



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**FAS PCard Policy Addendum, effective May 23, 2022**

This addendum is to the [Harvard University Financial Policy: Purchasing Card](#), in effect Dec 5, 2016.

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**Department and Local Unit Guidelines**

At their discretion, FAS local units/departments may impose more restrictive guidelines for budgetary or control reasons, but they may not be less restrictive than the guidelines stated in this policy.

**Eligibility**

Individuals who have as part of their regular job duties responsibility for routine purchasing of high-volume, low-dollar supplies (where an B2P vendor is not available) and local entertainment-related expenses are eligible to apply for, receive, and use a PCard – in accordance with the University.

Individuals who engage in infrequent purchasing or purchasing high-dollar items should not receive or use a PCard.

**Faculty, staff, graduate students, teaching assistants, research assistants, and internal post-docs** – may apply for, receive, and use a PCard assuming routine purchasing is part of their regular job duties.

**Undergraduate students** typically should not apply for, receive, or use a PCard. If a department, center, or tub feels there is a need for an undergraduate student to receive and use a PCard for high volume, routine purchasing, the administrator should contact the PCard Local Administrator in Administrative Operations (or College Financial Office, where applicable) for further information.

**External, non-employee post-docs and fellows** are not eligible to receive or use a PCard, nor should departments, centers, or tubs use PCards to make payments to or purchases on behalf of external, non-employee post-docs and fellows, as this presents a risk of non-disclosure of fellowship funds to these individuals.

**Independent Review**

University policy requires that all PCard transactions be reviewed in the online settlement system by an individual other than the PCard cardholder. FAS departments that have only one staff member with a PCard and/or where independent review of transactions is not possible due to limited resources may request an exemption from the FAS Office of Finance. Upon review of the circumstances, Admin Ops and the department will document in writing that independent review of transactions in the online settlement system is not feasible. The department administrator and the PCard Local Administrator in Admin Ops will both sign and date an FAS PCard Independent Review Addendum (Appendix A) and it will be kept on file in both the department and Admin Ops.

## **FAS PCard Local Administrator (Applications and Monitoring)**

The PCard Local Administrator in the Administrative Operations group will review and approve all applications for new PCards and new transaction reviewers, with the following exception:

- Harvard College (Tub 310) applications will be reviewed by the PCard Local Administrator in the College Financial Office.

This office will also monitor PCard usage and transaction review for compliance with the University and FAS policies.

Departments, centers, or tubs that are not compliant with the University and FAS policies will be contacted, and a plan to become compliant will be enacted between the department and Admin Ops (or College Financial Office, where applicable). **Individual PCards that consistently fail to be compliant will be canceled.**

## **CONTACTS**

Joshua Dunn, FAS Procurement Administrator 496-7652 ([dunn@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dunn@fas.harvard.edu))

Sean McQuarrie, FAS Director of Procurement Operations 496-4292 ([smcquarrie@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:smcquarrie@fas.harvard.edu))

## Appendix A

### FAS PCard Independent Review Addendum

[Department Name] and the FAS Administrative Operations have consulted and determined that [Department Name] will not be able to comply with the University requirement that all PCard transactions be independently reviewed in the online settlement system. [Department Name] will comply with all other provisions of the University and the FAS PCard policies, namely that:

- All PCard transactions will have a business purpose assigned in the online settlement system;
- All PCard transactions will have the proper chart of accounts coding in the online settlement system;
- Proof-of-purchase documentation will be retained locally according to PCard and/or Records Retention policies;
- All PCard transactions will be reviewed [monthly or quarterly] for reasonableness in Detail Listing and/or Budget reports by the administrator; such review will be evidenced by signature of the administrator, dated, and retained locally for the current audit period;
- No PCard purchase of prohibited commodities or personal items will be made.

Additionally, in accordance with the FAS PCard Policy, Admin Ops will include [DepartmentName] in its monthly review of PCard transactions. Such review will include entry of business purposes, purchase of prohibited commodities, and reasonableness of charges.

This addendum is signed and dated by the administrator for [Department Name] and FAS Administrative Operations, below. This document shall be in effect for one fiscal year and kept on file both in [Department Name] and Admin Ops. A review of the circumstances will be conducted prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year.

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Administrator Signature

Date

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FAS Administrative Operations

Date