To help protect the purchasing card program on campus the following consequences apply for violations of the policy:

Major violations - Immediate action: The cardholder's Purchasing Card will be immediately frozen and/or permanently cancelled and purchasing card privileges will be revoked, plus potential additional disciplinary action based on the circumstances for the following violations:

1. **Split Transaction** – defined as more than one transaction on the same day with the same vendor for an amount that exceeds the cardholder's single transaction limit, or any other attempt to circumvent the University's bid limit policy, including the use of multiple purchasing cards by one individual or by multiple cardholders.
2. **Missing statement** – if credit card statements are not turned in to the Account Manager each month the card will be turned off until the statement and all associated receipts are received.
3. Unapproved purchases over the \$5,000 bid limit.
4. **Purchases of alcohol**
5. **Giving your purchasing card (pcard) to someone else to use**
6. **Intentionally using an SUU pcard for personal purchases**

Minor violations - 1 month grace period: The cardholder's Purchasing Card will be frozen and/or permanently cancelled and purchasing card privileges will be revoked if the following violations are not remedied within one month following the audit in which they are discovered and/or reported:

1. **Missing Receipt** – A receipt provides the required justification to validate the business purpose of a transaction. A missing receipt creates a lack of evidence for a legitimate business purpose and, therefore, is considered to be a personal purchase. Accordingly, if the cardholder does not provide a missing receipt within 30 days after the audit occurs, the University reserves the right to request reimbursement from the cardholder for the amount of the missing receipt, or to deduct the amount of any missing receipt from the cardholders' paycheck. Additionally, the cardholders purchasing card privileges will be suspended and/or revoked until the receipt is provided. If the receipt is later provided and the transaction is determined to have a legitimate business purpose, the cardholders' purchasing privileges may be restored and they may receive reimbursement for the amount of the payroll deduction or reimbursement paid upon completion of a Reimbursement Request form. In the rare event a vendor cannot provide a receipt, a written note indicating the vendor name, purchase date, detail of each item purchased, the amount spent, the business purpose for the purchase, and a description of why the receipt could not be obtained must be provided. The note must be signed by the cardholder and the cardholders' supervisor. Frequent occurrences of written notes in place of missing receipts will result in the removal of purchasing card privileges.
2. **Non-itemized receipt** – All receipts **must** include the itemized detail of what items or services were purchased and sales tax information. Summary receipts showing only the total amount charged, or a line item on a card statement are **not** a substitute for an itemized receipt. If the supplier/vendor does not provide a receipt at the time of purchase and you cannot subsequently obtain a receipt from the supplier/vendor, you can substitute an original invoice, packing list, or an internet order screen print. In the rare case when one of these forms of documentation is not available the procedures indicated in the "missing receipt" section above apply.
3. **Missing or unapproved Meal Form** – Meal Forms are required for any meal or food purchased on a pcard and must include a description of the business need for the meal, a list of all attendees, the itemized/detail receipt description of the items purchased, and must be signed/approved by the cardholder and the Dean, VP, President, or their designee. Meal Forms are located on the SUU Purchasing website.
4. **Accidental personal purchase/"pcard slip" for insignificant amounts** – A reversal of the charge by the vendor or a receipt from the SUU Cashier showing the cardholder's reimbursement to the University is required.
5. **Missing business purpose with receipt** – All purchases must be accompanied by written justification, either on the receipt or attached, as to what the purchase is and why it is a business related expense.

Repeated violations for the same issue and/or multiple violations for separate issues indicate a cardholder's lack of financial responsibility and represents a significant risk to the pcard program for the entire University. Accordingly purchasing card privileges may be immediately suspended and/or revoked based on the circumstances of any multiple or repeat violations.

“Can a decision to turn off my purchasing card or revoke my purchasing card privileges be appealed?”

An appeals process is established whereby cardholder’s can request a review of a decision to turn off their purchasing card for a temporary period and/or to permanently revoke their purchasing privileges. Appeals must be made to the Purchasing Office in writing and must be accompanied by both sufficient documentation to support the claim and a supervisors signature.

Purchasing Card Contacts:

SUU Purchasing Card Coordinator

Kennedy Cowan

Phone: (435) 586-7733

e-mail: kennedycowan@suu.edu

SUU Purchasing Card Accounting Contact (for expenditure transfers)

Shari Skougaard

Phone:(435) 586-7730

e-mail: shariskougaard@suu.edu

SUU Purchasing Card Auditors

Phone: (435) 586-7942

e-mail: suuaudit@suu.edu

Utah State Sales Tax Exempt Number – 11961541-002-STC

Wal-Mart Tax Exempt ID - #28283