



UNIVERSITY
OF
LOUISIANA
L a f a y e t t e™

State of Louisiana
**LACARTE PURCHASING CARD
AND
TRAVEL POLICY**

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INTRODUCTION

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

LaCarte Purchasing Card

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette ("UL Lafayette") has entered into an agreement with the State of Louisiana ("State") and the Bank of America to participate in the LaCarte Purchasing Card program. The Louisiana Purchasing Card ("LaCarte Purchasing Card," "LaCarte Card," "P-Card" or "Purchasing Card") is a Visa credit card issued by the Bank of America for the State of Louisiana. All P-Cards are issued with corporate liability, under which the state is liable for the cost of the purchases. The program is based on the strength of the State's financial resources, not the personal finances of the cardholder. Due to the state liability, Corporate P-Cards are to be issued in the name of State of Louisiana employees only.

Cardholders are permitted to purchase low-dollar materials on non-restricted items directly from vendors without the submission of a requisition or issuance of a purchase order. P-Card purchases are generally limited to low-dollar expenditures of \$5,000.00 or less, per transaction. P-Card charges over \$5,000.00, or authorized limit, will be declined at point of sale. The P-Card must also be used for travel-related charges, excluding meals and incidentals.

The Purchasing Card was designed to provide an efficient, cost-effective method of purchasing and paying for small dollar as well as high-volume purchases. This program shall be used as an alternative to the traditional purchasing order process and can result in a significant reduction in the volume of purchase orders, invoices, and checks processed.

The policies and procedures for the LaCarte Purchasing Card were not intended to replace current State Procurement or State Travel Policies, Rules and Regulations, nor Louisiana Statutes or Executive Orders. As a state agency, UL Lafayette employees must adhere to certain state and federal regulations and laws. To ensure compliance with these regulations and laws, LaCarte program participants must comply with the policies outlined in the LaCarte Agreement Form specifically written for their particular role in the program. The policies in the agreement, as well as any revisions by the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department pertaining to this program, must be followed when using the LaCarte Purchasing Card.

TERMS / DEFINITIONS

University of Louisiana at Lafayette LaCarte Purchasing Card

TERM	DEFINITION
Cardholder:	Authorized UL Lafayette employee, <u>whose name appears on the LaCarte Purchasing Card</u> and, who is accountable for all transactions made with the card.
Cardholder Agreement Form:	Agreement signed by the cardholder, prior to being issued the Purchasing Card, which verifies that the cardholder has read and understands the policies and procedures of the State and UL Lafayette and agrees to comply with them.
Cardholder Enrollment Form:	Form containing pertinent information on the cardholder necessary for statement mailing, contact information, daily/monthly spending limits and budgetary controls. Form MUST be submitted by the cardholder to the UL Lafayette Program Administrator, located in the Purchasing Department, for approval and processing.
Default Account:	The account assigned to an individual cardholder's card. All charges made by the cardholder will default to this account until transferred into the appropriate line item.
LaCarte Purchasing Card Log:	A spreadsheet or form maintained by the cardholder to record each LaCarte card transaction for each monthly billing cycle. (Firm Paid Items Report from Chrome River)
Memo STATEMENT of Account:	A listing of all transactions charged to the cardholder's account through the end of the monthly billing cycle. The bank sends this statement, directly to the cardholder, on a monthly basis for reconciliation purposes. This statement is not a bill for the cardholder to pay. Cardholder must reconcile this statement upon receipt of statement and forward to supervisor/reviewer for approval signatures. After which the form must be forwarded to the UL Lafayette Purchasing Office no later than the 15th of each month (earlier in December due to the holidays and earlier in July due to the year-end close).
Merchant Category Code (MCC):	Codes that are assigned to vendors by the bank indicating the type of business. The Purchasing Card is encoded with types of MCC's that the cardholder is authorized to purchase. Some MCC's are prohibited or restricted by the State of Louisiana and/or UL Lafayette. Attempts to use LaCarte card with vendors that possess these codes will be denied. Continued attempts will result in disciplinary action.
Merchant / Supplier:	Vendor from which a cardholder is purchasing product or services.

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TERM	DEFINITION
Monthly Spending Limit:	A dollar limit set on the cardholder's card for the total of all charges made during the monthly billing cycle.
Program Administrator:	UL Lafayette Director of Purchasing, or his/her designee, who acts as liaison between the cardholder, the State Program Administrator, and the Bank of America. This person provides support and assistance, processes new card applications, changes to cardholder information, provides training, and maintains policies and procedures.
Purchasing Card:	A Visa credit card issued by the Bank of America for the State of Louisiana for the purpose of making authorized purchases on behalf of UL Lafayette. It is referred to as the LaCarte Purchasing Card, LaCarte Card, Purchasing Card or P-Card.
Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) Number:	A number issued by the vendor to reference the returned order and ensure proper handling (exchange or credit) of the return. Depending on the vendor, it may be sometimes referred to as a Return Goods Authorization (RGA) number.
Supervisor/Reviewer/Approver:	Individual within UL Lafayette that is responsible for verifying that all charges against the cardholder's account are authorized and supported by proper and adequate documentation. This individual may be responsible for assigning the cardholder's spending limits per transaction and per billing cycle, as well as the maximum number of transactions allowed within each billing cycle (within the overall limits established by the State Division of Administration and the Office of Management and Finance). This individual shall be either the UL Lafayette Department Head, Director or Dean or his designee.
Support Documentation:	Vendor produced documents that reflect the relevant details of each item purchased, including quantity, description, cost, total charge amount, vendor's name and address. These documents shall be original detailed/itemized sales receipts, invoices, packing slips, credit receipts, disputes and written approvals.
Transaction / Charge Limit:	The per transaction dollar limit set on each cardholder's card. The UL Lafayette Program Administrator will determine the limit to be set. A single transaction/charge may include multiple items, but total dollar amount cannot exceed cardholder's limit. (Transaction/Charge Limit may be also referred to as a Single Purchasing Limit or Single Transaction Limit.)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

LaCarte Purchasing Card

Overview:

- The LaCarte Purchasing Card is a Bank of America Visa credit card used by authorized UL Lafayette employees to purchase goods, services and travel expenses up to \$5,000.00, or authorized transaction limit, per transaction, including shipping and handling, and excluding taxes for bona fide University purposes. Any deliberate attempt to use the Purchasing Card for personal use will be considered theft.
- Using the P-Card for purchases of supplies, low-dollar amount equipment and furniture, operating services and/or repairs must comply with proper purchasing procedures, rules and regulations, Louisiana Statutes and Executive Orders.
- UL Lafayette is exempt from Louisiana state sales taxes. The cardholder should notify the vendor of the tax-exempt status prior to any credit card transaction. The cardholder shall not fill out any tax exemption forms. The State of Louisiana tax exemption number is on the front of the LaCarte card for easy reference or available on UL Lafayette's Purchasing website.

Purpose and Benefits of Using the Purchasing Card:

- To simplify and reduce costs of the purchasing and payment processes for goods, services and/or travel expenses under \$5,000.00, or authorized transaction limit. At the discretion of the agency, transactions over \$5,000 must have prior approval from the Office of State Procurement and Office of State Travel by requesting it thru the UL Lafayette LaCarte Office. The cardholder may use the card to make legal purchases from vendors without a purchase requisition, direct pay, etc.
- To reduce the number of invoices processed by the UL Lafayette Accounts Payable Department. One (1) monthly master bill is received from the Bank of America for all cardholders versus the handling of large volumes of individual low-dollar amount invoices.
- To enable Bank of America to pay the vendor within two (2) business days of requesting payment for merchandise or services.

Obtaining a Purchasing Card:

- Each prospective cardholder must complete a Cardholder Enrollment Form, which can be found on the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department web site.
- A Department Head, Dean, Vice-President, or President must approve the completed enrollment form for each prospective cardholder under their authority. The Department Head, Dean, Vice-President, or President may set spending limits per transaction and/or per billing cycle. Once approved, the form shall be forwarded to the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department for processing.
- When the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department receives the requested card from the bank, the

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University of Louisiana at Lafayette LaCarte Purchasing Card

cardholder shall be contacted, and cardholder orientation shall be scheduled to give instructions on the proper use of the card. Additionally, each new cardholder will be required to sign a Cardholder Agreement Form and complete the state online certification training course and test before receiving the Purchasing Card.

- No P-card shall be issued to any agency program administrators, President of UL Lafayette, Vice President of Administration and Finance, auditor, or any other roles associated with administering, monitoring or reviewing the activities of the P-Card program, as well as any non-state employees.

How the LaCarte Card May Be Used:

The LaCarte Card may be used for the purchase of any goods, services and/or travel expenses provided that the transaction does not:

- Exceed \$5,000.00, or cardholder's single transaction limit, including shipping and handling charges, excluding taxes. The card will not accept charges over \$5,000.00, or cardholder's single transaction limit. Transactions over \$5,000 must have prior approval from the Office of State Procurement and Office of State Travel.
- Fall within a restricted or prohibited Merchant Category Code.
- Fall within one of the categories listed in the Restrictions on Card Use section of this handout.

Based on individual needs, with written permission by the Office of State Procurement and approval of the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department, some restricted merchant category codes may be allowed.

Note: In the event of a declared emergency, the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department may increase transaction limits for essential cardholders that would be active during an emergency situation. This will not apply to all cardholders. Purchases must be made in accordance with the Statewide LaCarte and CBA Policy. Higher limits do not eliminate the need to follow emergency procurement rules, policies, procedures and/or Governor's Executive Orders.

Purchasing Card Cycle:

- The LaCarte Card statement date is the fifth (5th) of each month. Cardholders should receive an email from the Bank of America on the sixth (6th) of the month notifying them that the statement is now available online.
- Cardholder shall review the statement for appropriate and accurate charges.
- The statement along with the Firm Paid Items or log report from Chrome River shall be submitted to the Purchasing Office each month. The original itemized supporting documents for each charge or credit shall be kept in the cardholder's department and attached in Chrome River to corresponding Expense Report in case of an audit. Chrome River is the central repository for all receipts. The cardholder AND approver (Department Head, Dean, Vice-President or President) shall sign the Firm Paid Items or log report and Bank of America statement, and then route to the Purchasing Office. Transactions shall be reconciled by attaching matching receipts in Chrome River.

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- LaCarte transactions are to be reconciled in Chrome River, and Firm Paid Items or log reports, and statements, are due in the Purchasing Office by the fifteenth (15th) of each month for final review and processing.
- The UL Lafayette Administrative Services office remits an electronic payment to the Bank of America by the twenty-fifth (25th) of each month for all LaCarte Purchasing Cards transactions. At no time shall cardholders make payments directly to the bank.

LACARTE PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

University of Louisiana at Lafayette LaCarte Purchasing Card

General Responsibilities:

- The program administrator will maintain a current list of all cardholders and approvers for the LaCarte card program. Program administrator will be responsible for adding new cardholders and approvers to the WORKS system, and also for removing cardholders and approvers who are no longer in that role.
- It is the approver's responsibility to ensure that all cardholders under their authority abide by the requirements of the cardholder agreement.
- It is the cardholder's responsibility to use the UL Lafayette Purchasing Card for payment of goods, services and travel expenses under \$5,000.00, or the cardholder's single transaction limit, including shipping and handling charges, and excluding taxes. The transaction and credit limits on the card have been set by the cardholder's department P-Card Manager. Transactions over \$5,000 must have prior approval from the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department and the Office of State Travel. Reminder: The card will not accept charges over \$5,000.00, or cardholder's single transaction limit.
- It is the cardholder's responsibility not to artificially divide purchases ("split purchase"). Splitting purchases to keep each of the transactions within the limits of the UL Lafayette Purchasing Card is not authorized. Multiple purchases to the same vendor on the same day or within a few days are allowed, as long as the total dollar amount of the purchases to that vendor does not exceed the cardholder's single transaction limit. Cardholders utilizing a state contract vendor must adhere to the same policy and must ensure that these items are approved contract items. Cardholders must ensure that violation of this policy may result in cancellation of the UL Lafayette Purchasing Card and/or disciplinary action.
- It is the cardholder's responsibility not to allow Louisiana state sales tax to be charged on LaCarte Card purchases. Cardholders must make every effort, at the time of purchase, to avoid state sales tax charges to the card. The tax-exempt number is printed on the front of the LaCarte Purchasing Card for easy reference. In the event that state sales taxes are charged, it is the cardholder's responsibility to have the vendor issue a credit to the cardholder's LaCarte Purchasing Card or reimburse the university. If a cardholder continually allows taxes to be charged to the card, corrective measures will be taken by the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department. Corrective measures may include cancellation of UL Lafayette Purchasing Card privileges or reporting to the Office of Human Resources.
- Each month, cardholder shall complete a Firm Paid items or log report in Chrome River that corresponds to the monthly statement. Approval signatures and account codes for each transaction are required. The statement and report must be received by the Purchasing Office no later than the fifteenth (15th) of each month (earlier in December due to the holidays, and earlier in July due to the year-end close). Original itemized supporting documentation must be kept in the cardholder's department in case of an audit.
- The LaCarte Card will remain the property of the Bank of America. It shall NOT be transferred, assigned to, or used by anyone other than the designated cardholder. The cardholder shall be required to surrender the Purchasing Card upon the request of UL Lafayette or any authorized agent of the Bank of America.
- Personal or other unauthorized charges are not allowed on the Purchasing Card. Violations may cause cancellation of card and/or disciplinary action and reimbursement by the cardholder.

- In the event a vendor participates in a program where reward points are earned, gift cards are issued as incentives, etc., cardholder may use these earnings toward the purchase of state goods. The rewards must NOT be used for personal use.
- Cardholder shall never put the full LaCarte Card number in emails, reports, memos, etc. If designation of an account is necessary, only last four digits of the account number shall be used.
- The P-Card is the property of the State of Louisiana and the cardholder is responsible for the physical security and control of the P-Card and its appropriate use. The Cardholder is also responsible for maintaining the security of card data such as the account number, the expiration date, and the card verification value (CVV), the 3-digit security code located on the back of the card.
- Cardholder shall secure all assigned WORKS application User IDs and passwords, and shall never share User ID and passwords, leave the work area while logged into the system, or leave log-in information lying in an unsecure area.
- Cardholder shall never send a copy of the P-Card if requested by a merchant. If this is required for payment, then the cardholder must verbally provide the number or use another form of payment other than the State Liability P-Card.
- UL Lafayette retains the right to cancel a cardholder's privileges. Cards may be revoked for misuse or non-compliance with policies and procedures and/or Cardholder's Agreement. Should the policies and procedures and/or Cardholder's Agreement be violated more than three (3) times in any twelve (12) month period, the Program Administrator may cancel the cardholder's LaCarte card.
- It is the responsibility of the cardholder or Supervisor to notify UL Lafayette Purchasing Department of a cardholder's extended leave. To reduce the risk of fraud, should a LaCarte cardholder be on extended leave the card profile shall be reduced to a \$.01 limit or shall be suspended. Once the cardholder returns to work, the profile shall be returned to the original limit.
- Should a cardholder be absent during the time when reports and reconciliations are to be processed, approved and submitted to the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department, cardholder's supervisor will delegate this task to ensure that this process is completed even in the cardholder's absence. Cardholder will be required to sign the statement and Firm Paid Items or log report, and on all related documentation upon return to work.
- Online accounts, such as Amazon, EBay, etc., must have a standalone business account or registration and must not be combined with an individual's personal account. Upon request, cardholder is to provide proof that account is set up as a separate business account by providing a list of processed transactions printed from the vendor's website.
- Approvers will be required to review cardholder's limits on an annual basis to ensure appropriate utilization of the card and program intent.
- Cards that remain dormant for a twelve (12) month period shall be canceled unless justification is provided, and approval is granted by the Office of State Procurement to have card remain opened. If approval is granted, the card must be suspended, and profile changed to \$.01 limit until future need for activation.
- Annually, all program participants (i.e. program administrators, cardholders and approvers) are required to complete the most current Agreement Form acknowledging responsibilities associated with the State Liability P-Card Program (LaCarte).
- Annually, all program participants (i.e. program administrators, cardholders and approvers) are required

to complete the State's online certification training program with a passing grade of at least 90.

- A cardholder's approver must be a supervisor (or designee) of the cardholder which would be at least one level higher than the cardholder and be most familiar with the business needs of the cardholder.
- Cardholder's business email address must match the cardholder's name. Another cardholder's email address may not be used without the approval of the Commissioner of Administration.
- Cardholders changing departments within the UL Lafayette campus shall notify the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department of the change so that the account code can be changed in the WORKS system.
- The LaCarte Card is the property of the Bank of America. Upon termination or retirement, the card must be surrendered to the P-Card Manager and will be canceled by the program administrator.
- According to the Human Resources Policy, employees separating from the University must complete a Separation Clearance form and return it to Human Resources when all signatures have been obtained. The Separation Clearance form certifies that the employee has no unpaid University bills, returned all University property, and removed campus parking permit from vehicle(s). Final paycheck may be held until the Separation Clearance form is completed and returned to the home department. The department head will forward the completed form to University Administrative Services, and Human Resources. Included in the Separation Clearance form is a place for the UL Lafayette Purchasing Director, LaCarte program administrator, or designee to sign verifying that the employee's LaCarte card and final reconciliation and supporting documentation have been received. At this time, the LaCarte card will be canceled by the program administrator.

Telephone, Internet and Mail Orders:

- Cardholder shall provide vendor with cardholder's name, UL Lafayette department name, credit card number, tax exemption status, complete shipping address (i.e. street address with internal location such as building name and room number, and department's campus post office box, if possible) and billing address.
- Cardholder shall instruct vendor to include the following in the delivery package: a sales receipt, and an invoice or Purchasing Card charge slip itemizing the order. The sales receipt, invoice and/or charge slip shall identify the purchase as a Visa Card purchase.
- Cardholder shall scan and attach the itemized invoice to the transaction in Chrome River and retain all original supporting documents in the department.

Declined Transactions:

- In the event that a LaCarte Card transaction is declined, cardholder should notify the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department. Vendor does not have information related to the reason for decline, nor does the cardholder have the authority to obtain this information. The UL Lafayette Purchasing Department shall obtain the information on the declined transaction, coordinate resolution and advise the cardholder.
- If a purchase attempt using a LaCarte card is declined, the merchant should not continue to swipe the card if it does not work the first time. The cardholder should call the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department to determine the cause of the declination.
- Possible reasons for Purchasing Card declinations include:
 - attempted purchase exceeds authorized transaction limit.
 - credit card account is over the monthly limit of transactions and/or spending limit.
 - incorrect entering of credit card number or other credit card information.
 - Vendor's registered Merchant Category Code is prohibited.

- Credit card has not been activated.
- Bank has a fraud watch on card.

Statement Reconciliation and Approval Process:

- The primary responsibility for the reconciliation and approval process rests with the cardholder.
- Each cardholder will receive a statement from the Bank of America each month. The LaCarte Card statement date is the fifth (5th) of each month. Cardholders should receive an email from the Bank of America on the sixth (6th) of the month notifying them that the statement is now available online.
- Cardholder shall compare the transactions on the statement with the original sales receipts, invoices, credit card slips, credit receipts, etc. (supporting documentation) to ensure that the dates, vendors and amounts charged match. Documentation is required for all purchases and credits.
- Each transaction listed on statement must have original supporting documentation. This includes transactions that cancel each other out (i.e. a purchase and return for the same item).
- For items purchased over the counter, the cardholder should obtain the customer copy of the receipt. When ordering by telephone, fax, or computer, the cardholder must obtain an invoice or similar document. For items such as registrations, where the vendor does not normally generate a receipt or packing slip, a copy of the ordering document may be used. Acceptable documentation must include a line description, with full description not a generic "general merchandise" description, quantity, and line-item pricing for the purchase. Electronic receipts are allowed if they are un-editable and are maintained in compliance with the agency retention policy.
- For internet purchases, the printout of the order confirmation showing the details, the printout of the order details, or the shipping document if it shows what was purchased, the quantity and the price paid will suffice for the itemized receipts.
- Cardholder shall complete a Firm Paid Items or log report from Chrome River for each billing cycle. This report shall not be required for billing cycles that reflect no transactions.
- Cardholder shall attach the monthly LaCarte Card statement to the Firm Paid Items or log report and submit to the Purchasing Office. All original supporting documentation for each transaction is to be kept in the cardholder's department. Should any item on the statement be in dispute, a Statement of Disputed Items shall be attached to the transaction in Chrome River. Transaction must still be reconciled in Chrome River.
- Cardholder AND Approver (Department Head or Dean/VP) must sign the Firm Paid Items or log report AND the Bank of America statement certifying the legitimacy and accuracy of the listed transactions. A copy of the Firm Paid Items or log report, statement and originals of supporting documents shall be retained by the cardholder. **Cardholder can NEVER be the final approver of his/her own transactions.**
- Firm Paid Items or log reports, and statements are due in the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department by the fifteenth (15th) of each month for final review and processing. Documents not received by the fifteenth (15th) may result in cancellation of card.
- UL Lafayette Purchasing Department is responsible for performing post audits of cardholder transactions to monitor appropriate use while verifying that purchases are made in accordance with Corporate Liability "LaCarte" Purchasing and CBA Card Policy, all current purchasing policies, purchasing rules and regulations, Louisiana Statutes, Executive Orders, State Liability Travel Card and CBA Policy and PPM49, if applicable. All reconciled transactions and receipts shall be reviewed for completeness, correct coding, and matching figures on Firm Paid Items or log report, statement and

receipts by the appropriate comptroller, and the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department. Monthly certifications that the procedures of audit section of this policy have been conducted must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement. The certification will indicate that agency personnel administering the P-card Program has generated the required reports, all requirements listed in policy have been completed, and necessary findings have been investigated, documented and handled appropriately.

- Annual routine audits shall also be performed by UL Lafayette's Internal Auditor for compliance with State Procurement Rules and Regulations.
- All transactions and supporting documentation must be, at a minimum, randomly audited, by a second party, either the agency's fiscal section or the agency program administrator.
- The UL Lafayette Purchasing Department will track cardholder reconciliations as they are received and shall issue reminders to cardholders that have not turned in their LaCarte Purchasing Card Logs by the fifteenth (15th) of the month.
- The approved account and expense codes for each transaction will be uploaded automatically from Chrome River to the cardholder's budget expenditure account in Banner.
- Final approved Firm Paid Items reports, and statements will be centrally located in the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department. Supporting documents will be kept on file by the cardholder.

Disputed and Questioned Items:

- Cardholder shall be responsible for ensuring receipt of goods, services and travel expenses, and resolving any receiving discrepancies or issues of damaged goods.
- Cardholder shall be responsible for settling any disputes with the vendor (except fraudulent charges), clearing duplicated charges, requesting credit for tax, and requesting credit for returned merchandise.
- Cardholder shall notify the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department immediately if they are suspicious of possible fraudulent charges. If it is determined that fraudulent transactions have been charged, or attempted to be charged, on a cardholder's card, the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department shall deactivate the card. The cardholder shall contact the Bank of America and request that a new card be issued.
- Cardholder shall contact vendor to resolve any outstanding issues.
- If cardholder is unable to reach an agreement with vendor, the Cardholder must complete a Statement of Disputed Items, and submit it to the Bank of America within sixty (60) days of the statement date on which the item appears.
- A copy of the Statement of Disputed Items shall be attached to the transaction in Chrome River.
- The UL Lafayette Purchasing Department will be available to assist cardholders in resolving disputes to ensure proper credit is given on subsequent statements.

Penalties for Misuse of Purchasing Card:

Any recognized or suspected misuse of the P-card program should be immediately reported to the agency program administrator and may be anonymously, reported to the State of Louisiana Inspector General's Fraud and Abuse Hotline at 1-866-801-2549, or for additional information one may visit

<http://oig.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&nid=3&pnid=0&pid=4&catid=0>.

If a cardholder unintentionally charges a personal item on their LaCarte card, it is that cardholder's

responsibility to report it to their approver, and also to the program administrator. The cardholder shall reimburse the university by making the payment to the Cashier's Office in Martin Hall or as a payroll deduction. The last four (4) digits of the cardholder's credit card number, the fund account number and expense code shall be provided to the Cashier's Office as well. The transaction must be reconciled in Chrome River and the allocation representing "nonreimbursable" (NREIMB) shall be used. If reimbursement is made to the Cashier's Office, a copy of the reimbursement shall also be attached to the transaction in Chrome River for audit purposes. At no time should the cardholder make a payment directly to the bank. In the event this type of purchase happens more than once in a twelve (12) month period, disciplinary actions may be taken.

In the case of willful or negligent default of obligations under the Cardholder Agreement, the State/UL-Lafayette has the following rights, to the extent authorized by law:

- To deduct from cardholder's paycheck, any unauthorized charges in accordance with UL Lafayette Purchase Card policy, until all unauthorized charges are paid in full.
- The State/UL Lafayette may pursue any remedy for the recovery of unpaid amounts, including referring unpaid amounts to an attorney for collection.
- The State/UL Lafayette may impose any appropriate corrective or disciplinary action permitted, including cancellation of Purchase Card privileges and/or up to termination and possible criminal charges, under applicable law.

According to the Approver Agreement, failure to properly fulfill responsibilities as a P-card approver could result, at a minimum, in the following:

- Written counseling which would be placed in employee file for a minimum of 12 months.
- Consultation with UL Lafayette program administrators, and President/Vice President of Administration and Finance and internal audit section.
- Disciplinary actions, up to and including termination of employment.
- Legal actions, as allowed by the fullest extent of the law.

Lost or Stolen Cards:

Cardholder MUST report any lost or stolen cards immediately:

- **Call Bank of America at (888) 449-2273**
 - This number is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year. The bank shall immediately cancel the card and forward a replacement card within 3-5 business days.
- **Call the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department at (337) 482-6243**

Returns and Exchanges of Merchandise:

- If merchandise purchased with the LaCarte Card is not acceptable (incorrect, damaged, defective, etc.), the cardholder shall be responsible for contacting the vendor to arrange for the proper return for credit or exchange. Note: If the return is due to defective merchandise or vendor error, postage should be paid by vendor. If the return is due to cardholder error, or the Cardholder no longer wants the shipment, the Cardholder, not the University or the vendor is responsible for the cost of the return, unless written permission is granted by the Purchasing Department.
- The cardholder should always retain boxes, containers, special packaging, packing slips and other

related or relevant information until certain the merchandise is acceptable.

- For merchandise to be exchanged, the cardholder shall be responsible for returning the merchandise to the vendor and obtaining a replacement as soon as possible.
- For merchandise returned in person, the cardholder shall be responsible for obtaining an original credit receipt from the vendor.
- For merchandise shipped back to the vendor, cardholder shall prepare package according to vendor instructions and retain shipping documents until vendor issues credit or exchanges merchandise. Cardholder should request a shipping label and a Return Merchandise Authorization number (RMA) from the vendor.
- In the event that a shipping charge or restocking fee applies, the charge shall be applied to the LaCarte Card.
- Documentation of the exchange or return shall be retained along with the original supporting documentation of the original purchase.
- Vendor must issue credit to the LaCarte Purchasing Card. Receiving cash or checks to resolve a credit is strictly prohibited.

Restrictions on Card Use:

The LaCarte Purchasing Card may not be used for the following purchases:

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Cash Advances or gift cards
- Consultant fees, Speaker fees or honorariums
- Professional services, or any service that requires a contract. No one is authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the university except the V.P. of Administration and Finance or President.
- Controlled Substances (prescription drugs, narcotics, etc.), unless special permission has been granted.
- Entertainment costs (ski tickets, tours, etc.), unless special permission has been granted.
- Food and Special Meals (or food related items such as coffee pots, cups, plates, cutlery), unless a Special Meals Pre-Approval has been submitted and approved. A list of people in attendance must be attached to transaction in Chrome River. Meals must be in compliance with the UL Lafayette Special Meals rates.
- Employee's individual meals while traveling must be paid for personally and then seek reimbursement. The cost of individual meals are NOT an allowable expense on the LaCarte card.
- Personal Purchases – State business only (No fans, heaters, office decorations, coffee pots, etc.)
- Equipment or furniture (taggable assets) over \$1,000 (even though Single Transaction Limit is \$5,000)
- Software over \$100.00, internal or external hard drives, unless prior written approval is given by the IT Department by emailing deviceapprovals@louisiana.edu (Written approval must be attached to the transaction in Chrome River). The Technology tile shall be chosen in Chrome River when reconciling charge.
- Any electronic devices on which data can be stored, regardless of the price (including but not limited to tablet computers, smart phones and notebook/laptop computers). These items are considered equipment and are taggable. Note: Thumb drives are allowed and are not taggable.
- Fuel for rental or state vehicles is allowed; however, gasoline purchased for personal vehicles is NEVER allowed. Fuel purchased from Enterprise, Hertz, or National is NEVER allowed.
- Purchase of uniforms is prohibited unless special permission has been granted by the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department. To be granted permission, a staff uniform requirement must be included in your Departmental Policy and must be approved by the Assistant Vice President of Administration & Finance or her designee. Clothing that is considered a supply (such as lab coats, work gloves, safety vests, etc.) is an allowable purchase.
- Any type of promotional items or gifts intended to be given away to staff, or the general public is prohibited. Exceptions may be granted for UL students or potential students with the approval of a "Promotional, Logo Imprinted, Award Items Approval Form" (PUR-106 found on Purchasing website).
- Awards and trophies for students are permitted with an approved Promotional Items form and may not exceed \$50. Items are to be engraved with recipient's name or award place (1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, etc.). Awards and trophies are not allowed for staff, faculty or the general public (i.e. retirement plaques, Teacher of the Year trophies, Donor of the Year plaques, etc.).

- Any items purchased with the UL Lafayette branding (logo, UL name, fleur de lis, etc.), must come from a vendor licensed to print the UL branding (clothing, banners, signs, etc.). For the list of licensed vendors, please see the UL Communications and Marketing website. These items must be approved prior to purchase by completing a “Promotional, Logo Imprinted, Award Items Approval Form” (PUR-106 found on Purchasing website).
- Purchases from vendors that issue receipts without itemizing the charges (Hobby Lobby, Party City, etc.). Receipts must include the description of the item, quantity, unit price, freight charge (if applicable), and tax (which should be \$0.00).
- Postage stamps (Postage applied by the U.S. Post Office, UPS or FedEx is allowed, but not the purchase of individual stamps.)
- Memberships to professional organizations are allowed; however, memberships such as Amazon Prime, Sam’s Club and Costco are not allowed.
- Online accounts, such as Amazon, EBay, etc., must have a standalone business account or registration and must not be combined with an individual’s personal account. Upon request, cardholder is to provide proof that account is set up as a separate business account by providing a list of processed transactions printed from the vendor’s website.
- UL has a business account setup that offers Amazon Prime on eligible orders. Please contact Josie Mariano at josiem@louisiana.edu to set up a UL Amazon Business account.

Important Things to Remember:

- Any “pattern” of misuse may cause cancellation of the Purchasing Card and/or disciplinary action. Transactions are to be reconciled in Chrome River, and Firm Paid Items reports, and statements are to be sent thru interoffice mail to the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department by the 15th of each month. If you do not have any transactions, you will not receive a statement, and you do not need to submit anything to the Purchasing Office.
- To reduce the risk of fraud, should a LaCarte cardholder be on extended leave the card profile shall be reduced to a \$.01 limit or shall be suspended. Once the cardholder returns to work, the profile shall be returned to the original limit.
- Cards that remain dormant for a twelve (12) month period shall be canceled unless justification is provided, and approval is granted by the Office of State Procurement to have card remain opened. If approval is granted, the card must be suspended, and profile changed to \$.01 limit until future need for activation.
- Purchases cannot exceed \$5,000.00, or the single transaction limit, including shipping and handling.
- Purchases shall not be artificially divided (“split purchase”). Splitting purchases to keep each of the transactions within the limits of the Purchasing Card is not authorized. Multiple purchases to the same vendor on the same day or within a few days are allowed, as long as the total dollar amount of the purchases to that vendor does not exceed the cardholder’s single transaction limit. Purchases made utilizing a state contract must adhere to the same policy. Violation of this policy may cause cancellation of the Purchasing Card and/or disciplinary action.
- UL Lafayette is exempt from Louisiana state sales taxes on all purchases, including but not limited to meals and hotels within the state of Louisiana. Cardholder shall notify vendor of UL’s tax-exempt status prior to any transaction. The UL Lafayette tax exemption number is printed on the front of the

LaCarte Purchasing Card for easy reference. Cardholder shall not fill out any tax exemption forms.

- To avoid tax being charged, on-line orders should be called in if order form does not provide a place to enter UL Lafayette's tax identification number. If tax is inadvertently charged, it is the cardholder's responsibility to have the tax credited back to their account within 30 days of the transaction being made. If this is not possible, the cardholder will be responsible for reimbursing the taxes back to the university.
- Some vendors require their own Tax-Exempt Account Numbers instead of the one printed on the top of the LaCarte card. These vendors are: Home Depot (#5511616), Lowe's (#046100014), Office Depot (#36087878), and Wal-Mart (#192118).
- In the event a vendor participates in a program where reward points are earned, gift cards are issued as incentives, etc., cardholder may ONLY use these earnings toward the purchase of state goods. The rewards must NOT be used for personal use.
- The LaCarte Purchasing Card cannot be transferred, assigned to, or used by anyone other than the designated cardholder.
- If items are being shipped, the cardholder must provide vendor with complete shipping address along with cardholder's name, department, building, room number, post office box and telephone number. Cardholder must ensure shipments of merchandise are sent directly to the requesting department. Cardholder must not have items shipped to Central Receiving unless Central Receiving is notified in advance, along with the reason the item cannot be shipped to the requesting department. **Cardholder must not have packages delivered to their home.**
- Registration fees for webinars, on-line courses and conferences are permitted charges on the LaCarte card.
- Registration fees for virtual conferences are not considered travel, and do not require a Pre-Approval in Chrome River. These registration fees may be paid by another cardholder.
- If a conference is anywhere but the UL campus, it is considered travel and a Travel Pre-Approval must be submitted thru Chrome River, even if no other expenses are claimed except the registration fee.
- No LaCarte cardholder may pay for travel expenses for other employees. The cardholder MAY NOT pay for registration, lodging, airfare, rental vehicles, etc. for anyone but themselves. The only exception to this is when traveling with students. Please contact the Purchasing Travel Office for more details concerning student travel.
- Cardholder shall assure that prices paid are fair and reasonable by comparing prices from more than one vendor.
- Cardholder shall obtain original, itemized supporting documentation for each transaction, and shall verify all information on document.
- Any pre-approved exceptions to LaCarte Card purchases must be in writing from the UL Lafayette Purchasing Department. Written documentation of approval must be attached to the transaction in Chrome River.
- Cardholder AND Approver (Department Head or Dean/VP) must sign the Firm Paid Items report AND Bank of America statement certifying the legitimacy and accuracy of the listed transactions. These two documents shall be sent to the UL Purchasing Office. These receipts/invoices are to be kept,

along with a copy of the Firm Paid Items report, statement and any other supporting documents, by the cardholder in case of an audit. **Cardholder can NEVER be the final approver of his/her own transactions.**

- Any purchases not allowed on the LaCarte card shall be submitted on a Purchase Requisition thru Banner.
- If there are issues with transactions in Chrome River, the transactions will be adjusted (if possible), or returned to the cardholder's Chrome River dashboard. An email will be sent from the Chrome River system notifying the cardholder of what has been changed, or of what needs to be corrected. If the transaction is not corrected, the transaction will be charged to NREIMB ("Due from Employee" account) and deducted from the cardholder's paycheck.

SPECIAL MEALS:

Special Meals are meals consisting of two or more people. Meals where one or more people entertain a job candidate or invited guest, or an employee working meeting where a meal or refreshments are served are considered Special Meals and require approval via a Special Meals Pre-Approval in Chrome River. Once approved, the meal can be paid for with a LaCarte card or with personal funds.

A list of attendees and itemized receipt must be attached to the Expense Report in Chrome River. If more than 15 people are invited to the function, a flyer or email showing who was invited may substitute for an actual list of attendees; however, the number of anticipated attendees must be provided.

Note: When using a LaCarte card, the cardholder must have "General Purchasing" privileges on their LaCarte card, or the transaction will be declined.

Special Meals per person rates are as follows:

- \$10 Breakfast
- \$15 Lunch
- \$30 Dinner
- \$4.50 Refreshments (If all day event, one refreshment is allowed during morning session and another during afternoon session.)

Delivery fees, service fees, non-cash fees, out of state taxes, china rental, and cups, plates and utensils are added to the cost of the food when calculating the per person rate. A tip of up to 20% of the allowable rate is allowed in addition to the meal rate. Louisiana state taxes are not allowed. Room rental charges, tents, tables, chairs, fountains, chafing dishes, linens, bartenders/servers, and/or audio-visual equipment rental are to be invoiced separately, and are not added into the per person cost of the meal.

If alcohol is served, a separate receipt must be issued and paid for with personal funds. If Foundation funds are to be requested, a Foundation Warrant may be submitted for reimbursement to the employee. Alcohol can NEVER be charged on the LaCarte card.

INVITED GUESTS:

A request for bringing a job candidate or other invited guest to the university must be submitted on a Pre-Approval thru Chrome River. The invited guest will be responsible for paying for their own travel expenses and then submitting receipts for reimbursement (if this has been agreed upon) to the person who submitted the Pre-Approval. UL Lafayette will not reimburse the guest for any alcohol purchases.

The estimated cost of any personal meals that the guest will have, must be included in the amount of the Pre-Approval. The cost of the meals that will be provided with UL Lafayette staff/faculty as a group, will be encumbered on a Special Meals Pre-Approval instead.

TRAVEL:

The LaCarte card is required for the following travel-related charges:

- **AIRFARE AND AGENCY FEES** – Must be paid for with traveler's LaCarte card and must be booked thru Christopherson Business Travel.
 - International travel must comply with the Fly America Act. This is only applicable if federal funds are used. Note: Not all flights booked thru Christopherson Business Travel comply with the Fly America Act.
 - Christopherson Business Travel charges a \$7.00 agency fee for booking a flight online. If flights are booked thru a representative, the agency fee is \$24.00 for domestic, \$31.00 for international. Flights should not be booked by phone after 5:00pm or on weekends unless it is for an emergency flight.
 - Standby charges and seat reservation fees are not allowed.

Note:

- Traveler may be granted a one-time approval to bypass Christopherson Business Travel, if there is a savings of \$100 or more. **Prior to booking the flight**, the traveler must provide the following information and receive written approval from the Office of State Travel:
 - A quote from Christopherson Business Travel
 - A quote from the cheaper agency
 - An email from a Christopherson representative stating that Christopherson cannot match or beat the other agency's price (Christopherson Business Travel may not have all flights listed on their website.)
 - All of this information must be emailed to Kassie Clark at kassie.clark@louisiana.edu, who will in turn attempt to get permission from the Office of State Travel.
 - Travelers wishing to include personal travel days **must have the additional days approved thru the UL Travel Department prior to booking the airfare**. UL Lafayette will not pay for food, lodging, or any other expenses during personal travel days.
- **HOTEL/LODGING** – Must be paid for with the traveler's LaCarte card and the university will only be responsible for PPM-49(GSA) allowable rates for the area
 - If staying at a conference hotel, the conference rate is permitted even if over the allowable state rate.
 - If a hotel is not available within the allowable rate, permission may be granted to pay up to 50% higher than the allowable GSA rate. This request and justification must be submitted on the Pre-Approval in the Business Purpose field or the Description field of the Pre-Approval and must be approved by Department Head and VP of Administration and Finance, prior to making the reservations.
 - Allowable state rate is per person. (Example: If the allowable rate is \$96/night and 2 people with approved Travel Pre-Approvals are sharing a room, then the allowable rate for that room is \$192/night.) Each person must pay for their share of the room with their own LaCarte card. Hotel shall issue separate invoices to each person.
 - Hotel incidentals are not allowed to be paid for with the LaCarte card.
 - Internet services are allowed on the LaCarte card.
 - Mandatory lodging fees, such as resort fees, urban destination fees, facility fees, amenity fees, etc. are allowed but are to be included in the nightly room rate.
 - Airbnbs are allowed. Service charges and cleaning fees are allowed, but are added to the

- nightly room rate.
 - Tax Recovery Charges are not allowed.
- **RENTAL VEHICLES** – Cardholder must use state contracted rental agencies
 - In-state or Out-of-state rentals must be from Enterprise (Contract #NA1403), Hertz (Contract #70592) or National (Contract #NA1403)
 - Pricing includes Collision Damage Waiver and a one-million-dollar liability insurance
 - The purchase of fuel from rental agencies is prohibited.
 - Renting from a location at the Lafayette Airport is not allowed unless the rental agency is willing to remove all extra rental fees such as the customer facility charge and concession fee. If traveler does rent from a Lafayette Airport location and all other fees are waived, the university will not pay for personal vehicle parking fees while having a rental vehicle.
 - Cardholders are only allowed to rent Compact or Intermediate-sized vehicles unless more than 2 people will be riding. Cardholder must provide list of passengers and each passenger's Travel Pre-Approval number, if renting a larger vehicle.
 - No student (undergrad or grad student) that is not also a UL employee is allowed to drive on behalf of the university, unless it is approved by the UL President. Drivers of rental vehicles must be at least 21 years old.
- **PARKING** – Required on LaCarte card if credit card is accepted
 - Baton Rouge Airport (\$4.50/day - must provide airport certificate to get contracted rate) – receipt is required
 - New Orleans USPARK uncovered parking – receipt is required
 - As of June 2021 charge is \$14 plus taxes and fees (10% City of Kenner tax, 7% Airport fee, and 4.75% Jefferson Parish tax – No state tax is allowed)
 - New Orleans Airport Surface Lot - \$18.00/day- located on airport property
 - New Orleans Airport Airline Economy Garage - \$12/day- off property (method of payment - credit card only)
- **AIRLINE BAGGAGE FEES**
 - For trips 5 days or less, 1 checked bag is allowed
 - For trips from 6-10 days, 2 checked bags are allowed
- **SHUTTLE SERVICE AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION** – Required on LaCarte card if credit card is accepted
 - Tips must be included on the receipt from the vendor and may not exceed 20%

Incidental Expenses NOT allowed on the LaCarte Card:

- Employee Individual Meals
 - Travel meals are reimbursed as per the GSA rates. First and last days of travel are reimbursed at 75% of the daily rate regardless of travel start and end times.
 - Travelers are **allowed** to claim breakfast reimbursement when a continental breakfast is served by a hotel for all hotel guests.
 - Travelers are **not allowed** to claim breakfast reimbursement when a continental breakfast is included in a conference schedule/agenda.
- Phone calls

Important Things to Remember About Travel:

- You must present a personal credit card when checking into a hotel to cover any incidental charges.

- Louisiana state sales tax should never be paid on meals, hotels, in-state vehicle rentals, or USPARK.
- Only the cardholder's (or students') travel expenses are allowed on the LaCarte card.
- A Travel Pre-Approval must be completed for ALL travel.
- Cardholder MUST NOT request reimbursement for expenses that were paid for with the LaCarte.
- Tips for baggage (airport and hotel) are no longer reimbursable. GSA daily meal allowance includes an incidental fee that is to be used for this purpose.

General Travel Procedures:

Prior to the trip:

- Traveler must complete a Chrome River Pre-Approval for any event away from the UL campus with the exception of local travel within the bordering parishes to Lafayette Parish. A Pre-Approval is required for local travel if any expenses will be incurred.
- Once the Pre-Approval has been completely approved in Chrome River, the traveler is free to make their travel arrangements (i.e. pay registration fee, reserve vehicle and hotel and make flight arrangements, etc.) using their LaCarte card.
- **TRAVEL ADVANCES** – If the traveler is a student, a professor traveling with a group of students, or an employee making under \$30,000/year, he/she may request an advance to pay for meals and allowable travel expenses.
- **STUDENT TRAVEL**
 - When a UL staff or faculty member is traveling with a group of students and will be with the students for the duration of the trip, only one (1) Travel Pre-Approval is required. The Pre-Approval should be completed in the staff/faculty member's name with the list of all students attached. If the university will be covering the cost of meals for the students, the staff/faculty member should request an advance for the meals.
 - For this type of advance, the amount of the advance (daily allowable rate for each person) will be issued to the UL staff/faculty member who will be responsible for distributing the money. A sign-in sheet is required and must include the daily meal allowance rate, date and signature of each student. The staff/faculty member's meals may be included in the advance. A separate sign-in sheet is required for each day. Since the money is being issued to the UL staff/faculty member, no meal receipts are required.
 - If the staff/faculty member and students are eating as a group, the faculty member is allowed to pay for the entire meal with his/her LaCarte card. A receipt is required and must be in compliance with the PPM-49 rates for that area. These meal rates must include tax (if applicable) and tips (not to exceed 20% of the allowable rate) and may not include alcohol.
 - The staff/faculty member is also allowed to pay for the students' airfare, baggage fees, ground transportation and lodging with their own LaCarte card. **This is the only time that a LaCarte cardholder is allowed to pay for another person's travel expenses.**
 - If a student is traveling without a UL staff/faculty member, or an employee making under \$30,000/year is traveling, a Pre-Approval must be completed in the traveler's name, and an advance may be given for meals. For this type of advance, original itemized meal receipts are required for each meal. Traveler can only claim up to the allowable rate for the area for each meal. Each meal receipt is audited individually for compliance of the allowable Tier meal rates set forth in PPM-49. These meals may not be combined for a total daily allowance. If a meal is skipped, or less

than the allowable rate is spent, the remaining money from that meal cannot be applied to another meal or snack during the day.

Each traveler will be responsible for submitting all itemized receipts and any remaining cash to clear the advance. Should the traveler decide not to request an advance for food, they will be given the daily meal allowance upon their return, and meal receipts are not required. If the traveler is a student, their airfare, lodging and rental vehicle may be paid for by the UL staff/faculty member that is submitting the Pre-Approval for the student, and their LaCarte card may be used.

Note: If the staff/faculty member is not with the students for the entire trip (Ex: Faculty member may go a few days before the students to prepare for a presentation, etc. and then the students travel at a different time and meet the faculty member at the location.), separate Pre-Approvals must be completed for each person individually.

- If a non-employee student is traveling in a state or rented vehicle, whether or not they are driving, they are required to complete a "Hold Harmless - Non-State Employee use of State Vehicle Acknowledgement." This form must be attached to the Pre-Approval. This includes UL buses that are rented for a trip but are not necessary for chartered buses.

Following the trip:

- An Expense Report must be submitted in Chrome River within 30 days following the last day of the trip.
- Travel Advances must be cleared within 15 days of the trip. Clearing a Travel Advance requires submission of all receipts and any unused money. The total of the receipts and unused money must equal the amount of the advance.
- Travel reimbursements will be issued within 30 days of receipt of approved Expense Report.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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