



Travel Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual is intended to familiarize new and existing employees with current business travel rules and procedures at the University of South Florida (USF). This document should function as a reference guide as requests for permission to travel are submitted, travel arrangements are made and travel reimbursements are requested.

Florida Statute 1006.706 (5)(c) specifies that university employees are public employees for the purposes of travel and are bound by the travel requirements laid forth in F.S. 112.061. Most USF travel requirements are based, either directly or indirectly, on the provisions of 112.061.

Terms used throughout this document that are explained in the definition section are capitalized.

Any documentation that is required along with the electronic submission of an Expense Report is listed in table form in this document as follows:

Required Back-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Any documentation that is required, such as expense receipts or other required back up, will be listed at the end of each section in a table like this.➤ Additional paperwork, back up or signatures that <i>may</i> be required in <i>special or exceptional circumstances</i> will be described in this format also.

While some of the broader aspects of the electronic system and process used to request travel authorizations and reimbursements are described in this manual, it is recommended that the user consult [FAST Travel Module Basic Navigation and Procedures](#) for guidance regarding the more technical details of using the FAST Travel Module.

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I. DEFINITIONS

Common Carrier – commercial train line, bus line, or airline operating scheduled trips/flights or an established rental car firm.

Complimentary – term for “payment” method when an expense is paid for, or otherwise provided, by an organization or entity outside the University, by virtue of the Traveler’s business activities or employment.

Conference/Convention – the coming together of persons with a common interest or interests for the purpose of deliberation, interchange of views, or for discussion of their common problems and interests. The term also includes similar meetings such as seminars and workshops which are large formal group meetings that are programmed and supervised to accomplish intensive research, study, discussion and work in some specific field or on a governmental problem or problems and required when there is a registration fee. A conference does not mean the coming together of state University personnel.

Conference Hotel – the hotel where the conference, convention, meeting or other event is held or conducted. A neighboring hotel “suggested” by event organizers does not necessarily constitute the Conference Hotel.

Domestic Travel – travel within the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Delegate – an individual, designated by a Traveler, who is able to submit Authorizations and Expense Reports into the FAST Travel Module in the Traveler’s behalf. For purposes of Travel submissions, a Delegate has the same access that a Traveler has.

Emergency Travel – travel that must commence with less than twenty-four (24) hours notice to the Traveler.

Expense Manager – the individual authorized to approve the monetary amounts requested and claimed for travel in the unit (Fiscal Approver). In the FAST Travel Module workflow, all submissions require an electronic fiscal approval. The Expense Manager can be the departmental accountable officer or accountable officer designee but must be requested, and set up, separately for travel approvals.

Expense Report – submission entered into the FAST Travel Module after travel occurs. The Expense Report serves the purpose of reporting all Travel Expenses as well as requesting reimbursement to Travelers for out of pocket expenses.

FAST Travel Module – electronic PeopleSoft system used to submit and approve requests to travel and to submit, approve, audit and pay Travel Expense Reports for reporting and reimbursement.

Fiscal Approver- the individual authorized to approve the monetary amounts requested and claimed for travel. This would be the Expense Manager for general unit funds, the Project Manager (Principal Investigator) for grant funds, or an assigned RO Approver for Research Initiative Accounts.

Foreign Travel – travel outside the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In-State Travel – travel within the state of Florida, or travel from an outside state or country to the state of Florida.

Map Mileage – generally, city to city mileage, with the exceptions of travel from one University campus to another, or travel between some intra-county locations (See also, *Vicinity Mileage*, below.)

Out-of-State Travel – travel from within Florida to another U.S. State, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are considered Out-of-State Travel for reporting purposes.)

Person of Interest – a non-employee who is entered into the GEMS system for purposes of travel related or other reimbursements, or any University business purpose.

Preferred Vendor – a merchant that has an established contract with the state and/or University for goods or services. Preferred Vendors must be used by any Employee requiring that merchant's service for travel. (Currently, AVIS Rent A Car is the only Preferred Vendor for USF Travel.)

Principal Investigator – the manager of a sponsored project. Referred to as “Project Manager” in the FAST Travel Module. For the purposes of travel approvals, the Principal Investigator serves as the Fiscal Approver for expenses paid from a grant.

Portage – assistance in carrying or transporting the traveler's luggage and/or materials.

Receipt Package – the collection of expense receipts and any other required documentation that is faxed or emailed to the Travel Department upon submission of the Expense Report into the FAST Travel Module.

Travel Authorization – the initial submission entered into the FAST Travel Module before any expenses are incurred or any travel occurs. The Travel Authorization is the Traveler's permission to incur expenses and travel, and must be approved in the FAST workflow by the Fiscal Approver and Supervisor before any Travel activities occur. The Authorization is an estimate of what a specific trip will cost.

Traveler – the following may be considered allowable University travelers when performing authorized travel: 1) both full-time and part-time employees of the University; 2) University consultants or advisors; 3) Candidates for University executive or professional positions; 4)

University students - expenses incurred by students are reimbursable if specifically authorized by fellowship, contract, grant or provide for a clear University business purpose.

Travel Expense – authorized travel expenses of Travelers, limited to those expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of a University purpose. All Travel Expenses must be allowable within the scope of these directives and procedures.

Travel Period – a period of time between the time of departure and time of return. The Travel Period may include reasonable time to reach the airport from home and early arrival at airport before actual plane departure.

Supervisor – the Traveler’s Supervisor as indicated in GEMS. Alternately, the individual the Traveler “reports to” as indicated in GEMS. In the FAST Travel Module workflow, all submissions require an electronic Supervisor approval.

University – the University of South Florida (USF).

Vicinity Mileage – generally, regional travel within a specific city, town or area. Travel between University campuses can be considered Vicinity Mileage for the purposes of required back up. Travel within a county can also be considered Vicinity Mileage for the purposes of required back up, as long as specific locations traveled are logged and provided. (e.g.: Addresses for Point A to Point B, date, number of miles.)

II. OVERVIEW OF PROCESS

Requests for approval to travel and travel reimbursements at USF are submitted and administered through the Financial Accounting System (FAST) Travel Module. Once requests are submitted, they are routed through a workflow system that includes Fiscal approval, HR Supervisor approval, audit for compliance with University rules and procedures and, ultimately, reimbursement.

Because requests and approvals are submitted electronically, Travelers or their Delegates, as well as Fiscal Approvers and Supervisors, are required to obtain valid FAST access.

Module Workflow Role

Anyone who participates in the travel process will need to request FAST access and have a Travel Module role assignment for purposes of the workflow.

FAST access can be requested by submitting the [FAST Access Request](#) form found on the FAST website. Two types of security access are granted for travel purposes: one for submitters (Traveler or Delegate) and one for Approvers (Fiscal Approver or Supervisor). Individuals requesting FAST access will need to indicate what role, either submitter or approver, they will need for the workflow. Remember that the Supervisor approval assignment is based on the Traveler's Supervisor as indicated in USF Global Employment System (GEMS).

Traveler Profile

Traveler contact information must be entered into GEMS before an Authorization or Expense Report can be submitted in the system.

Employees are entered into the system by Human Resources at the time employment commences and no additional action is needed on the part of the Traveler as relates to GEMS for purposes of the Travel Module.

Non-employee Travelers who may already have been input into GEMS for other business reasons (Persons of Interest) will require no additional action as relates to GEMS for purposes of the Travel Module.

Non-employee Travelers not already in the system as Persons of Interest must be input in GEMS. The [Non-Employee Travel Profile Request](#) form must be submitted to the Travel Department and processed before a Travel Authorization can be entered.

Travel Authorization

Travel on University business must be authorized in advance. With the exception of mileage only submissions as described below, USF travel procedure requires that a Travel Authorization must be submitted in FAST and fully approved before making commitments to travel, incurring expenses or traveling.

The Authorization is the Traveler's permission to proceed with travel arrangements and is an estimate of what a specific trip will cost. The Authorization should list all anticipated Travel Expenses that are known, or can be projected, before the trip.

A Travel Authorization in advance of any travel to a conference or convention is explicitly required per Florida Statute.

For mileage-only trips (may also include mileage-related incidentals such as tolls and parking) an electronic Authorization is not required. Prior approval is still required but may be documented and filed at the department level. Please note: pursuant to Florida statute, travel to a conference or convention will require a Travel Authorization even if mileage is the only expense being claimed for the trip.

Should authorized Emergency Travel be required of an employee that prohibits prior entry of a Travel Authorization into FAST, a Post-Travel Authorization (PTA) memo is required indicating the details of the travel and the circumstances that prohibited adherence to the normal Authorization process, including evidence that the situation was out of the Traveler's control. This memo should be signed by the employee, the employee's Supervisor and the appropriate Vice President. The notation "Post-Travel Authorization Memo attached" should be entered into the comment field of the Expense Report page in the Travel Module. The Post-Travel Authorization Memo must be included with the Receipt Package that is submitted to the Travel Department with the Expense Report.

The Post-Travel Authorization Memo will also be required in any case where the required Authorization was not completed prior to the travel; however, the following circumstances are not grounds for a standard exception and will require additional review and approval over and above the Vice President signature:

1. Any travel with more than 24 hours notice.
2. Ignorance of the requirement for prior authorization.
3. Circumstances of the delay that fall under the control of the traveler or department administrative staff.
4. Exception requested solely because a traveler is already out of town when an additional destination is added to the itinerary. Employees are able to access FAST from any computer with internet service and may also assign one or more Delegates in advance.
5. A required approver fails to approve the Authorization prior to the date of travel. Approvers must arrange with the Travel Department to temporarily reassign approval authority when they are unable to perform their responsibilities.

Repeated incidents of exceptions for an individual or department may be forwarded to the University Controller's Office or to the USF Expenditure Policy Committee for review, and may result in delay or denial of reimbursement.

If business travel will occur for which USF will not be financially responsible in any way, an electronic Authorization is not required in the system. Prior approval is still required but may be documented and filed at the department level. If preferred, an electronic Authorization may be

entered into the system and approved, and then cancelled after the travel since no Expense Report will be submitted.

Required Back-up

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Post-Travel Authorization Memo in the case of Emergency Travel that prohibits submission of Travel Authorization before travel occurs, or for any travel where the required Authorization was not completed |
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If the department head wishes to set an overall dollar limit on the amount a Traveler will be reimbursed for specific elective travel, the limit should be agreed to by the Traveler and documented in writing *before* the trip at the time of the Travel Authorization. The signed document should be included with the Receipt Package submitted later with the Expense Report. (See *Reimbursement of a Flat Amount* below.)

If Travel will last beyond thirty (30) days, approval must be obtained from the University President at the time of Travel Authorization. (See *Duration of Travel* below.)

Expense Report

After travel occurs, an Expense Report is submitted in FAST to report expenses and/or request Traveler reimbursement. The Expense Report will list all expenses associated with the Travel, whether paid directly by the University or reimbursable to Traveler. It is also recommended that any expenses paid or provided by an outside organization by virtue of the Traveler's business activities or employment be reported in the form of a comment on the Expense Report or memo included with the Receipt Package.

In most cases, the Expense Report will be pulled from the preexisting Travel Authorization and modified as needed before submission.

USF Procurement Card (PCard)/My Wallet

Incoming PCard charges will be delegated, based on identifying merchant codes, either to Purchasing as general expenses or, in the case of Travel Expenses, to the Traveler's Wallet in the Travel Module. Travel related PCard charges assigned to an individual's Wallet may then be reassigned or split between travelers as necessary, and finally are pulled into the appropriate Expense Report in the system.

Receipt Package

Upon submission of the Expense Report, a Receipt Package that includes all required receipts and back-up materials must also be sent to the Travel Department. The required cover sheet, which is generated in FAST upon electronic submission of the Expense Report, must be printed out and signed by the Traveler. The Receipt Package should be scanned and emailed to travelreceipts@admin.usf.edu.

Required Back-up

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Expense Report cover sheet, <i>signed by the traveler</i>, sent with the Receipt Package. |
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Timeliness

Expense Reports should be received by Travel within thirty (30) calendar days of last date of travel. Reports received by Travel more than sixty (60) calendar days after the last day of travel require a dean or director level approval. If dean or director approval is required, the signed approval should be included with the Receipt Package submitted to the travel department.

Expense Reports for Travelers received by Travel over six (6) months from the last date of travel will not be processed.

Expense Reports for Travelers terminating employment with USF received by Travel more than thirty (30) days from date of termination will not be processed.

When a Cash Advance has been issued, an Expense Report must be received by Travel within ten business days of the last date of travel.

Duration of Travel

Travel lasting over thirty (30) days requires the approval and signature of the President of the University. Before requesting an Authorization in the system, the Traveler should obtain approval using the [Preapproval for Travel over 30 days](#) form. The form should ultimately be included with the Receipt Package.

Required Back-up

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Approval from President's office for any travel lasting longer than thirty (30) days. |
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Cancelled Travel

When travel plans for which expenses have already been paid must be cancelled, resulting either in full credit/refund of the expense(s) or in standing expenses paid on PCard or to be reimbursed to the intended traveler, the expense should be cleared in the FAST Travel module through an Expense Report whenever possible. Such cancellations will require explicit approval signatures as follows: If the standing expenses (full refund/credit not possible) total \$250 or less, explicit approval from the Chair or Director is required. If the standing expenses (full refund/credit not possible) total over \$250, the explicit approval of the Dean or Vice President, or VP Designee, is required. A memo signed by the appropriate authority should be included with the Receipt Package. Approvers authorizing such fees must consider and identify the funding source, attest that the expense is reasonable and necessary, and/or use unrestricted funds if necessary. It is the responsibility of the Traveler to substantiate that any cancellations are proper and necessary.

(Please see *Rules and Procedures, General Expenses, Transportation, Airfare* below for comments on cancellation/change fees that are incurred during active trips that are not cancelled entirely.)

Required Back-up

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Memo of approval with business justification and appropriate signature approving the circumstances of cancellation and payment of any standing expenses. |
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III. RULES AND PROCEDURES AND GENERAL ACCOUNTING

The provisions of these directives apply to all authorized University Travelers, including employees (full and part time), students, candidates for employment, consultants or independent contractors, and students.

All travel performed at the expense of USF must be for the benefit of the University and have a business purpose supporting the academic programs and support activities of the University and its various organizations. All interested parties, including Travelers, Delegates, Fiscal Approvers, Supervisors, deans and vice-presidents are responsible for complying with these procedures in their expenditure of USF funds.

Departmental Approvers are responsible for review and verification of original receipts where such back up is required. Electronic approval of the Expense Report in the department workflow attests that all images of receipts sent to the Travel Department for review are consistent with originals retained in the department.

Pursuant to Florida Statute 112.061, Travelers should always choose the most practical and economical means and mode of travel.

Sponsored Projects

Certain Grants may contain provisions that further limit the amount and type of reimbursable travel expenditures. Travelers and Project Manager (Principal Investigator) should ensure any proposed travel is in accordance with the project agreement before the travel begins. Project Managers further guarantee by their approval that all conditions of the pertinent contract have been met. When the maximum amount allowable for reimbursement of travel expense under the sponsored project and the maximum amount allowed by USF directive are different, the lesser of the two shall apply.

If a sponsored project stipulates payment of rates less than the University's current allowances, an explanation should be entered into the comment field of the Expense Report page in the Travel Module and a copy of the relevant grant language should be included with the Receipt Package.

Travel Expenses Shared by Travelers

With the exception of faculty or staff paying for student expenses under certain circumstances, Travelers cannot be reimbursed for the travel expenses of fellow Travelers. All Travelers are expected to submit individual Expense Reports.

If personnel request reimbursement for expenses paid in behalf of students, a signed memo must be provided from each student stating that said Traveler paid for his or her expenses and no other expenses will be claimed by the student.

Required Back-up

- If Traveler is requesting reimbursement for expenses paid for student travelers: Signed statement from student saying expenses were paid by X and no expenses will be personally claimed.

Travel Expenses Shared by Departments

When expenses for a given trip are shared by multiple departments, only one Travel Authorization and Expense Report should be submitted. Traveler will enter separate accounting details for expense types to split the trip by expense and dollar amount. The chartfields entered on each expense line will determine the specific expenses that are paid by each department. If the information is being entered by a Delegate rather than the Traveler, representatives from the respective units will need to collaborate before and during submission of the Authorization and Expense Report to ensure that the Delegate enters all necessary information. Please contact the Travel Department for more detailed instruction on how to correctly enter expense lines shared by different departments.

Travel Expenses Not Reimbursed by USF

Reporting of Travel Expenses absorbed by the Traveler and not being paid by USF is no longer required after July 1, 2007. The Travel Department will not question any and all omissions. However, it is the responsibility of the Traveler and the Traveler's unit to verify that all expenses paid by USF, including expenses paid by PCard, Payment Request Form or Purchase Order, are fully reported on the Expense Report.

It is recommended that any expense that is complimentary, meaning paid or provided by a party other than the University or the Traveler, as a result of the Traveler's relationship to or representation of USF, also be reported in the form of a comment in the Travel Authorization and/or the Expense Report or in memo form in the Receipt Package.

Payment of Less than Published Meal or Mileage Allowances

Departments may not adopt Meal or Mileage reimbursement rates less than those published by state or federal agencies and prescribed by USF procedure.

Exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- *Meals are provided or "comped" by a party other than USF.* Traveler should indicate which meals were provided and by whom. Deductions should be made per meal, according to Florida Statutory (Domestic travel) or Department of State (Foreign travel) published rates.
- *An individual traveler chooses to waive the full reimbursement amount in favor of a lesser amount or no reimbursement.* An individual may *voluntarily* choose to waive the full reimbursement allowance.
- *Sponsored project travel.* In the case where a grant stipulates a limit on travel reimbursements, the lesser of the sponsored project specified amount or USF procedure will apply. In the case where no limit is set by the project sponsor, USF procedure will

apply. A Principal Investigator may not set rates for travel reimbursement at an amount less than that allowed by USF procedure.

- *Travel sponsored by Student Government.* Travel sponsored by Student Government funding will be reimbursed at the rates set forth in the Student Government Statutes related to sponsored travel.
- *Intercollegiate Athletics Travel.* The Athletics Department will submit reimbursement rates for team travel to upper administration for approval annually.

Reimbursement of a Flat Amount

If the department head wishes to set an overall dollar limit on the amount a Traveler will be reimbursed for specific elective travel, the limit should be agreed to by the Traveler and documented in writing at the time of the Travel Authorization *before* the trip. The signed document should be included with the Receipt Package submitted later with the Expense Report.

For this type of arrangement, the total amount of expenses reported on the Travel Authorization and the Expense Report should equal the amount of the allowed reimbursement. Receipts must be provided to support at least the total amount claimed. Expenses incurred should be claimed in the following order:

1. Direct Payment Request expenses, PCard expenses or any other expense paid in advance by USF, regardless of expense type.
2. Airfare
3. Lodging
4. Registration fees
5. Meals
6. Incidentals

Required Back-up

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Document, signed and dated at the time of Travel Authorization, showing agreement of Traveler and Department Head when total reimbursement amount is being capped. |
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Miscellaneous

Job Candidates

If a department or business unit is paying Travel Expenses for an individual visiting for job interview(s), the relevant position number should be provided when the Travel Authorization and/or Expense Report is entered into FAST.

Travel Expenses paid in Addition to Consulting Fees

When the University pays Travel Expenses incurred by independent contractors or consultants, the expenses may be paid either as part of the contractor's flat service fee (all-inclusive) or the agreement may stipulate travel costs to be paid as separate reimbursable expenses. In the latter case, Travel Authorizations and Expense Reports will be submitted, and reimbursements paid, in the same manner as other University Travel. Persons of Interest incurring Travel Expenses under this circumstance are bound by all USF Travel rules and procedures. Any receipt(s) showing fee payment should be included with the Receipt Package.

If a company is being reimbursed, as opposed to an individual, the expenses are not entered into the FAST Travel Module. Instead, the invoice will be submitted via a Payment Request form to Accounts Payable, however, travel expenses must still be itemized and are subject to all USF Travel rules and procedures (See Travel Itemization Form for Contractors and Consultants.)

Required Back-up

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| ➤ A copy of the purchase order showing payment of service fee or honorarium. |
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ADA Accommodation

University employees who require reasonable accommodation as regards travel arrangements under the Americans with Disabilities Act should submit requests for an Accommodation Request Number to Human Resources no later than ten (10) business days before the date of travel.

Travel Packages

If multiple Travel Expenses are purchased together as a package that results in a cost savings for the University, it is the responsibility of Traveler or Delegate to obtain a breakdown from the merchant or to allocate a reasonable portion of the total to each expense type.

Travel Stipends

Travel stipends awarded to grant participants or students are not paid through the Travel Department or requested through FAST.

IV. RULES AND PROCEDURES-GENERAL EXPENSES

Registration

Prepayment of registration fees for conferences, conventions, formal meetings, seminars and workshops is often required or advisable.

Prepayment may be paid by the Traveler, paid with a PCard, or paid directly to the vendor via a Payment Request Form. The Traveler may also pay the fee on site and request reimbursement later.

Banquets or special meal events that are offered as separate, optional functions for an additional charge are allowable expenses if they support the Traveler's business activities and may also be prepaid. However, such an expense (solely for food) cannot be paid via PCard.

If meals are provided as part of a paid registration for an event, these items will be deducted from any daily meal allowances claimed by the Traveler when the Expense Report is submitted. (See *Rules and Procedures-Domestic Meals/ Foreign Meals* below.)

Required Back-up

- A registration receipt and/or brochure showing the registration fee amount paid, method of payment and additional amenities provided must be included with the Receipt Package.
- A full agenda or schedule at a glance for all conferences, conventions, or formal meetings must be included with the Receipt Package. The agenda or schedule must indicate the name of the conference or convention, the dates of the event, the any meals provided as part of the registration fee.

Transportation

Airfare

There are no Preferred Vendor airlines for USF travel. Airline reservations should be made with any Common Carrier in accordance with good purchasing procedures and Florida Statute 112.061.

USF Travelers will be reimbursed for coach/non-refundable airfare only.

If the airline used charges additional fees for checking baggage, USF Travelers will be reimbursed for up to a maximum of two (2) bags. A receipt is required for each baggage expense claimed over \$25.00.* Charges for more than two bags will not be paid without a valid business reason. Travelers are reminded that they are always obliged to seek out the most

* Departments have the prerogative to require receipts for any expense, regardless of the amount. As a condition of USF PCard issuance and use, any travel expense placed on a USF PCard will require a receipt, regardless of the amount.

economical overall fare available and should be aware of additional fees that may be added to base fares on some airlines.

USF does not pay for cancellation or change fees for airfare unless there is a valid business reason for the change. Any additional charges for changing flight plans due to personal reasons or for the convenience of the Traveler will be borne by the Traveler. In order to pay or reimburse any additional expenses up to \$250 that are incurred due to flight changes, explicit approval from the Chair or Director is required. For changes or cancellations costing over \$250, the explicit approval of the Dean or Vice President, or VP Designee, is required. A memo signed by the appropriate authority should be included with the Receipt Package. Approvers authorizing such fees must consider and identify the funding source, attest that the expense is reasonable and necessary, and/or use unrestricted funds if necessary. It is the responsibility of the Traveler to substantiate that any change fees are proper and necessary.

If a traveler chooses a multi-destination or otherwise circuitous air route for personal reasons, or chooses to drive to a long distance destination rather than flying, the traveler will be reimbursed only the amount that round trip airfare to and from the business event would have cost. Any additional expenses incurred for personal travel should be paid out of pocket rather than prepaid on PCard. In such cases, the traveler is responsible for pulling comparable airfare--prior to the travel--showing the range of fares available if only the round trip business fare were being purchased.

Required Back-up

- A receipt for the airfare must be included with the receipt package. The receipt may be a print out of the email confirmation/itinerary, and must contain *all* of the following information: name of traveler; dates traveled; times of flights; destination for departure and arrival; class of travel (coach or economy); and fare paid. The receipt should clearly indicate that the ticket has already been paid for.
- A receipt for any separate baggage charge over \$25.00 must be included with the receipt package. Any travel expense paid on a USF PCard requires a receipt, regardless of the amount.
- In the case of a flight change or cancellation fee, a memo with business justification and appropriate signature approving the additional expense.
- If flying a different route for personal reasons, advance airfare quotes showing round trip to and from business event must be included with the Receipt Package for comparison purposes.

Mileage

A Traveler may choose to use her or his own vehicle when it is in the best interest of the University.

Travelers utilizing their personal vehicles are authorized to be reimbursed at the Florida Statutory Rate of .445 cents per mile.

All travel connected with the official business of the University must be by the most direct and economical route available.

The Traveler is authorized to claim mileage from official headquarters or home, whichever is less. If a Traveler must travel to a destination (other than headquarters) during non-regular work hours (more than one hour before or one hour later than normal work hours or on non-regular workdays), the Traveler may claim miles from residence, regardless.

Under no circumstances shall a Traveler be reimbursed for expenses in traveling between a Traveler's home and the Traveler's headquarters or regular place of employment.

If a person travels by an indirect route for convenience or personal reasons, the extra costs must be borne by the Traveler.

Vicinity Mileage is requested as an expense separate from Map Mileage, and may be claimed in conjunction with Map Mileage (for instance, employee travels to destination city for multi day conference and also requires additional driving during stay for business reasons) or alone (Traveler must travel from headquarters to downtown for a meeting; Traveler must travel from headquarters to airport to catch flight to destination city.)

Mileage from one USF Campus to another can be considered Vicinity Mileage and does not require additional back up.

Cost of operation, maintenance and ownership of a vehicle are the responsibility of the Traveler. The University is not authorized to reimburse a Traveler for repairs, fines for violations of the law, or other related costs incurred while traveling on official business of the University.

The Traveler is not authorized to claim a mileage allowance when transported gratuitously by another person.

A Traveler may claim the cost of gas in lieu of mileage in order to achieve a cost savings for USF. In such a case, receipts with the date and gas station's imprint are required for gas charges over \$25.00.*

The University authorizes reimbursement to the Traveler for the Map Mileage between cities or the cost of commercial airfare, whichever is less. Mileage reimbursement for long distance trips is limited to the amount that would have been allowed had the most economical Common Carrier been used. An exception to this rule is normally taken when the car is shared with other travelers resulting in a savings to the University on airfare, or when the cost of renting a vehicle in the city where business is conducted exceeds the mileage allowance claimed. If the traveler chooses to drive long distance rather than fly for personal reasons, comparable airfare quotes should be obtained before the travel occurs and provided as part of the Receipt Package. The lesser of the two amounts will be reimbursed.

While the travel department is not able to pay general moving expenses, one way mileage costs or one way airfare for new employees and families relocating from a previous place of residence

* Departments have the prerogative to require receipts for any expense, regardless of the amount. As a condition of USF PCard issuance and use, any travel expense placed on a USF PCard will require a receipt, regardless of the amount.

to USF may be claimed through travel. As of January 1, 2011, relocation mileage is paid at the rate of .19 cents per mile.

Required Back-up

- A record of miles must be accurately maintained and shown on the Expense Report. If more convenient, a separate log may be included with the Receipt Package showing multiple trips of recurrent mileage, as long as it is clear and auditable. Either the Expense Report or the log must show the number of miles of travel from the point of origin to the point of destination. Dates and times of departure and return must be shown for each point of travel.
- Print out for Map Mileage (city to city) travel must be obtained from the Florida Department of Transportation mileage chart or some other source such as MapQuest, Yahoo or Google and included with the receipt package.
- If driving long distance, advance airfare quotes for comparison purposes must be included with the Receipt Package.

Car Rental

The State of Florida has entered into a contract with AVIS Rent a Car System, LLC, (AVIS) for the rental of vehicles to employees traveling on State business. Avis is the Preferred Vendor for USF Travelers in need of rental vehicles; university employees are required to rent with AVIS unless a cost savings results from using a different vendor. The contract reference number is AWD #A113400 and should be provided at the time of reservation and pick-up. The contract applies to rentals originating at any in-state/out-of-state AVIS rental location, including on-airport or off-airport locations.

USF allows reimbursement for the rental of sub-compact or compact class cars. An exception to the vehicle class rule is allowed when the automobile is shared with other Travelers on USF business or when transporting materials or equipment, resulting in a cost savings to the University. Under no circumstances should a luxury or premium vehicle be secured.

The State contract not only limits the amount the company will charge Travelers for daily rentals, but also includes items such as insurance and waivers for other types of fees. To avoid incurring unallowable expenses, it is strongly recommended that all Travelers on University business use the contract carrier whenever possible.

If an employee is forced to rent a vehicle with a Common Carrier outside of AVIS, or a car larger than a sub-compact or compact, a justification must be provided at the time reimbursement is requested.

If unable to rent under the AVIS contract, non-employees should secure a sub-compact or compact vehicle with another Common Carrier at the most economical rate available. Personal insurance coverage and other types of optional charges will not be reimbursed.

Any additional expenses associated with a car rental, incurred for personal reasons, including personal accident insurance, will not be reimbursed unless fully justified.

Travelers should have a valid business reason for retaining a rental car for an extended period of time. For instance, a Traveler who attends a conference for several days and stays at the hotel where the event is being held would not likely need to retain a car for the entire stay.

Campus WeCar may be used for University business only for short, local trips where a cost savings over a daily AVIS rental is realized.

Required Back-up

- An itemized receipt for all rental car expenses must be included with the Receipt Package. Receipt should clearly indicate class (size) of car, daily amount and any additional charges incurred.
- A receipt for all gas expenses over \$25 associated with the use of a rental vehicle is required with the Receipt Package. Any travel expense paid on a USF PCard requires a receipt, regardless of the amount.

State Vehicles

The use of a state owned vehicle is encouraged whenever possible. If a State vehicle is used, mileage may not be claimed. While most State vehicles are maintained routinely by the department or unit, gas required for a particular trip may be reimbursed through travel. Receipts for expenses over \$25.00 must be provided.* The license plate number of the State vehicle should be provided at the time the Travel Authorization and/or Expense Report is submitted.

* Departments have the prerogative to require receipts for any expense, regardless of the amount. As a condition of USF PCard issuance and use, any travel expense placed on a USF PCard will require a receipt, regardless of the amount.

Other Ground Transportation

Taxis, trains, buses, and other mass transit may be used when these modes of transportation result in a cost savings to the University. Receipts are required for all ground transportation over \$25.00 per incident.*

Required Back-up

A receipt is required for the following expenses and should be included with the Receipt Package:

- Taxi or shuttle expenses in excess of \$25.00 per incident (tip up to 15%) Any travel expense paid on a USF PCard requires a receipt, regardless of the amount.
- Bus, Train or other public transportation in excess of \$25.00 per incident. Any travel expense paid on a USF PCard requires a receipt, regardless of the amount.
- Parking or Tolls in excess of \$25 per incident

Personal Plane

The use of personal planes for USF business is not reimbursable due to increased liability and administrative cost issues.

Flat Per Diem

Flat Per Diem Allowances are automatically generated and calculated by the FAST Travel module based on the following statutory parameters. Travelers, Delegates and Approvers should be familiar with these procedures insofar as they must understand when Flat Per Diem may or may not be requested and when meals should be deducted from the total daily allowances.

Per Florida statute, Flat Per Diem may be claimed for any domestic or foreign travel in lieu of claiming actual lodging receipts and daily meal allowances.

The \$80 daily rate is intended to reimburse for both lodging and meal expenses.

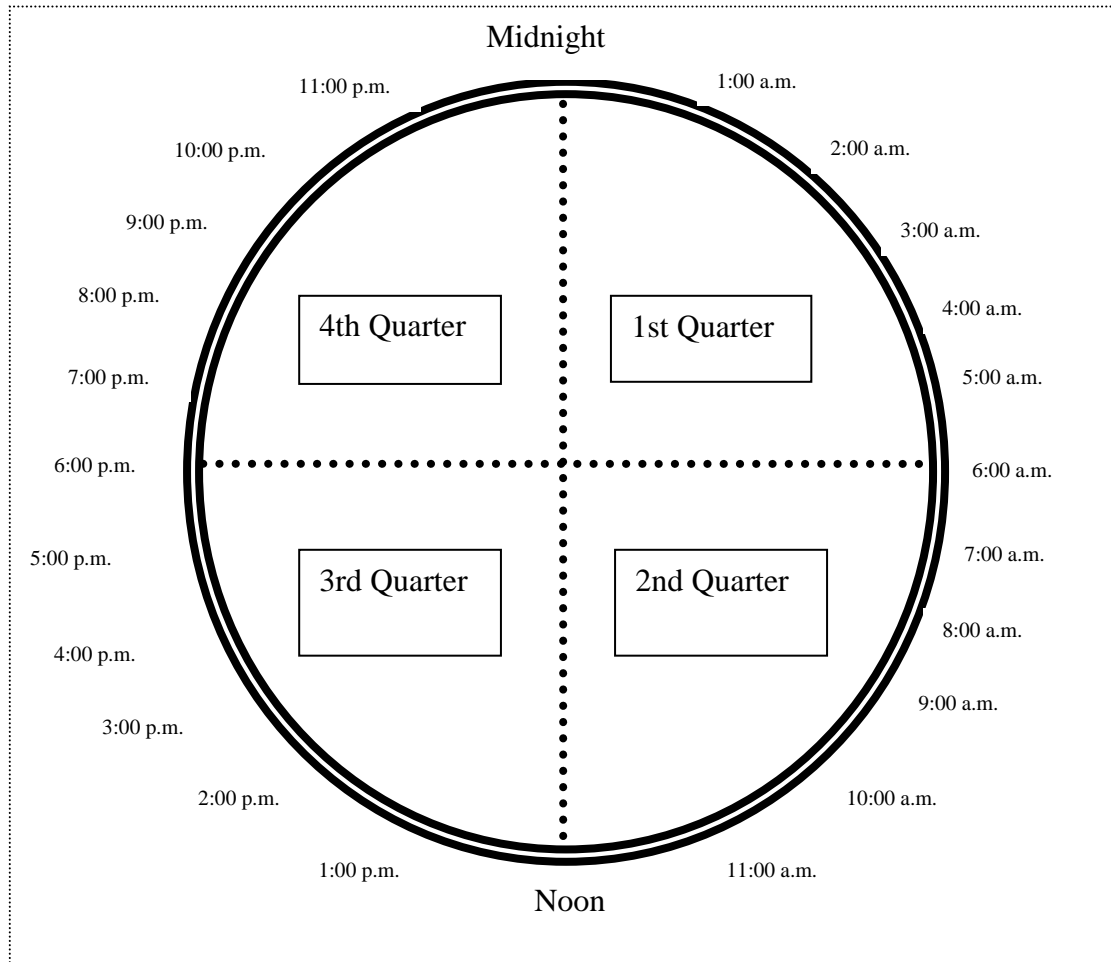
Any meals provided to the Traveler at USF expense via a paid registration must be deducted from the daily \$80 at the statutory rates of \$6 for breakfast, \$11 for lunch and \$19 for dinner.

For figuring Flat Per Diem on the first and last days of travel, the travel day is divided into four quarters worth \$20 each. The Traveler should claim \$20 for each quarter during which he or she is traveling. (See chart on page 21.)

Flat Per Diem should not be claimed in conjunction with *any* actual lodging or meal claims for the same day or trip. Traveler may not switch to Flat Per Diem on the last day of the trip. There is currently no Flat Per Diem reimbursement for one day travel not involving an overnight stay.

* Departments have the prerogative to require receipts for any expense, regardless of the amount. As a condition of USF PCard issuance and use, any travel expense placed on a USF PCard will require a receipt, regardless of the amount.

Flat Per Diem Chart



Incidentals

Actual incidental expenses incurred while on USF business will be reimbursed. Since the University reimburses actual amounts per incident for these types of expenses, incidental per diem allowances for Foreign Travel that appear on the Department of State list of allowance amounts may not be claimed.

While it is strongly advised that receipts be obtained whenever possible, receipts are always required for PCard expenses and for all out of pocket incidental expenses over \$25.00.*

Travelers should use the most economical available parking. Valet parking will be reimbursed only when hotel or event location does not offer less expensive or free self-parking.

Portage will be reimbursed at \$1 per bag, with a maximum of \$5 per incident. (A total of \$10 per stay for in and out.) If official business results in additional portage (for example, a large

* Departments have the prerogative to require receipts for any expense, regardless of the amount. As a condition of USF PCard issuance and use, any travel expense placed on a USF PCard will require a receipt, regardless of the amount.

amount of necessary materials or equipment must be transported) a justification must be provided at the time reimbursement is requested. Receipts are not required for portage.

While some incidental expenses under \$25 do not require a receipt, please see table below for items requiring receipt regardless of the amount.

Required Back-up

A receipt is required for the following incidental expenses and should be included with the Receipt Package:
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- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Supplies for events (Limit \$100)➤ Communication expenses (phone calls, internet access, fax needed for business purposes)➤ Photo copies needed for business purposes➤ Passport or Visa➤ Travelers Checks or Currency Exchange Fees➤ Laundry expenses (when official business travel extends beyond seven days)➤ For Foreign Incidental expenses, conversions to US dollars must be printed for each expense and included with the Receipt Package |
|--|

Expenses Not Allowed

The following list, which is not all-inclusive, represents some travel expenses that are not reimbursable through USF Travel:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Cancellation charges (unless justified)
- Cell Phone Expenses
- Childcare costs
- Expenses for non-business related activities such as sightseeing or entertainment
- Expenses incurred by spouse or family
- Extra baggage charges for personal items, i.e. golf clubs or skis
- House Hunting trips or expenses
- Late check out fees
- Laundry, cleaning, pressing expenses for trips of six days or less
- Lodging within 50 miles of headquarters or home (unless justified)
- Lost or stolen cash or personal property
- Meals included in the cost of registration
- Mileage from home to headquarters or headquarters to home
- Moving expenses, except for one way airfare or mileage for new employee and family
- Parking expenses at assigned workplace
- Pay-for-view movies in hotel/motel room
- Personal insurance on rental vehicles
- Personal phone calls, including calls home
- Pet care costs
- Personal plane use
- Extraneous rental car amenities (unnecessary toll and GPS devices, roadside assistance, etc.)
- Repairs, towing service, etc. for personal vehicles
- Room service
- Fees for the use of a hotel safe, unless mandatory by the hotel
- Supplies associated with the business activities of a trip costing more than \$100
- Taxi or other transportation to restaurants when meals are available near the hotel
- Tips in restaurants
- Traffic citations, parking tickets, and other fines
- Travel insurance
- Travel to certain foreign destinations designated “terrorist states,” pursuant to Florida Statute 112.061 and designated by the U.S. Department of State

V. RULES AND PROCEDURES-DOMESTIC MEALS AND LODGING

Meal Allowances for Domestic Travel are automatically generated and calculated by the FAST Travel Module based on the following statutory parameters. Travelers, Delegates and Approvers should be familiar with meal procedures insofar as they must understand when meals may or may not be requested and when meals should be deducted from the total daily allowances.

Domestic Meals

Domestic Travelers will be paid meal allowances pursuant to FS112.061 (6) (a-c) as follows:

Breakfast	\$6
Lunch	\$11
<u>Dinner</u>	<u>\$19</u>
Total for day	\$36

Meals for first and last days of Domestic Travel are based on times of departure and return. On first and last days, travel must begin before 6am and extend past 8am to qualify for breakfast; begin before Noon and extend past 2pm to qualify for lunch; and begin before 6pm and extend past 8pm to qualify for dinner.

Meals included in the cost of registration fees or otherwise paid by USF must be deducted from the daily meal allowance. Meals provided, as indicated in the event agenda, can not also be paid as part of a daily meal allowance and must be deducted regardless of whether the traveler participated in the meal event or not.

There is currently no meal reimbursement for one day travel not involving an overnight stay.

As provided by the Florida Attorney General, continental breakfast constitutes a meal and must be deducted from the daily meal allowance if provided as part of a registration fee or otherwise paid for by USF. Meals provided by an airline or hotel need not be deducted.

Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.

Room Service is not reimbursable.

The department or unit may not implement standing meal allowances for Domestic Travel that deviate from the published statutory meal amounts. A Traveler may voluntarily claim a lesser amount. Under no circumstances may the meal allowance claimed exceed the published state rates.

Domestic Lodging

There are no contracted or preferred hotels for USF Domestic Travel. Lodging reservations should be made with any merchant in accordance with good purchasing procedures and Chapter 112.061, Florida Statutes.

For domestic lodging, justification is required at the time of reimbursement request if the nightly hotel rate (before taxes) exceeds \$200.

If the hotel rate exceeds \$200 and is the conference or convention location, “conference hotel” may be used as justification.

The “conference hotel” is the hotel where the conference, convention, meeting or other event activities are being conducted. If the event is held in one location and organizers suggest neighboring accommodations in official registration materials, justification will be accepted based on proximity of lodging to event, need for additional transportation and over all cost savings.

If the nightly hotel rate exceeds \$200 and is not the conference or convention location, an explanation is required as well as the explicit approval of the department head or above. The written and signed approval should be included with the Receipt Package.

Domestic lodging will be reimbursed at the single occupancy rate unless a room is shared by multiple USF travelers resulting in a cost savings to the University. If the hotel receipt indicates double occupancy and the room is not shared with other USF Traveler(s), the reimbursement must be reduced or confirmation that the rate is the same for single and double occupancy is required.

Late checkout or guarantee reservation fees that cannot be canceled will not be reimbursed unless a business reason is provided and it is in the best interest of USF to do so.

Lodging within 50 miles of headquarters must be preapproved by the department and a business purpose for the stay must be provided. Appropriate business purposes include cases where the traveler is hosting/working at the conference rather than simply participating as a paying attendee and cases where late night events include professional activities.

Room Service is not reimbursable.

Required Back-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ An itemized lodging receipt showing zero balance due must be included with the receipt package sent to travel➤ If a department purchases a block of rooms to accommodate a large group of Travelers, the Purchase Order may be provided but must include itemized documentation of Traveler’s name and nightly room rate

VI. RULES AND PROCEDURES-FOREIGN MEALS AND LODGING

Meal Allowances and maximum Lodging rates for Foreign Travel are automatically generated and calculated by the FAST Travel Module based on the following federal parameters. Travelers, Delegates and Approvers should be familiar with these procedures insofar as they must understand when meals and lodging may or may not be requested and when meals should be deducted from the total daily allowances.

Foreign Meals

Meals for all days of Foreign Travel will be reimbursed at the published Department of State rate for the destination area.

The allowance for incidentals that is listed with the published Department of State rates should be excluded to arrive at the meal allowance. Since USF reimburses actual amounts per incident for these types of expenses pursuant to FS 112.061, incidental per diem allowances for Foreign Travel that appear with the federal published rates may not be claimed. (See details above, under *Incidentals*.)

Meals for first and last days of Foreign Travel are based on times of departure and return. On first and last days, travel must begin before 6am and extend past 8am to qualify for breakfast; begin before Noon and extend past 2pm to qualify for lunch; and begin before 6pm and extend past 8pm to qualify for dinner.

Foreign meal rates are paid from the time the Traveler begins the trip until his or her return, unless the itinerary involves an overnight stay in another US location before arriving in or after leaving the foreign location.

Meals included in the cost of registration fees or otherwise paid by USF must be deducted from the daily meal allowance. Meals provided, as indicated in the event agenda, can not also be paid as part of a daily meal allowance and must be deducted regardless of whether the Traveler participated in the meal event or not.

Continental breakfast is a meal and must be deducted from reimbursable meals if provided as part of a registration fee or otherwise paid for by USF. Breakfast provided by an airline or hotel need not be deducted.

The department or unit may not implement standing meal allowances for Foreign Travel that deviate from the published federal meal amounts. A Traveler may voluntarily claim a lesser amount. Under no circumstances may the meal allowance claimed exceed the published federal rates.

FOREIGN MEALS AND LODGING ALLOWANCES

(As generated and calculated in FAST Travel Module)

LOCALITY	MAXIMUM LODGING AMOUNT (A) +	M&IE RATE (B) =	MAXIMUM PER DIEM RATE (C)	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFGHANISTAN ^{-2/} ¹⁹				
Kabul ^{2,19}	0	25	25	4-1-06
Other	0	15	15	8-1-03
ALBANIA				
Tirana	168	75	243	5-1-06
Other	81	25	106	4-1-92
ALGERIA ^{-2/}				
Algiers ²	184	97	281	10-1-06
Other	174	81	255	1-1-06

In the [Department of State](#) table as shown above, Column A provides the lodging rate for the area. Column B is the total daily meal allowance plus an incidental allowance. The incidental allowance must be deducted as described below.

M&IE Rate (\$) ¹	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals
1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1
2	0	0	1	1
3 ...	0	1	1	1
75	11	19	30	15

The table in [Appendix B to Chapter 301](#) provides a breakdown for each M&IE allowance found in the Department of State list above. Scroll down to find the M&IE rate from Column B to get the breakdown for breakfast, lunch, dinner and incidentals. The incidentals amount should not be claimed.

Example: The published lodging allowance for Tirana, Albania is \$168. The published daily M&IE rate is \$75. The daily meal allowance is \$11 for breakfast, \$19 for lunch and \$30 for dinner, for a total maximum allowance of \$60 for daily meals. The incidental amount of \$15 should be disregarded.

Foreign Lodging

There are no contracted or preferred hotels for USF Foreign Travel. Lodging reservations should be made with any merchant in accordance with good purchasing procedures and Chapter 112.061, Florida Statutes.

Foreign lodging should be obtained at or below the published Department of State rate for the destination area whenever possible.

Justification is required at the time of reimbursement request if the nightly hotel rate (before taxes) exceeds \$200.

If the hotel exceeds \$200 and is the conference or convention location, “conference hotel” may be used as justification.

The “conference hotel” is the hotel where the conference, convention, meeting or other event activities are being conducted. If the event is held in one location and organizers suggest neighboring accommodations in official registration materials, justification will be accepted based on proximity of lodging to event, need for additional transportation and over all cost savings.

If the nightly hotel rate exceeds \$200 and is not the conference or convention location, an explanation is required as well as the explicit approval of the department head or above. The written and signed approval should be included with the Receipt Package.

If the federal published rate for the area should exceed \$200, the Traveler may claim up to the published amount without additional justification and approval.

Foreign lodging will be reimbursed at the single occupancy rate unless a room is shared by multiple USF Travelers resulting in a cost savings to the University. If the hotel receipt indicates double occupancy and the room is not shared with other USF Traveler(s), the reimbursement must be reduced or confirmation that the rate is the same for single and double occupancy is required.

Late checkout or guarantee reservation fees that cannot be canceled will not be reimbursed unless a business reason is provided and it is in the best interest of USF to do so.

Room Service is not reimbursable.

Required Back-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ An itemized lodging receipt showing zero balance due must be included with the receipt package sent to travel➤ Conversions to US dollars must be printed for each expense and included with the Receipt Package

VII. CASH ADVANCE

Travelers are encouraged to obtain a USF PCard to avoid the need for a Cash Advances. For information on USF's PCard program, please go to the [USF Procurement Card Program](#) website.

In some circumstances a Cash Advance for USF Travel Expenses may be requested. If a Traveler falls into one of the categories below, a Cash Advance may be requested at the time the Travel Authorization is submitted in FAST.

Cash Advances are issued only in the following situations:

- Travel destination is to a remote area where credit cards are not accepted.
- Travel is performed for an extended length of time (30 days or more).
- The Traveler has been denied a credit card.
- The Traveler is a student.
- The Traveler is incurring expenses for students accompanying traveler on the trip.

In these cases the University will authorize payment of up to 100% of airfare plus 80% of remaining estimated expenses on an approved Travel Authorization.

A Cash Advance will be issued no more than seven (7) business days before the start of travel.

Only University employees and students are eligible to receive an advance unless a grant specifically states otherwise. Current Cash Advance directives and procedures provide for the following:

- The Traveler shall not have more than one advance at a time.
- The advance must be settled no more than ten (10) business days from the travel end date. Any money advanced to Traveler in excess of actual expenses must be repaid to the university within this timeframe. Excess funds should be paid to account 12410 and a copy of check and deposit receipt should be attached to the Expense Report.
- If not settled within thirty (30) business day, USF will offset a Traveler's wages through payroll.

In order to receive a Cash Advance, a Traveler must preauthorize the University to deduct the amount from wages if they do not settle their advance within the defined timeframe of thirty (30) workdays after the return to the official headquarters. If payroll offset occurs, the Traveler may make payment arrangements for a payroll deduction until the Cash Advance is settled. If a Cash Advance results in payroll offset, then the traveler will not qualify for future advances.

Required Back-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Print out and sign form from Cash Advance page in FAST Travel Module➤ Sign and submit form agreeing to payroll offset