5.3.1 REQUISITION PROCESSING

This Guide Memo provides an overview of the procurement process. University departments are encouraged to contact Procurement early in the acquisition process. Procurement buyers and Contracts Specialists can help develop technical specifications and provide product descriptions, estimates of cost or price and lists of suppliers.

Authority:
Approved by the Senior Associate Vice President for Finance.

1. Purchasing Systems

The University has implemented the Oracle Financials systems to record its financial transactions. All acquisition transactions, including purchase requisitions, reimbursement requests, purchase orders, invoices, and payments must be entered in the Oracle Financials system. Administrative staff typically use the Oracle iProcurement system for requisition entry and lookup, and the ReportMart system for general financial reporting needs. This system is referred to simply as "Oracle Financials" elsewhere in this and other Guide Memos.

a. Preparing Transactions
Online transactions must be prepared by a person with a SUNet ID and appropriate authority to access the online systems. Stanford faculty, staff, and students acting in an administrative capacity all have access to the online acquisition systems.

b. Approvals
Every requisition is electronically stored and routed on the computer system to a designated person who is an authorized approver for the account to be charged for the acquisition of products or services.

c. Transaction Processing
Business transactions are processed through Oracle Financials electronically, which includes forwarding or returning purchase requisitions to personnel with signature authority, obtaining authorized approvals electronically, sending appropriate notifications to users, transmission of orders and related documents to suppliers, and payment for products and services.

d. Personal Expenses
Personal expenses and purchases that are not made on behalf of the University or for use by the University are not permitted. These may be considered fraudulent transactions. Purchases must be for the use and benefit of Stanford University, regardless of intent to reimburse Stanford. If any Stanford user associated with the purchase commits purposeful fraudulent or other inappropriate behavior regarding the proper use of the
requisitioning and purchasing process, it will be considered serious misconduct and will result in disciplinary action.

e. Getting Started
To help employees gain familiarity with the system, classes are offered periodically. Online tutorials are also available.

2. Requisition Routing

a. Approvals
In addition to departmental approval, schools may require Dean's Office approval for purchases. A requisition will also be automatically routed to other offices if their approval is needed.

b. Attachments
Attachments for requisitions are normally electronically attached to the Oracle iProcurement requisition.

3. Vendor Selection

a. Information Source
Departments may obtain information about vendors through lookup in the Oracle iProcurement system, or by contacting Procurement directly.

b. Soliciting Suppliers
After an online requisition of $25,000 or above is made available to Procurement, the assigned buyer works with the requesting department in considering potential suppliers. If written bids, quotations or proposals are appropriate; the buyer prepares and communicates solicitations to prospective suppliers. The buyer and the department select the supplier based on Stanford's policies.

c. External Affirmative Action
The University is committed to doing business with small businesses and other targeted concerns when they can supply products or services that meet the University's needs; see Guide Memo 5.5.1 [1]: External Affirmative Action.

4. Purchase Orders and Contracts
Procurement is authorized to assign a contract number to formal contracts. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Trustees or delegated authority from the Chief Purchasing Officer, no other University department may assign contract or purchase order numbers in acquisition of products or services.
a. Contracts
A written contract may be appropriate in the following circumstances:

- The nature of the work and obligations of the parties must be set out in detail and specificity.
- Payment terms are complicated and require special handling.
- Equipment being acquired is unusual, unique or special. Examples include situations where design, engineering, testing or other special factors might be risks of the transaction.
- For consulting services.
- For research.
- For construction or installation of fixtures which may expose Stanford to liability to third parties.
- For blanket orders (see Guide Memo 5.3.2 [2]: Blanket Purchase Orders.
- For license agreements, rentals and leases; see Guide Memo 5.2.2 [3]: Equipment and Real Estate Leases.

b. Modifications
When the product, service or terms of acquisition must be changed for the acquisition to meet the University's needs, the department is responsible for initiating an online requisition to authorize the change. Requisitions for change or modification should be promptly processed by University departments. A failure to do so may result in no delivery of the product or service or nonpayment of the supplier.

Back to top

5. Delivery and Receiving

a. Delivery Points
(1) General Shipments
Most campus shipments are delivered directly to the ordering department by the supplier or shipper. If there are questions or special requirements concerning a delivery, a Procurement buyer can advise on the appropriate manner, place and terms of delivery to be included in an order.

(2) Radioactive Shipments
Radioactive materials may not be delivered directly to any department. All shipments of radioactive material go to the Health Physics Inspection Station at 820 Quarry Road for examination by Health Physics and verification of a CRA (Controlled Radiation Authorization) number. After examination by Health Physics, delivery is made or the materials may be picked up by the requesting department. Refer to Guide Memo 5.1.1 [4]: Procurement Policies.

(3) Biohazard Shipments
Bio hazardous material may be delivered directly to University departments; however, each department is responsible for ensuring that a department representative is available to receive the shipment and for ensuring that safe handling of such products occurs upon delivery. Refer to Guide Memo 5.1.1 [4]: Procurement Policies.

b. Certification of Receipt or Acceptance
Receipt of goods or services is entered into the online systems. Receiving transactions are used by Accounts Payable to determine eligibility of a particular invoice for payment. Special circumstances may occasionally require more complex procedures. Requestors should work with the cognizant buyer and Accounts Payable representative to accommodate any special needs.
c. Expediting
Procurement can expedite orders when notified by a department or supplier that an order needs special attention, i.e., a delivery failed to come in as expected, etc.

d. Claims
The University department is primarily responsible for administering shipping claims. If Procurement was involved in the transaction, the buyer can, upon request, assist departments in handling damage claims, return or repair of defective items, and/or return of the item delivered when the wrong product was shipped. For losses or damage over $1,000, the Risk Management Office may be contacted for assistance.

e. U.S. Customs
The buyer assists departments in complying with U.S. Customs, filling out, signing and submitting applications for duty-free entry of scientific instruments, and permits for importation of organisms and biological vectors. 

**Note:** Procurement uses the services of Stanford’s exclusive customs broker and preferred vendor for logistics services, and encourages University departments to do the same. Contact Procurement for more information.


**Links**