

<b>Policy:</b> Travel Procedures	<b>Policy Number:</b> II-5
<b>Policy Owner(s):</b> Human Resources	<b>Original Date:</b>
<b>Last Revised Date:</b>	<b>Approved Date:</b>

- I. **POLICY:** Travel plays an important role in advancing the University's mission. When conducting official business on behalf of the University, employees are expected to use good judgment, engage in ethical behavior, and comply with this policy to manage purchases related to University travel.
- II. **PURPOSE:** To specify the requirements and procedures related to making travel arrangements for University business to ensure safe and cost - effective travel.
- III. **SCOPE:** All John Carroll University employees.
- IV. **DEFINITION:**

Authorized Driver: University employees who register with the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Risk Management or students who register with the Office of Student Activities and meet the requirements below:

- Have a valid U.S. driver's license;
- Motor vehicle record meets the University's criteria for authorized drivers;
- Successfully passes written (or online) test provided by the University if required; and
- Successfully passes "behind the wheel" evaluation (students only).

University Approved Travel: Transportation on University business in excess of one's normal commute. University Approved Travel includes movement on official university business from home or the primary work location to another work-related destination, and return to home or the primary work location. University Approved Travel does not include the commute between the employee's home and the primary work location.

## V. PROCEDURES:

- A. Approval. All travel must be pre-approved by the employee's supervisor. Approval should be secured in advance of booking, with exceptions only permitted in extenuating circumstances. Discretion regarding whether to grant exceptions rests with the employee's supervisor. As a matter of budgetary control, department heads may develop internal procedures for the approval of travel requests before travel commences and for the allocation of financial resources to be used.
- B. Approved Forms of Payment. Employees should utilize a University-issued P-Card as the form of payment for all travel-related purchases, except when payment by P-Card is not possible due to extenuating circumstances (i.e. cash tips etc.).
- C. Air travel. Travelers should chose air travel over driving a personal or rental vehicle when a one-way trip would require over 6 hours of driving time (unless otherwise approved in writing by the traveler's supervisor). University travelers are normally required to take advantage of the lowest coach airfare available and to plan travel as far as possible in advance. Travelers should book airline tickets fourteen (14) days or more prior to the flight, whenever possible.
  - a. The lowest applicable airfare includes:
    - i. Flights with routing/connections that do not increase the one-way total elapsed trip time by more than two hours,
    - ii. The use of secondary airports that do not increase the one-way total elapsed trip time, including additional drive time, by more than two hours,
    - iii. Flights with departure/arrival times that are no more than two hours before/after requested time.
- D. Ground Transportation. Travelers are to use the most cost-effective mode of ground transportation and parking while on University business. .
  - a. Transportation to and from the airport: Approved methods of ground transportation to and from the airport include: personal vehicle, public transportation, shuttle service, taxi, car service, Uber and Lyft. Mileage reimbursement for travel to and from the airport may only be submitted for travel miles that exceed the employee's normal round trip commute to campus.
  - b. Airport Parking: Travelers should utilize the University's preferred parking companies when departing from Cleveland Hopkins Airport:
    - i. Airport Fast Park 18899 Snow Road \*
    - ii. Park Place 18951 Snow Road \*
  - c. The University reserves the right not to reimburse overnight parking fees that exceed the cost of a taxi, or use of Uber or Lyft ride sharing services.

\* Requires Parking Card from Vendor (Dual facility card). Prior to arrival, employees must apply for a Parking Card through the website (<https://www.thefastpark.com/airport-parking/cleveland->

hopkins-cle-afp?partnerid=cb397399-028d-4b5a-8175-3034ab25fba9#viewEnrollDetails). The Frequent Parker Card now works at both Airport Fast Park and Park Place. Current members do not need to re-apply because their card has been automatically updated. (University code 0550207)

- E. Car rental. Rental cars are authorized if their use is as economical as any other type of transportation.
- a. When driving over 200 round-trip miles on a single business trip, Authorized Drivers should rent a vehicle rather than driving personal vehicles and submitting mileage. If an Authorized Driver does not rent a car when driving over 200 miles, the University will reimburse the Authorized Driver for gas expenses at the rate of XX per mile for distances travelled above 200 miles. The University will not reimburse the Authorized Driver for mileage expenses over 400 miles except in extenuating circumstances with the prior written authorization of the Authorized Driver's supervisor. .
  - b. University guidelines do not provide for the reimbursement of luxury vehicles. The University standard is an intermediate size car or comparable vehicle. Prior approval from traveler's supervisor must be obtained prior to renting vehicles larger than intermediate size.
  - c. Only University Authorized Drivers are permitted to drive rental vehicles on University business.
  - d. Authorized Drivers must utilize preferred rental car vendors. They can be found at:

[http://webserv.jcu.edu/intranet/fass/vendors/rental\\_car\\_program.html](http://webserv.jcu.edu/intranet/fass/vendors/rental_car_program.html)

- F. Personal vehicle. The use of a privately owned vehicle will be reimbursed at the current IRS standard mileage rate but for no greater than 200 round-trip miles on a single University business trip. The mileage rate is to cover all expenses incurred for using the privately owned vehicle except parking fees and tolls. An Authorized Driver using a personal vehicle rather than a rental vehicle for round trip mileage above 200 but less than 400 miles will be reimbursed for gas expenses at the rate of XX per mile. The University will not reimburse the Authorized Driver for mileage expenses over 400 miles except in extenuating circumstances with the prior written authorization of the Authorized Driver's supervisor. An individual who uses a privately owned vehicle on University business must maintain automobile insurance for that vehicle that meets or exceeds the liability insurance requirements of the motor vehicle financial responsibility laws of the State of Ohio (see [http://www.ohioinsurance.org/factbook2001/chapter6/chapter\\_6a.htm](http://www.ohioinsurance.org/factbook2001/chapter6/chapter_6a.htm) for current requirements).

- G. Parking, Tolls and Other Vehicle Expenses.
- a. Transportation costs for parking fees and tolls are reimbursable on an actual cost basis in addition to the standard mileage rate. Receipts for cash expenses must be obtained and provided

for any individual expenses that exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

- b. Services that are personal in nature such as car washing, detailing, oil changes, etc. are not reimbursable.
- H. Meals. Reasonable personal meal expenses are reimbursed at actual cost including gratuities. Fiscal prudence and common sense should be used. Expenditures determined to be “lavish” or meals covered within a registration fee, seminar cost, etc. will not be reimbursed. Geographic location may be a consideration in determining the reasonableness of meal expenses.

Travelers should select restaurants that are reasonably priced. The University meal allowance is not a per diem; it assumes actual expenses per meal have been incurred. The individual meal guidelines below should be followed whenever possible. Meal expenses that exceed these guidelines will be reviewed and may require written justification:

- a. Breakfast up to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will be reimbursed whenever the traveler is out of town the previous night or incurred travel begins earlier than a normal breakfast.
- b. Lunch up to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will be reimbursed on all out-of-town travel that occurs during lunch time.
- c. Dinner up to thirty dollars (\$30.00) reimbursement will be made when a traveler is away from home for the evening meal and does not return home until after the normal dinner hour.
- d. Individual meal limits are applied when a person is away for less than a whole day and does not incur a cost for three meals as a result of the travel’s brevity.
- e. When away for a full day, meal expense should adhere to the above guidelines to the extent possible. Actual meal expenses for an individual employee when away for a full day should not exceed sixty dollars (\$60.00) per day.

Fraudulent, deceptive, or inappropriate meal expenses that are inconsistent with this policy may result in corrective action or reimbursement of inappropriate expenses to the University.

- I. Lodging. Lodging expenses are reimbursed on an actual cost basis. Individuals traveling on University business are expected to use reasonably priced lodging. It is the traveler’s responsibility to cancel any guaranteed hotel reservations in a timely manner. Any cancellation charges arising from the avoidable failure by the employee to cancel reservations will be reviewed and may require justification. Repeated failure to cancel reservations may result in corrective action and/or reimbursement of cancellation charges by the employee to the University. Employees should ask for a cancellation number and the hotel employee’s name when canceling reservations.

- J. Spousal, Dependent or Companion Accompaniment. No additional travel-related expenses for spouses, dependents, or other persons accompanying employees on University travel will be reimbursed, unless the spouse, dependent or other person is performing University-related business and the travel for that individual is approved by the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer or designee.
- K. Combined Business-Personal Travel. Whenever an employee, for his or her convenience and not for a business-related purpose, travels by an indirect route and/or interrupts or extends University travel for personal reasons, additional expenses incurred (i.e. mileage, additional air travel expenses, damage to rental car, etc.) are the responsibility of the employee.
- L. Whenever an employee, for his or her convenience, travels by an indirect route or interrupts University travel for personal travel, additional expenses incurred (i.e. mileage, additional air travel expenses, damage to rental car, etc.) are the personal responsibility of the employee.

**VI. CROSS REFERENCE:**

P-Card Policy  
Business Expense Reporting  
University Vehicles  
Code of Ethics  
Hours Worked and Overtime