Audit Tidbits

UM Employee Travel

Information/Assistance/Questions

- Policies/Forms are all posted on the Travel website: [http://procurement.olemiss.edu/travel/](http://procurement.olemiss.edu/travel/)
- For travelers whose last names begin with A-L, contact Loretta, lsthomas@olemiss.edu, x5590
- For travelers whose last names begin with M-Z, contact Steven, swridout@olemiss.edu, x7043

Travel Authorizations

A travel authorization, complete with all required information and signatures, must be received and approved by the Travel office PRIOR to the first day of the trip if any of these three criteria are true:

- A fee is required to attend. This is true regardless of what the program is called, i.e., meeting, workshop, conference, banquet, luncheon, etc. This is true even if the meeting is in Oxford!
- The travel is international. Requires the signatures of the Provost and the Chancellor. In addition, a completed “Request for Approval of International Travel” form must be attached to the authorization. Self-generated funds only; no “10” accounts can be used.
- An advance of funds is requested. Please submit these requests well in advance of the trip to ensure sufficient time to process them.

Travel Advances/Reimbursement

- The Travel office cannot pay for employee travel directly -> this is a reimbursement system only. However, they can issue travel advances with an approved travel authorization.
• Prior-to-Trip Expenses (i.e., conference registration fee, airline ticket, hotel deposit, etc.) can be advanced at 100% immediately upon request.
• Other estimated expenses (i.e., meals, lodging, taxi, rental car, etc.) can be advanced at 80% ten days before the trip.
• If you receive a travel advance, you must file a travel reimbursement voucher when you return to clear the travel advance.
• Travel advances not reconciled within a reasonable time will be payroll deducted.
• Student Group Travel, can be more flexible, i.e., direct bills, etc. Contact Procurement for more information.
• One employee cannot pay for another employee’s travel expenses.
• Original signatures required! Forms must be approved by the traveler’s superior, even if the traveler is a department head.

**Airline Travel**

• If you are booking your own travel and not going through a state contract travel agency, you must have two comparable airfare quotes. You may use airlines or web-based sources for your quotes, but the quotes must be from **two different sources** (quotes from a contract travel agency cannot be used).
• Business or first-class travel is not reimbursable except under certain circumstances- see policy for details.

**Meal Reimbursement**

• Employees are reimbursed for **actual costs of meals** not to exceed the daily maximum for the location.
• Even though receipts are not required for employee meals, this is **not** a per diem!
• Taxable meals are meals expenses that occur during official travel where overnight stay is not required. **Taxable meals will not be reimbursed.**
• Group meals while in travel status should be excluded from the Travel Reimbursement Voucher and submitted on a Request for Payment.
• Meal tips shall not exceed 20% of the pre-tax amount.
• Meals/food purchases for departmental social functions in celebration of an event or a holiday or to promote fellowship among constituents is **prohibited**.

**Private Vehicle Travel**

• Current mileage reimbursement rate is $0.56 per mile.
• If an employee chooses to drive his/her personal vehicle, and expenses including meals and lodging, exceed the cost of the lowest unrestricted airfare, reimbursement will be limited to the cost of flying.
Rental Cars

- Allowed when there is a demonstrated cost savings over other modes of transportation and use is not strictly for the traveler’s convenience.
- An intermediate size vehicle is normally the largest rental that will be reimbursed.
- The state contracts must be utilized for both in state and out of state rentals.
- The option to purchase insurance should always be declined when a vehicle is rented utilizing the state contact.

**Procurement/Purchasing**

**PROCUREMENT CARD (P-Card)**

- Recommended method of payment for all purchases less than $5,000 except for travel and payments of professional services.
- Always obtain itemized receipts and do not pay MS sales tax.
- For more details, see USE OF THE PROCUREMENT CARD policy.
- For questions and assistance, contact Shelley, smorriso@olemiss.edu, x7449, or Evan, ecw1@olemiss.edu, x7060.

**PURCHASING**

- W-9’s are required to set-up a new vendor.
- Two written, signed quotes are required for purchases between $5,000 and $50,000.
- Sealed bids are required for purchases greater than $50,000.
- Exceptions: state contracts, express products list, P-1 approvals for sole source and research justifications.
- IHL Board approval is required for all contracts that require a total expenditure of $250,000 or more.
- Questions about requisitions, purchase orders, and purchasing in general? Contact Belinda, bredmond@olemiss.edu, x7433, or Jeannine, jmwalter@olemiss.edu, x5596.
- Questions about bidding requirements, sole source justifications, requests for proposals, IHL board approvals, contracts, etc.? Contact Katherine, kajones4@olemiss.edu, x7450.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

- Please familiarize yourself with all Spending Policies (which are available on the Procurement website and in the policy directory): Food Purchases, Reimbursement of Out-of-Pocket Expenses, Inappropriate Use of Funds, Allowable Entertainment, etc.
- Must have original itemized invoices/receipts – no faxed copies, no statements, no packing slips.
• Must have original signatures on requests for payment – no stamped signatures, no initialed signatures, no forgeries!
• All prepayments/deposits must be approved by IHL Commissioner/Board.
• For questions concerning reimbursements, requests for payment, and payments to consultants/independent contractors/Forms 13s, contact Evan, ecw1@olemiss.edu, x7060.
• For questions concerning purchase order invoices, contact Chasity, chasity@olemiss.edu, x7209.

PROPERTY CONTROL/CENTRAL RECEIVING

• All equipment/furniture items purchased with University funds (regardless of funding source) valued at $1,000 or more ($250 or more for computer-related items) plus exception items (property regardless of value) will be tagged as University property and treated as such.
• Equipment items purchased on a P-Card MUST be taken to Central Receiving to be tagged.
• Please complete and return the yellow asset tracking forms that accompany equipment deliveries.
• Appropriate forms must be completed for all equipment transfers, loans (valid for one year only), and disposals: http://procurement.olemiss.edu/purchasing/form-bank/
• University employees or departments may not dispose of University property even if it is not tagged; all surplus property must be removed by Property Control.
• Visit our Surplus Property Warehouse 8am-4pm M-F to find equipment/furniture for your departmental needs.