3. Group Travel

Policy Statement
Group travel exists when a third party is being paid for travel expenses of an employee on official UGA business. More than one individual does not have to be involved to qualify for group travel. A third party may refer to a business or another individual. Payments under group travel require information about the traveler, regardless of who actually paid, to comply with the Georgia Transparency in Government Act report requirements.

Reason for policy
This policy is to define the University of Georgia’s regulations for processing group travel. The University follows reporting requirements set forth by the State Accounting Office, Board of Regents, and the Internal Revenue Service. The University maintains an accountable plan for travel reimbursement. By complying with the IRS rules with an accountable plan, travel reimbursements generally are not taxable income.

Procedures
**Direct Billing of Travel Expenses:** The University will pay suppliers for travel expenditures on behalf of employees who are traveling on official business for the University under certain circumstances.
If no provisions exist to direct pay the supplier then:

- University employees are responsible for seeking reimbursement of travel expenditures through University procedures as stated in the [UGA Travel Policy](#).

If provisions exist to direct pay the vendor:

- After travel is completed, the department should submit a payment request to the third party vendor with an invoice from the supplier. The appropriate employee travel account code should be assigned to the payment request. The traveler’s name should be referenced in the description field of the payment request.

**Employee Reimbursement for Group Travel:** In the event an employee covers travel expenditures for another employee, the request for reimbursement must be treated as group travel.

If all parties involved are employees, an expense report should be created to reimburse the employee that paid for the transaction. The Group Attendees section of the expense report should be completed indicating the names and amounts reportable for the other employees. Expense Type D-Group Trav Pd By Emp for Emp should be used when creating the expense report.
Responsibilities

**Responsible University Senior Administrator**: Vice President for Finance & Administration

**Responsible University Administrator**: Associate Vice President - Finance Division

**Policy Owner**: Accounts Payable

**Policy Contact**: Westley Bargo

**Phone Number**: (706) 542-2786

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**Record Retention**

**Research Grant Records**

Number 0472-09-006

These records relate to funded research grant proposals and research activity associated with grant funded projects. Examples of records include: supporting statistics, demographic data, draft proposals, suggested revisions, final proposals, forms, protocols, applications, research/activity reports, progress reports, and summary reports.

Retention: Final research report is permanent. All other records: 7 years after the end of the grant period.

**Accounting Records**

Number 0472-03-001

This series includes bank statements, purchase requests, purchase orders, requisitions, financial reports, accounts payable and receivable records, write-off records, discrepancy, payment schedules, operating statements, year-end projections, reconciliation and expenditure reports, cancelled checks, check stubs, moving expense records, cost accounting reports, refund/disbursement request records, returned checks, deposit slips, travel records, credit voucher requisition records, cash balances and reconciliations, sales and cash reconciliation records, journal entries, outstanding obligations, refund/disbursement requests, receipts and invoices.

Retention: Monthly and quarterly reports: 1 year. All other records: 5 years.

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**Related information**

[UGA Travel Policy](#)

Multiple training resources for processing payment requests and expense reports are available in the [OneSource Training Library](#):

- Creating a Payment Request
- Creating a Payment Request with Multiple Expense Lines
- Creating a Payment Request with Multiple Accounting Distributions on the same line
- Approving a Payment Request
- Denying a Payment Request
- Creating an Expense Report
- Creating an Expense Report as a Delegated User
- Submitting an Expense Report
- Submitting an Expense Report Prepared by a Delegate
- Reviewing the Status of an Expense Report
- Approving an Expense Report as an HR Reports To Supervisor
- Approving an Expense Report as an Expense Manager

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**Policy Dates**

**Effective Date**: 09/09/2019