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Introduction

The Colorado School of Mines One Card is a Visa Procurement card issued through US Bank. This card can be used by authorized Colorado School of Mines’ (Mines’) staff, faculty and graduate students to purchase low-dollar items (maximum $4,500) intended for school use. The authorized cardholder is able to purchase directly on behalf of Mines, thereby allowing Tax-Exempt status. The One Card is property of the Colorado School of Mines and should be used in accordance with all Financial Policies and Procurement Rules.

It is required for all Cardholders to read this handbook in its entirety. The information contained in this handbook will guide the Cardholder on what purchases are and are not authorized, the required documentation needed for each transaction, steps to request adjustments, and other important information about the program.

For additional information, please contact the One Card Administrator Or Mines Administrative Processing Services (MAPS)

Christa Riley, CPCP
Credit Card Administrator
criley@mines.edu
303-273-3264

MAPS
maps@mines.edu
303-273-3166

Who Can Participate in the One Card Program?

Faculty, staff and graduate students may participate in the program at the discretion of their Department Supervisor, Vice Presidents, or Directors, based on the following requirements:

**Colorado School of Mines Employee – Faculty or Staff** *(Application Form)*

- Have authorization from his/her Direct Supervisor.
- Agree to abide by the One Card procedures and guidelines as outlined in this handbook and Mines Financial Policies.
- Complete the training course given by the One Card Administrator pertaining to the use of the One Card, transaction Expense Reporting, and documentation requirements.
- Sign Cardholder Agreement.

**Graduate Students** *(Grad Student Application Form)*

Graduate Students who have a job on campus may also obtain a One Card at the discretion of their Direct Supervisor, Vice President, Department Head or Director on a case-by-case basis and must follow the same requirements as for a Mines Employee listed above.

Additional information that will be gathered for Graduate Students are:

- Employment contract start and end date
- Approval of Faculty or Staff (Primary Investigator (PI) when working under a grant) that has signature authority on the Index to be charged
  - Please note this person will be responsible for completing expense reports for all transactions made by the Cardholder, if the cardholder fails to complete it.
**Getting Started**

### Steps to Order One Card
- Applicants will either upload a completed application via Team Dynamix or Fill out the appropriate One Card Application ([Faculty/Staff](#) or [Grad Student](#)) through Team Dynamix and their Direct Supervisor will be contacted for approval.
- Once the card has been ordered, the applicant will receive an invitation to participate in the One Card and Chrome River Training.
- After passing the One Card and Chrome River Training, the Cardholder will receive notification that the One Card is available for pickup at the Mines Office, located in room 224 of the Guggenheim Bldg.
- Cardholder will then call US Bank to activate card.

### Activating One Card
- Call the phone number on the face of the card: **800-344-5696**
- Enter in card number
- Enter in the billing zip code: 80401
- When asked for Social Security Number – enter the last four digits of the CWID
  - **NOTE:** The bank does **not** have the Cardholder’s Social Security Number on file. Any time the Bank asks for the last 4 digits of the Social Security number, use the last 4-digits of the CWID.
- Enter in Mines phone number (if no assigned extension, use **303-273-3000**)
- Choose a 4 digit PIN

### Questions to Ask Before Using One Card
Ask the following questions before selecting the merchant:
- Does the merchant accept a credit card?
- Does Colorado School of Mines or the State have an established vendor for use in procuring the needed goods or services? Visit the [Purchasing Website](#) to find see standing Agreements.
- If there is not an established Price Agreement, does the vendor offer a discount to the School or to higher education facilities?
- Will the vendor honor the Mines’ Tax-Exempt status?

### Placing an Order
A purchase or an order can be done in person, by phone, via fax, by mail, or online. If purchasing online, make sure it is a secure website or place the order by phone.

When placing an order, make sure:
- The purchase is tax exempt if purchasing from a vendor in the State of Colorado.
- The merchant gives any applicable discounts.
- Itemized documentation showing description and cost of each item is requested.

**Note:** Cardholder must give correct billing address for the transaction to be authorized. Billing address can be found on the Cardholder’s monthly statement.

### Documenting Transactions
- Keep all receipts and documentation.
- Source documents must include the following information:
  - Vendor identification (Merchant Name)
- Date of purchase
- Description and quantity of each item purchased
- Cost per item
- Total cost of order
- Cardholder name and/or card number
- Explanation of purchase (if it is an unusual purchase for the specific department)

- Attach other applicable required documentation for a transaction, such as an Official Function Authorization

A combination of documents is allowed in order to complete the requirements of valid source documents. Examples of source documents may include any of the following or combination of the following:

- A receipt and credit card transaction slip from the merchant
- A packing slip showing total cost of order and/or item cost
- Order forms for dues, subscriptions, registrations or similar items
- Vendor invoice
- An email confirmation from the merchant

**Missing Receipt**
If a receipt is missing for any reason, first contact the vendor to see if they will provide a duplicate receipt. If unable to obtain a duplicate receipt, provide a written explanation and description of the purchase.

**Reporting Transactions**
Colorado School of Mines uses **Chrome River** to report financial information for each One Card transaction. It is the Cardholder’s responsibility to ensure that all transactions have posted in Chrome River and allocated within 15 days of the post date. When creating Expense Reports please include receipts and any other required documentation. Steps to access the Chrome River training can be found on the [One Card Home Page](#).

**Responsibilities**

**Cardholder Responsibilities**

- Complete all required training and certifications.
- Read the One Card Handbook in its entirety
- Only use the One Card for appropriate purchases that follow Mines’ policies including but not limited to: Financial Policies, Procurement Rules, and Direct Charge Policies (applicable to sponsored grants and contracts).
- Protect the card at all times to prevent unauthorized use. **Do not share or authorize others to use the card.** Take immediate action if the One Card is compromised in any way.
- Obtain proper documentation for each transaction and submit in a timely manner.
- Review transactions for accuracy and appropriateness and complete Expense Reports for all transactions within 15 days of posting date.
- Identify any transactions that need to be disputed and contact the merchant to resolve the dispute directly.
- Notify the One Card Administrator about terminations, transfers, or account information changes.
- Ensure that all eligible purchases are under the Colorado School of Mines’ tax-exempt status.
- Surrender One Card to Direct Supervisor upon termination of employment or upon expiration of an HR Contract for a Graduate Student.
Electronic T&E System

- Complete all required training and certifications.
- Attach any required transaction documentation to the Expense Report.
- A Cardholder can have one or more delegates who may work in the expense System to reconcile transactions on their behalf.
- Ensure that each transaction has a valid Index, Account code and Business Purpose.
- Ensure all required source documentation is retained within the department, in accordance with record retention policies.
- Only the Cardholder can submit the expense report.

Direct Supervisor Responsibilities

- Complete all required training and certifications.
- Monitor transactions of assigned Cardholder for appropriateness of purchases.
- Ensure adequate transaction documentation and explanation of business purposes is available for every transaction.
- Ensure that all expense reports are submitted on a timely basis, and are reviewed and approved.
- Identify possible Cardholder violations and take appropriate action if found.
- Request and authorize changes to the One Card as needed.
- Track disputed items to ensure proper credit has been received.
- Inform the One Card Administrator of all transfers or terminations of assigned cardholders and obtain the One Card plastic before they leave.

Liability

Each department is liable for all One Card charges initiated by cardholders under their supervision. If it is determined that a charge is made on the One Card against Mines’ Financial Policies, the Cardholder may be liable for that charge.

- **Charges on Lost or Stolen Cards:** The department is liable for all transactions made on a lost or stolen card before it is reported lost or stolen to the issuing bank. Disputes and suspected fraud must be reported to the **US Bank Fraud Department at 800-344-5696** within 59 days* of the posting date.
  
  *Please Note: Reporting does not guarantee the Bank will assume liability.

- **Sponsored Project Charges:** The department is liable for all transactions reallocated to sponsored program funds, including any charges that are unallowable according to the terms of the specific grant/award.

Applicable Purchasing Policies and Guidelines

The One Card is used by the Colorado School of Mines’ staff, faculty and students as a convenient way to purchase many of the items needed to perform their job. This card may be used for approved non-capital equipment, supplies and services costing less than $4,500 (including any applicable tax, fees and shipping). All One Card holders are responsible for following Mines’ policies and procedures including but not limited to those listed below:

- Colorado School of Mines’ [Financial Policies](#)
- Colorado School of Mines’ [Procurement Rules](#)
Tests of Propriety

All expenditures by the University shall be made for official business purposes only and shall be reasonable and necessary under the circumstances. Expenditures shall at all times be limited to the amount of funds that have been budgeted or allocated for such purposes.

The tests of propriety are used to evaluate whether or not an expenditure is an appropriate use of University funds, regardless of the source. An expenditure of University funds will be considered proper only if it meets all of the tests of propriety. The list below contains questions designed to test the propriety of expenses by forming an evaluation framework.

Is this transaction:

i. For Official University Business?
ii. In the best interest of the University?
iii. The most effective way to accomplish Official University Business?
iv. Without the expense, would programmatic objectives be difficult or otherwise more costly to achieve or would the impact, level, or quality of the achievement be reduced?
v. In compliance with applicable policies, laws, regulations and rules; and contracts, grants, and donor restrictions including having the required approvals and authorizations by the appropriate individuals?
vi. Within the available resources of the responsible unit, taking into consideration all outstanding commitments and encumbrances?
vii. Directly beneficial to the responsible unit where it is being charged?
viii. Reasonable? – (The quantity and quality of goods or services being purchased are sufficient to meet the University’s identified need without exceeding it); and
ix. In compliance with University conflict of interest provisions? – (Does an Employee derive private gain, or appear to derive private gain, as a result of the transaction? If yes, then the transaction violates the conflict of interest provisions in the Faculty Handbook or the University Conflict of Interest policy)

If any of the above questions receives a “no” response then the transaction is not appropriate for University funds. Evaluating the propriety of University expenses requires exercising a high degree of judgment and discernment.

The mere appearance of impropriety with a sensitive purchase may be just as serious and damaging as the existence of actual impropriety. Reports of impropriety based on appearances can undermine the public trust in our institution and its commitment to its educational mission. Accordingly, apparent impropriety should be evaluated with the same vigor as actual impropriety.

Allowable One Card Purchases

| Office Supplies | Airfare (Contracted Travel Agency must be used for International travel and all travel over $1,000) |
| Lab Supplies | Lodging |
| Reference Materials | Parking |
| Conference Registrations | Rental Vehicles |
| Software | Fuel for rental vehicle |
| Services | Ground Transportation |
Prohibited One Card Transactions

Cash or Cash-Type Transactions
- Gift Cards
- Telecom Purchases
- Chemicals and Hazardous Materials
- Purchase with Tax (within Colorado)
- Costco/Sam’s Club Memberships
- Amazon Prime Membership
- Branded Materials
- Personal Purchases
- Contracts without Authorized Signature
- Split Purchases
- Alcohol Purchases (unless Event Exception)
- Utility Payments (unless approved by Controller)
- Personal Meals

Purchasing Guidelines/Information for One Card Restricted Items

Cash or Cash-Type Transactions
This includes (but not limited to) cash advances, gift cards, traveler’s checks and money orders. It is prohibited for cardholders to receive cash as a credit or refund for a One Card Purchase.

Gift Cards
Cardholders cannot purchase Gift Cards with their One Card due to the tax laws governing gifts. There are restrictions on the amounts that can be given and the gift must be reported to the IRS as taxable income. Therefore, all allowable gift cards need to be requested from the MAPS department by emailing Maps@mines.edu. Please see the Appendix D-Examples of Sensitive Expenditures for more information on when a Gift Card is acceptable.

Telecom Purchases
The purchase of telephone calls is prohibited where there is no billing available from the merchant itemizing the calls. The payment of cell phones and data plans are also prohibited on the One Card.
**Exceptions:** The One Card may be used for telecom payments for required departmental phones.

Chemicals and Hazardous Materials
Chemicals and Hazardous Materials must be ordered through Environmental Health & Safety Department by first filling out the Chemical Requisition Form.

Tax Exemption
Cardholders are purchasing on behalf of Colorado School of Mines, therefore all purchases in the State of Colorado are exempt from State taxes. Cardholders are required to inform each merchant of the School’s Tax Exempt status. The School’s Tax Exempt number is printed on the front of the One Card.
- The Tax-Exempt form can be found on the Controller’s Office Forms page and sent to vendors upon request.
- If taxed on a purchase from a vendor in the State of Colorado, the Cardholder is expected to work with the vendor to obtain a refund.
- Paying taxes for purchases made in the State of Colorado will result in violations against the Cardholder.

Costco/Sam’s Club Memberships
Costco and Sam’s Club Memberships cannot be purchased for school use due to the language in the contract, that members are asked to sign. However, Mines Faculty, Staff and/or students are authorized to purchase items for school use on their personal Costco/Sam’s Membership and submit for
reimbursement. The Mines Tax Exemption cannot be applied to these purchases so taxes will be reimbursed and no One Card Violation Points will be assessed.

**Amazon Prime Memberships**

Colorado School of Mines currently has a Tax-Exempt Amazon Business Account with free Prime shipping so no other Prime Memberships will be authorized. Violation Points will be assessed for non-compliance. All One Card cardholders can request to join the existing Mines Amazon Business account by emailing Maps@mines.edu. The Business Account is for **SCHOOL PURCHASES ONLY** and shipments must be sent to:

**Campus Distribution Center**

1301 19th Street  
Golden, CO. 80401

For Frequently Asked Questions, Please visit Amazon FAQs

**Branded Materials**

All faculty, staff and students must use a purchase requisition when securing merchandise that contains a Colorado School of Mines logo or trademark. Colorado School of Mines prohibits the use of a field purchase order (FPO), procurement card (One Card) or voucher request for any Mines branded materials.

**Personal Purchases**

Cardholders must report any inadvertent personal purchase to their Approving Officials immediately and must either reimburse Mines or arrange for a credit transaction from the merchant. Documentation must include proof of merchant credit or reimbursement by employee. If it is determined that a charge is made on the procurement card that violates any Mines’ Financial Policy, the cardholder may be personally held liable for the unauthorized charge.

**Sponsored Projects**

The purchase of goods and services for sponsored projects must comply with:

- The overall intent of the award
- The specific detail of the sponsor’s regulations
- Colorado School of Mines’ policies and procedures
- Direct Charges must be related to specific actions supported by a grant

Additional guidance for sponsored project expenditures is provided by the Office of Research Administration and Fiscal Services. Please also see the Direct Charging Policy for more information.

**Contracts without an Authorized Signature**

Contracts that require an authorized signature must be routed through Procurement Services for appropriate signature(s) prior to making the purchase. Cardholders do not have signature authority on behalf of the School. This includes any purchase where Mines is obligated to sign a vendor’s set of Terms & Conditions.

**Split Purchases**

Under Mines’ Procurement Rules it is prohibited to split a purchase in order to circumvent One Card limits. A split purchase is defined as:

- The purchase of a single item costing over the cardholders single transaction limit, not to exceed $4,500, (including shipping) with the purchase being divided (split) into more than one transaction by the cardholder or divided amongst several cardholders; or,
- A single purchase transaction totaling over $4,500 (including shipping), where the cardholder has instructed the vendor to divide up the payments to get authorization through the bank system; or,
• The purchase of a group of items totaling over the cardholders single transaction limit, not to exceed $4,500, (including shipping) for a single purchase need that has been requisitioned into smaller individual orders to get around the single transaction limit, whether the ordering occurred over a few days or several transaction authorizations were within a single day.
• Purchasing the same item, regardless of amount, where the cumulative purchase during the fiscal year would exceed the established purchase thresholds that require Procurement Services to issue a Purchase Order.

**Exception:** Multiple conference registrations are not considered violations under the split purchases policy. Rather, event registration fees are considered to be the total of the individual registration fee. For example, it is acceptable for a Cardholder to register six people (six individual registrations), at $1,000 per registration, using six different transactions.

**Alcohol Purchases**
Cardholders cannot use the One Card to purchase alcohol unless they have been granted an Event Exception by the Controller and all sections of the Institutional Alcohol Policy and Student Alcohol Policy have been followed. The *One Card Adjustment* form must be submitted to Maps@mines.edu to request the Event Exception, at least 7 days prior to the Event.

**Personal Meals**
Personal meals cannot be purchased with the One Card. If an employee is in travel status, they are eligible to request Per Diem prior to travel. Visit the Per Diem Wizard for instructions to request Per Diem.

**Card Abuse/Employee Fraud**

**Card Abuse:**
- Personal purchases not reported by Cardholder represents Fiscal Misconduct. Report immediately any suspected fiscal misconduct or abuse of the card to the Credit Card Administrator, or the Mines’ Internal Auditor.

**Employee Fraud:**
- Intentional personal use (including float)
- Multiple reimbursements for the same expense (voucher and One Card)
- Not applying credits for returned items to the One Card

**Declines, Disputes, and Returns**

**Declined Transactions**
If a One Card transaction is declined, contact the One Card Administrator or US Bank Customer Service (800-344-5696) to obtain more information regarding the decline.

Common reasons for a declined transaction are:
- Cardholder did not activate the card
- Cardholder has reached either the single item or monthly credit limit
- Merchant Code (MCC) is blocked
- Billing address, Expiration Date or Verification Code (CVV) error
Disputes
If the Cardholder has been charged incorrectly, the transaction should be disputed. The Cardholder should first work with the merchant directly to see if they will help resolve the situation. If the vendor is not willing to work with the Cardholder, a formal dispute should be recorded with the bank. Disputes should be used in the following scenarios:
- Unauthorized charges, including unauthorized phone or mail order charges
- Difference in dollar amount authorized as opposed to amount charged
- Duplicate charges
- Account not yet credited though the vendor stated they would
- Merchandise not received
- Merchandise returned
- Defective merchandise
- Altered charges
- Unrecognized charges

(If fraud is suspected, immediately call US Bank to report: 800-344-5696. Then notify the Credit Card Administrator)

Bank Dispute Process
- The disputed charge must be placed in dispute status in Access Online System.
- The bank immediately issues a credit for the dispute, pending correspondence with the merchant.
- Both the charge and the credit need to be on one expense report in Chrome River.

Returns
- Arrangements need to be made directly with the merchant before returning a purchased item.
- If a replacement item is sent, the merchant should credit the returned item and process a new transaction, unless there is an exchange of like items, i.e. different colors.
- Credit card refunds/credits should never be in cash.
- If there is an issue with an order or goods are returned/exchanged, keep sufficient documentation of the transaction including names, dates and all correspondence. This information is needed for a formal dispute.

One Card Violations
Violations are monitored on a point based system. Violations are issued on a weighted system (from 15-150 points per violation). If a cardholder receives 150 points within two fiscal years, the card will be suspended for a minimum of 6 months pending completion of One Card re-training.

Violation Notifications are issued to Cardholders who misuse the One Card. One Card violations can be reported by anyone including Approving Officials, the One Card Administrator, or whoever audits the One Card. The Violation Notification must be signed by the Cardholder and the Approving Official and then returned to One Card Administrator.

Continued misuse of the One Card beyond a two year period of time may result in the One Card being revoked at the discretion of the Controller.
One Card Violations

- Card Abuse/Employee Fraud – **150 Points**
- Contract without authorized signature – **75 Points**
- Inappropriate purchase – **50 Points**
- Multiple transactions to Non-Mandatory Price Agreement Vendor exceeding $5,000 – **25 Points**
- Taxes charged (for purchases made in the State of Colorado) – **15 Points**
- Split Purchases – **75 Points**
- Cash or Cash-Like Transactions- Gift Cards – **75 Points**
- Chemicals and Hazardous Materials Purchase – **50 Points**
- Unauthorized Alcohol Purchase – **50 Points**
- Allowing unauthorized person to use One Card – **25 Points**
- Missing Documentation – **15 Points**
- Personal Purchase – **15 points**
- Amazon Prime Membership – **15 points**
- Costco/Sam’s Club Membership – **15 points**
- Branded Materials – **25 points**
- Personal Meals – **15 points**

One Card Controls and Limits

Built in One Card Controls
Each One Card account has several controls that are pre-established. These controls are set based on the discretion of the Direct Supervisor, Department Head or Credit Card Administrator.

- **Single Purchase Limit:** This limit determines the maximum dollar amount that can be spent on a single transaction. This limit is set by your department and can be set to a maximum of $4,500.
- **Cycle Limit:** This limit determines how much money you are allotted during the card cycle. This cycle lasts approx. 30 days, beginning on the 11th of each month and ending the 10th of the following month. This limit is set by the department and can be set to a maximum of $20,000.
- **Merchant Category Codes (MCC):** This is a four-digit number assigned to a vendor to help classify the business by the type of goods or services it provides. Each One Card is further set up to exclude specific Merchant Category Codes.
One Card Adjustments

Some Cardholders have extenuating circumstances that require an adjustment to the standard One Card limits. The University One Card Adjustment Form is used for such circumstances. Cardholders can request either general adjustments or an Event Exception.

General Adjustments

- Credit Limit (up to $20,000)
- Single Purchase Limit (up to $4,500)
- Department/Direct Supervisor change

General adjustments can be requested through Team Dynamix either by submitting a completed University One Card Adjustment form, or by filling out the request through the Team Dynamix ticketing system. Please allow 2 business days for processing.

Event Exceptions

- Only Mines Faculty or Staff may request an Event Exception and approval from the Controller is required. Upon approval, the cycle limit on the One Card will be increased to $25,000.00, the single transaction limit will be removed (cardholders are still required to have a purchase order if the amount of the transaction exceeds $5,000). With this exception, Cardholders will be allowed to make purchases for Official School Business related to non-employee travel, employee group travel (student travel), and official functions. Alcohol purchases are allowed with this exception as long as they are in compliance with the Mines’ Institutional Alcohol Policy and Student Alcohol Policy (if applicable), required approval to serve alcohol has been obtained, and alcohol purchases are charged to an index which allows for alcohol.

Event Exceptions can be requested through Team Dynamix either by uploading a completed Adjustment Request Form or by completing the online form through the Team Dynamix ticketing system. Please allow at least 7 business days for processing to ensure all steps have been completed and the Controller’s approval can be obtained.

Lost or Stolen Cards

If your card is lost or stolen immediately call US Bank: 800-344-5696

Then notify the One Card Administrator: 303-273-3264

Canceling the One Card Account

When terminating employment at the Colorado School of Mines, transferring departments or at the end of a Grad Student’s contract, the Cardholder or Direct Supervisor must contact the One Card Administrator to close or transfer the One Card appropriately. Cardholders are responsible for all charges until the One Card account is canceled.