



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Procurement Best Practices and Associated Risks

Procurement and Support Services

Last Edit: 05/11/2026

Procurement Process Flow



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Strategic Procurement Policy 2.121

This policy establishes authority, thresholds, and standards for the procurement of goods and services at Emory University. It ensures compliance with federal and state laws, supports responsible stewardship of university funds, promotes equity and sustainability, and aligns procurement activities with institutional goals.



Strategic Procurement Policy 2.121

- The university's competitive bidding threshold is \$50,000, at which competition via bids and quotes from multiple suppliers is required before purchase of a good or service is approved.
- All funds are University funds (regardless of the source), and Strategic Procurement has the sole authority to issue Purchase Orders on behalf of the University.
- Uniform Transactions: Review Policy 1.2 for contracting of operating activities requiring uniform treatment across Emory for consistency in handling critical and sensitive matters.
- Auditors reference our Procurement Policy when performing audits and are checking to ensure that this due diligence is being followed.

Contract Approval and Signature Authority Policy 1.2

Individuals do not have the authority to enter negotiations or approve or sign contracts with external entities on behalf of Emory unless there is:

- (1) authority as set forth in the Bylaws of the University or one of its corporate legal entities;
- (2) a resolution of the Board(s) of Trustees;
- (3) a valid delegation of authority from the President or other Emory official listed herein; or
- (4) a purchase made in accordance with Emory's Procurement and Support Services Department Policies and Procedures.



Contract Approval and Signature Authority Policy 1.2

Pursuant to the University Bylaws, the following officers have the duties as outlined in Policy and may delegate in writing the responsibility to execute contracts or sign agreements within any of those defined areas, unless otherwise prohibited by the Bylaws or the Board of Trustees, and shall be authorized to execute all contracts, conveyances, and proxies in the name of the University and, in the President's absence or disability, to act in his or her stead on all nonacademic matters.

Executive Vice President for Business and Administration, or

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, or

Executive Vice President for Health Affairs.

Sourcing



- **Identify** your need.
- Search the **Emory Express Marketplace** and/or punchout tiles for goods and services.
- Utilize **Emory's Marketplace Suppliers** to maximize the University's buying position and minimize your overall cost.
 - Contact your sourcing team for additional assistance if:
 - Your goods/services exceeds the competitive bid threshold,
 - You are unable to locate the goods/services in Emory Express
 - If you are unable to identify a supplier
- If total purchase exceeds competitive bidding threshold, find two other sources for quotes and/or complete the Single/Sole Source Justification Form.





Supplier Onboarding



Before the university can pay an invoice, a valid vendor record must be created in the university's vendor database.

Requesting a new supplier is as simple as logging into the [Vendor portal](#) and submitting basic contact information. From there, vendors will complete their own onboarding and maintain their profiles through self-service features.

Before requesting a new vendor, please check to see if that vendor is already in the Emory system.



Risk Consideration Checklist*



purchase price
maintenance cost
repair cost
shipping terms
payment terms
importing time
duties
fees
tariffs

IP rights
exposure of sensitive data
data breaches
unauthorized access
mishandling sensitive data
resulting in violations of data
protection laws (e.g., FERPA,
HIPAA, GDPR, etc.)



Non-compliance with governing documents for purchases funded by a grant or federal contract can lead to loss of eligibility for federal contracts and grants.



*Both domestic and international shipping and receiving, including any required importing permits, documentation, tariffs, fees and duties, are **ultimately the purchasers' and their departments' responsibility**. Note: Additional tariffs and fees on products imported from outside of the United States can be significant.*

**not an exhaustive checklist*



Sustainable Procurement



Sustainability is meeting the needs of today, without compromising the opportunities of tomorrow. Emory strives to serve as a model of transformative, proactive, and sustainable choices at every level.

Key Factors in Sustainable Procurement Decisions:

Environmental Goals

+

Social Benefits

+

Traditional Financial Evaluation



Supplier Engagement Program



Emory maintains a Supplier Engagement Program as part of its efforts to increase access to all qualified small, veteran, and disabled suppliers that align with Emory's vision and mission. Emory accomplishes this through the use of "certified" primary and second-tier suppliers, (subcontractors to a primary Contractor). Primary Contractors and subcontractors are expected to work with Emory to develop programs and reports capable of describing their current use of classified diverse suppliers when providing product or services to Emory under this Agreement.



Contract Review: Two Paths

Self-Service Contract Review:

When purchases are low-value, low-complexity, and/or low-risk with few terms and conditions follow the Procurement Contract Request Guidelines for Self-Service.



Contract Request Guidelines for Self-Service

Procurement Contract Review Request:

When purchases are high-risk and/or high-dollar (\$50,000* or greater) Submit a Procurement Contract Review Request in Emory Express.
(note include the entire contract period)



Procurement Contract ReviewRequest



Self Service - Contract Review Guidelines

- Departments can execute “Self-Service” contracts for standard, low-dollar, low-complexity, low-risk contracts.
 - Used for Goods and Services
 - Saves time on low-dollar, low-complexity, low-risk contracts.
 - Allows each department to use the standard guidelines to determine if a review by central procurement is needed
 - Requestor should use their discretion if a low-dollar, low-complexity, and low-risk contract should be submitted to Procurement for review.
- **Departments are required to attach competitive bids and executed contracts (and retain for department’s records) to the ordering requisition for audit purposes.**





Procurement Review - Contract Review Guidelines

Procurement Review Required If

Spend:	Aggregate value of \$50,000 or more
Compliance:	Confidentiality, COI, Privacy, or Restricted Information
Terms:	Greater than 3 years, no right to terminate without cause, contains no auto-renewal
Access:	Physical or verbal contact with a student, patient, research subject, minor, and/or access to confidential information
Regulations:	Restricted, Regulated, Controlled Purchases
Other:	Non-U.S. Entity, Exclusivity, Branding, Etc.
Intellectual Property	



Procurement review allows for: ● Risk mitigation ● Contract volume and status visibility ● Central resources collaboration on significant opportunities to decrease costs and manage working capital.



Contract Review Guidelines – Dept. Review

If a contract requires review from other departments*, procurement will facilitate these discussions in collaboration with the ordering department. Departments could include:

- *Office of General Counsel*
- *Enterprise Risk Management and Insurance Services*
- *Office of Information Technology- IT Governance, Security Review, ART Review, Hosted Data, NDAA-889 purchases*
- *Capital Assets*
- *Tax Implications*
- *Compliance- Privacy and Sensitive Data, PCI, Conflict of Interest, GDPR*
- *Environmental Health and Safety Office*
- *Office of Sustainable Initiatives*
- *Import and Export Control*
- *Office of Sponsored Programs*
- *Office of Research Administrative Services*
- *Impacted Departments: Campus Services, DAR, Campus Life, Marketing, etc.*

(note that this is not an exhaustive list of departments)

**and could add additional review time*



Contract Review Guidelines - Independent Contractor

Procurement Review for Independent Contractor Requests



- Initiate an **Independent Contractor Request form** to Initiate a contract request with an individual who will perform services for a business unit, whereby the business unit has the right to specify the expected result or outcome to be accomplished by the scope or statement of work, but not the means and methods by which the result is to be accomplished.

Remember:

- The earnings of an independent contractor are subject to Self-Employment Tax
- Federal and state tax laws require Emory to ensure individuals who provide services are properly classified as an independent contractor.
- Businesses generally do not have to pay taxes on payments to independent contractors.



Contracting

Emory Express Ordering Requisition Process

1. Requisition approval
2. Requisition converts to a purchase order with associated terms and conditions*
3. Attach written signature authority (not included in system workflow must be attached)
4. Emory's standard payment terms are **Net 60 days for check payments, Net 30 days for ACH payments, and SUA is Emory's preferred payment terms.**
5. **Signed quote may alter Emory's standard Ordering Purchase Order Terms and Conditions.*

**After contract execution,
an ordering requisition must be initiated.**



Blanket Purchase Order (BPO)

Blanket purchase order – A BPO is designed to establish an agreement that typically spans over months or years. The associated contractual agreement establishes the goods and/or services to be provided at a predetermined total quantity and unit price.

Goods Example:

NexAir Blanket PO for Helium Gas for the period of September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$3,000. The requestor should create one requisition with one line item at unit cost of \$3,000.

Services Example:

Deloitte Consulting LLP Strategic Consulting Services for the period of September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$65,000. The requestor should create one requisition with one line item at unit cost of \$65,000.



Buying

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Ordering Requisitions in Emory Express (*Preferred Method*)

- [Punchout](#)
- [Catalog](#)
- [Blanket Purchase Order](#)
- [Non-Catalog Form](#)



Emory Express Purchase Order Benefits

- Captures the full engagement in one place.
- Encumbers engagement, earmarking budgetary funds to pay future invoices and providing visibility to the treasury department on anticipated demand on cash.
- Suppliers submit invoices directly against POs, via email or electronically.
- Minimizes departmental transaction approvals required for supplier payment.
- Contains protective, contractual terms & conditions that are not present when using other types of ordering and payment.
- Allows Suppliers to ship PO orders using a University-wide inbound FedEx Account that charges to your PO Speed Type. The account number and instructions are provided to Suppliers via the PO. Charges for packages not referencing Emory Express POs and/or not billed per PO instructions will be rejected.



Ordering Requisition Tips

- ✓ Select the correct supplier
- ✓ Ensure the requisition's lines mirror the quote*

Internal Attachments (Emory view only)

- *Competitive bid documents and Single/Sole Source Form, as applicable.*
- *Executive Contract Summary, must be attached, as applicable.*

External Attachments (Sent to the supplier with Ordering PO)

- *Quote and Executed Contract, as applicable.*
- *Required Licenses, as applicable.*

**Do not combine 4 lines into one requisition line unless working with a Blanket PO*



Non-PO Purchases - Secondary Methods

Purchasing Card

- Only use when the Preferred Method, *Order Requisition in Emory Express*, is not available except as listed below:
 - Abstract Fees/Journal Publication Fees
 - Group Business Meals, Beverages, and Entertainment
 - Homeland Security
 - Memberships Dues and Subscriptions
 - Shipping and Courier Services, excluding FedEx
 - Warehouse and Storage Rentals



Corporate Card

- Only use for Individual Business Travel Related Expenses



Non-PO Purchases – Check Requests

Use Check Requests for:

- Athletic Registration Fees
- Charities/Donations
- Debt service and other bank payments (limited use)
- Insurance/Benefits (limited use)
- Payments for fraternities/alumni chapters
- Royalties (for companies)
- Utilities
- Uniform Transactions: Designed to support campus-wide activities with unique operational demands, delegated approval may be provided for check requests.
- Memberships/Subscriptions (secondary as Pcard is preferred)



Compliance with Competitive Bid Threshold

The University's competitive bid threshold is currently \$50,000. To comply with Strategic Procurement Policy 2.121, which governs during audits, a purchase transaction at or above this value must satisfy proof of competitive bidding requirements which include:

1. University Approved Contract; or
2. Quotes from two additional suppliers that provide the same goods/services (at least three quotes total); or
3. A valid Single/Sole Source form.

Departmental transaction approvers should ensure that this documentation exists on all needed transactions before approving to avoid downstream rejection.



Single/ Sole Source Guidelines



Single Source - Exists when only one supplier is able to meet your needs, but the goods/services can be purchased from more than one supplier. Usually, goods and services having more than one potential supplier requires competitive bidding.

Sole Source - Exists when the supplier is the only source for those goods/services.
Example: The purchase of a windmill, which is patented under Patent #US244169A.



Matrix for Single/Sole Source Purchases

Checklist for Sole/Single Source Purchases: The table below identifies required documents, the division of responsibilities between the requesting departments and units within Procurement and Support Services and the chronological order of the Sole/Single Source purchasing process.

Responsible Party	Good and Services Procurement Method	Single/Sole Source Form
Department Responsibility	Complete the form in the approval system required based on the Emory Commodity Matrix and include supporting documentation	Complete the Sole/Single Source Form and include as an attachment.
Procurement and Support Services Responsibility	A unit within Procurement and Support Services will review the information provided and either approve or contact the department for additional information.	Procurement and Support Services may review the information provided and contact the department if additional information is needed.



Purchases funded by Grants and/or Federal Contracts

Purchases funded by Grants and/or Federal Contracts will have additional stipulations per the governing document. The following groups can assist with these additional requirements.

- [Office of Sponsored Programs](#)
 - Explore how the Office of Sponsored Research (OSP) can help you meet and exceed your research goals.
- [Office of Research Administration Services \(RAS\)](#)
 - The Office of Research Administration (ORA) is comprised of several departments designed to support faculty, industry partners, and research administrators.
- In following Emory's payment terms, prepayments require additional approvals and **may not** be allowed under the grant.



Office of Technology Transfer (OTT)

OTT is responsible for managing and commercializing intellectual property (IP) generated at Emory.

Key Functions Include: IP Protection, Licensing, Startup Support, Collaboration, and Compliance.

When to reach out to OTT:

- Development of patentable or licensable technology
- Research collaboration
- Startup formation
- Material Transfer Agreements
- IP Legal and compliance questions
- Patent law and regulations



Shipping Considerations- FedEx & VPL

Small Packages



A University-wide inbound FedEx Account exists exclusively for goods shipped under an Emory Express PO.

The account number and instructions are provided to Suppliers via the PO.



Emory will not pay for packages not associated with an Emory Express PO and/or not billed per PO instructions.

Large Packages (LTL >150lbs or requires a pallet)



Coordinate shipping with VPL (Emory's 3rd party inbound freight manager).

Supplier instructions and VPL contact information are contained on the PO.



If the supplier ships FedEx Freight Collect, your department will receive an invoice from FedEx Freight that must be paid directly to FedEx Freight via a department P-Card.



Mitigating Risks - Domestic Shipping

- ✓ **Shipping Address:** Ensure that order shipping addresses include package recipient, street name and room number (including 'Room' or 'Rm' for clarity). Abbreviate where able to avoid address truncation on shipping labels.
- ✓ **Order Timing:** Order temperature sensitive items earlier in the week and request extra dry ice to increase delivery window. Do not order perishable items for Friday delivery.
- ✓ **Perishable/ Valuables:** Request that suppliers ship perishable or valuable items using Overnight rather than Ground shipping services or use local suppliers.
- ✓ **Liability:** Most carrier's liability for a lost or stolen package is capped at \$100. If ordering something of high risk or high dollar value, you may want to coordinate with the Supplier to 'declare a value' and pay the associated fee to increase the carrier's liability cap.



Mitigating Risks -Importing/Exporting

- ✓ **Leadership Awareness:** Your department head and Chief Business Officer (CBO) should be aware of any international purchases.
- ✓ **Responsibility:** Your department is ultimately responsible for obtaining and submitting permits and/or other documents required by US Customs to clear imported items. As of September 1, 2025, there are no more de minimis exemptions for formal import documentation or tariffs (based on country of origin) for any imported item.
- ✓ **Import Costs:** Your department is responsible for any associated importing costs, including taxes, duties, tariffs, or fees levied by US Customs, import brokers, logistics carriers, etc., which can be significant.

To better understand these requirements, read and understand:

- Emory's Procurement Policy 2.121
- Emory's Importing International Packages – General U.S. Customs Clearance Guidelines Document (On Emory Express homepage under "Import/Export Guidelines")
- U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Import Guidelines (<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export>)



Importing/Exporting Documentation

Minimum Documentation needed for Imports of ANY value prior to Shipping (if Emory is handling Customs Clearance):*

1. (Before Shipment) **A detailed commercial invoice containing:**
 - **Importer of Record (is always):** Emory University; 1599 Clifton Rd, 3rd Floor, Atlanta, GA30322;
 - **Importer ID:** 58-0566256;
 - **Consignee/Delivery Address:** Person receiving package, School/Dept name and delivery address;
 - **Country of Origin/Manufacture:** (If biological, location where sample harvested);
 - **Purchase Description:** A detailed description of each item;
 - **End use for each item** (can be provided on separate document);
 - **Value reported for each item** (\$0.00 not allowed); and
 - **Applicable 10-digit Harmonized Tariff Code for each item** (<https://hts.usitc.gov/>).
 2. (Before Shipment) **Required permits and/or reference numbers or exclusionary language required by Other Governmental Agencies** (FDA, USDA, EPA, etc.);
 3. (Before Shipment) **Airwaybill or Tracking #** (ideally label copy);
 4. (Upon Arrival) **Arrival Notice** (provided by shipping carrier).
- * **Emory's Customs Broker should not be contacted until items listed are obtained, and they may request additional documents based on the HTS codes contained on the commercial invoice and the shipping method (air or ocean). Missing items may result in item return to the international shipper or US Customs seizure.**



Ordering PO Invoicing

Accounts Payable Process:

- **Invoicing:** Once the supplier receives the purchase order, the supplier submits an invoice per a preferred method listed on the PO, which includes via electronically cXML; via supplier portal; or via email to invoice@emory.edu for shipped goods and/or delivered services.
- If submitted via email, these invoices will be scanned into the system by our third-party scanner. Electronic invoices load directly into the system.
- **Approval:** The ordering department will be notified that an invoice is available for approval in Emory Express for any order over \$5,000, for any order where the “Invoice Approval is Required” box is selected, or if using a subaward PO.
- Once the invoice is approved, the system will pay the invoice according to the established payment terms with the supplier.

For questions, please contact Accounts Payable at emory.fsc@emory.edu



Compass Payment Requests

Payments to: Domestic Individuals, Foreign Individuals, and International Suppliers

- Attachments may include the following (all may not be applicable):
 - Invoice
 - Written signature authority not included in system workflow must be attached.
 - Competitive Bidding Documentation, if entire purchase exceeds competitive bid threshold (even if multiple, individual payments are below the competitive bid threshold)
 - Executed Contract
 - Supplier Information (SIF, W8 and Foreign Source Statement)

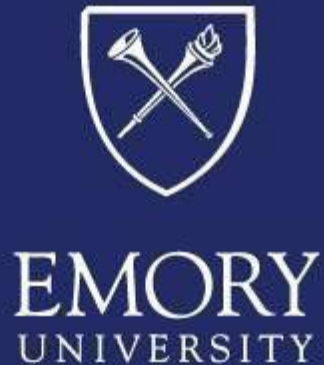


Compass
PaymentRequest



Foreign Wire
PaymentRequest

Additional Information



Emory Express Guides:

- [Emory Express JobAids](#)

Suppliers:

- [Invoice Payment Lookup \(VerifySupplier Payment Status\)](#)

Other:

- [Payments to Individuals - Submit via Compass](#) (Payment Request CenterTile)

QUESTIONS?

Procurement and Support Services Contact Emails:

Sourcing and Contracting, email sourcingandprocurement@emory.edu

PO Orders or Requisitions, email e-market@emory.edu

FedEx, email fedexrequest@emory.edu

Accounts Payable, email emory.fsc@emory.edu