Conference registration fees are an allowable business expense for University employees. The University prefers that conference registrations are paid via P-Card.

If a traveler chooses to pay for conference registration with their own monies, Travel Services may issue the amount as a Travel Advance to reimburse the cost only if there is a justification in the Notepad section. This justification should provide the reason the traveler paid for the registration instead of following the preferred procedure of requesting the University issue registration payment to the conference vendor directly on behalf of the traveler via Travel Authorization. Any registration request payable to the traveler and missing the
required justification will be denied and sent back to the preparer.

If an exception is granted and a Travel Advance is issued for registration costs, the preparer will need to include the registration fee in the reimbursement details section of the Travel Reimbursement document in order to settle/reconcile the travel advance. If registration payment is issued directly to the conference vendor, the amount does not need to be included in the reimbursement request.

When submitting receipts, the attendee's name must appear on the receipt or invoice. The receipt must be marked "paid in full" to be valid; an invoice should reflect a balance due amount of zero. The cost of any meals included in registration fees must appear on the travel reimbursement under the registration category. These meals must not be included in the requested daily subsistence amount.

**Reason for Policy**

This policy is to clarify the regulations for paying or reimbursing registration fees.

**Exclusions**

None

**Special Situations**

The costs of tours, entertainment, and social activities are not reimbursable and if included in the registration fee must be subtracted.

**Procedures**

- [1308.1](#) - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Procedure on Reimbursing Travel Expenses
- [1304.1](#) - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Procedure on Requesting a Travel Advance

**Additional Information**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: The brochure for the conference I am attending indicates that a luncheon is included in the fees. I prefer to leave the conference and eat elsewhere. May I be reimbursed for the lunch per diem?
A: No. The University will pay for only one lunch on that day. If the luncheon amount cannot be deducted from the registration fee you will not be reimbursed for lunching out.

Q: The conference is offering sightseeing tours of areas of interest at a huge discount if I include the payment with my registration fee. May I include this on my travel request?
A: No. These are personal expenses and will have to be paid for with your personal funds.

Q: May I pay for a conference registration directly and be reimbursed?
A: The University strongly suggests that departments pre-pay the vendor directly for the traveler's conference registration fee using the pre-payment function via Travel Authorization in Web Travel. Prepaying the individual for a conference registration fee is not desired, but exceptions are possible.

**Related Data**

[1302](#) - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Policy on Statutory Provisions and Maximum Rates
Contacts

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<tr>
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History

Revised:
July 9, 2018: Added the preference of University to pay for conferences via P-Card.
December 18, 2014: Added information to Policy Statement and FAQ on reimbursement preferences and processes.
October 28, 2014: Removed FAQ on reimbursement.
March 23, 2011


Attachments: No Attachments

Approval Signatures

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<td>Publication by Office of Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>Matthew Teal: University Program Specialist</td>
<td>8/3/2018</td>
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<td>Finance Communications Office</td>
<td>Janet Kelly-Scholle: Associate Director</td>
<td>7/23/2018</td>
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<td>Issuing Officer</td>
<td>Janet Rupert: Director, Accounts Payable &amp; Travel Svcs</td>
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Applicability

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill