Wichita State University
Travel Handbook

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Contents
Introduction........................................................................................................................................... 2
Travel Authorization ................................................................................................................................. 2
Travel Reimbursement ............................................................................................................................ 2
  Personal Time included with Business Travel ..................................................................................... 2
Travel Agencies ....................................................................................................................................... 2
Border Cities .......................................................................................................................................... 2
Use of Personal Funds ............................................................................................................................ 2
Transportation Expense ........................................................................................................................ 3
  Reimbursable Transportation Expense ................................................................................................. 3
  Non-Reimbursable Transportation Expenses ....................................................................................... 3
  Most Economical or Advantageous Mode of Transportation ............................................................. 3
Cancellation of Flight ............................................................................................................................... 3
Flight Comparison Requirements ........................................................................................................... 3
Mileage Reimbursement for Private Vehicles ......................................................................................... 3
  Mileage Reimbursement Rate ............................................................................................................ 3
  Mileage Reimbursement Rate Exception .......................................................................................... 3
  Vicinity Mileage ................................................................................................................................ 4
Rental Vehicle ......................................................................................................................................... 4
Accident Reporting Requirements .......................................................................................................... 4
Meal Requirements ................................................................................................................................ 4
  Single Day Trips ................................................................................................................................ 4
  Reduced Meal Allowance for Meals Provided at No Cost to the Employee .................................... 4
Lodging Reimbursement .......................................................................................................................... 5
  Direct Payment of Lodging .................................................................................................................. 5
Reimbursement at a Reduced Subsistence Allowance ............................................................................ 5
Travel Expense Reimbursement for Employees Who Become Incapacitated During Travel ............... 5
Miscellaneous .......................................................................................................................................... 5
  Expenses ............................................................................................................................................... 5
    Employees may be reimbursed for transportation ........................................................................... 6
    Charges for baggage ......................................................................................................................... 6
Student Travel ......................................................................................................................................... 6
WSU Foundation Reimbursing Expenses ................................................................................................. 6
Contact Us .............................................................................................................................................. 6
Introduction

The following handbook is presented to promote efficiency in processing business travel. Wichita State University (WSU) detailed travel policies can be found at the website for Policies and Procedures at [www.wichita.edu](http://www.wichita.edu) and State of Kansas (SOK) detailed information for travel policies can be found at the website for Employee Travel Expense Reimbursement Handbook at [www.admin.ks.gov](http://www.admin.ks.gov).

Travel Authorization

Any University employee proposing to travel out of state or internationally on behalf of the University must complete and submit a Travel Authorization (TA) form per WSU Policy 3.28. If the traveler is going to utilize the travel agency to book a rental vehicle a TA will need to be entered. A TA should be obtained 10 business days prior to the trip taking place, upon approval in the Travel & Expense Management (TEM) software, the employee may start making travel arrangements.

Travel Reimbursement

Travel reimbursements will occur after the trip has been completed and the traveler returns. Any approved Travel Reimbursement (TR) for employees should be completed through TEM within five business days of returning, and at least once each month per SOK travel policy and K.S.A. 75-3201. Reimbursements are made by direct deposit per SOK Circular 11-a-003.

Personal Time included with Business Travel

Occasionally, an employee may take a trip that includes both personal and business travel, the following rules apply when these occur. If the stay at a business location is extended no more than three days either prior to or after the business mission, the entire ticket may be reimbursed. Any extension longer than three days requires a price quote comparison for the direct route to and from the business location for the days of business. Additional expenses for parking, lodging, per diem, etc. will not be reimbursed for the personal days. If any other destinations (other than the normal connecting airports) not pertaining to the business purpose are included on the ticket, a price quote comparison will be required.

Travel Agencies

Travelers may use a travel agency to book business travel when department approvals have been obtained. The University’s preferred travel agency is Sunflower Travel. Contact Laurie O’Leary 316-733-2753 or email lolceary@sunflowertravel.com. WSU Travel Shared Services will not book any travel arrangements for you.

Border Cities

The University has designated any city in a state located within 200 miles of the borders of Kansas as a border city per WSU Policy 13.02. Travel to a border city under this policy does not require a TA, with the exception of when a travel agency is utilized to book a rental vehicle. The Travel Services Department verifies mileage figures reported for travel outside the borders of Kansas by Google maps, MapQuest or a similar tool.

Use of Personal Funds

Employees shall provide themselves with sufficient personal funds for all anticipated expenses. WSU employees are not allowed to use personal funds to pay for the travel expenses of other employees. However, if employees choose to share lodging accommodations, one employee maybe reimbursed for the entire room charge with the TR’s cross-referenced within TEM.
Transportation Expense

Reimbursable Transportation Expense
Expenses may be paid or reimbursed for transportation incurred for travel by private or leased vehicles, public transportation via commercial air flights, trains, buses, etc., and in some cases, charted or rental of special conveyances. Local transportation expenses such as city bus and taxicab fares are discussed in the Miscellaneous Expenses section.

Non-Reimbursable Transportation Expenses
Traveling to or from restaurants is considered personal travel and will not be paid or reimbursed. Travel insurance for airfare will not be paid or reimbursed. Additional transportation expense incurred as a result of an employee residing in a city or town outside of the employee’s official station or otherwise incurred because of an employee’s choice of residence are not reimbursable. First class airfare is a non-reimbursable expense.

Most Economical or Advantageous Mode of Transportation
The most economical mode of airline travel is generally tourist or economy class. The most economical mode of passenger train travel is generally first-class day coach. Specific justification must be furnished with the TR submitted for reimbursement of airfare or train fare when these classes are not used. If these classes are not available, a verifying statement from the travel agency, airline or passenger train company must be furnished with the TR. The State of Kansas audit group has reviewed the early boarding fee and deemed it to be discretionary and therefore is a personal and a non-reimbursable expense.

Cancellation of Flight
If the traveler used personal funds to purchase the airline ticket and the flight was cancelled, the traveler will be reimbursed for the expense. The traveler will submit supporting documentation of the cancelled ticket within TEM. Any efforts to obtain a refund of the unused portion of the ticket should be part of the documentation in the TR.

Flight Comparison Requirements
A Flight Price Quote Comparison should be obtained at the time the ticket is purchased or prior to travel and for the same dates as the actual business trip. Comparison must show the lowest available commercial economy airfare for one individual traveling to and from the business destination for the days of business only and at least two different airline carriers. The amount that is reimbursed is the lesser of the comparison or actual expense amount. One-way tickets CANNOT be used as a comparison. If you choose to leave from another location other than your Official Station or place of business you will need to complete the following: A comparison/quote obtained prior to travel must be attached indicating expenses are the lesser of the two, attach this to the TR.

Mileage Reimbursement for Private Vehicles
When claiming expenses for use of private automobile for in-state driving, mileage must be documented from point-to-point, as well as, destination and purpose. No mileage will be allowed for personal business such as travel to restaurants, etc. In addition to mileage, you may be reimbursed for parking and turnpike fees.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate
Personal automobiles will be reimbursed at a rate of $0.545 per mile for fiscal year 2018. These reimbursement rates are considered to cover all costs associated with the use of the privately owned conveyance. This includes, but is not limited to: gasoline, oil, tires, repairs, insurance (including uninsured losses, and insurance deductibles resulting from damage to the privately owned conveyance), license fees, depreciation costs and expenses of any type.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Exception
For an employee who elects to drive (mileage is greater than 800 miles round trip) in lieu of flying, only the amount up to the equivalent of the airline economy class fare will be reimbursed. This comparison should be made based on airfare.
rates available on the date the out-of-state travel request is approved. Documentation should be submitted with the TR in TEM.

**Vicinity Mileage**

Vicinity Mileage is defined as reimbursement to the employee for vicinity miles traveled by privately owned or operated conveyance during official state business within or in the area of the employee's official station or the city, town or location traveled to.

The total vicinity mileage traveled each day for each city should be reported separately on the employee's TR along with the purpose for traveling the vicinity miles and the name of the business’ or individuals contacted. The reimbursement request should be submitted monthly.

**Rental Vehicle**

Hertz and Enterprise are contracted with the State of Kansas and are the preferred rental companies within the state of Kansas. When using the BPC card to rent a vehicle, insurance coverage for Loss Damage Waiver and Collision Damage Waiver (LDW/CDW) is included and should not be accepted at the counter. However, if using your personal credit card you may select to accept LDW/CDW coverage with the rental agency and be reimbursed. Personal accident insurance (PAI), personal effects insurance (PEI), and other supplemental liability insurance (LIS) are considered personal expenses and not reimbursable. Passenger Van (12 or 15), truck and cargo van requires the traveler to not accept LDW/CDW coverage, it is built into the rental rate. Hertz will charge extra for drivers between the ages of 18-21. Enterprise drivers must be 21 years old to rent a vehicle and be 25 years old to drive a van. Hertz discount codes is 1978737 and Enterprise code is KS9999. If an accident occurs see the Accident Reporting Requirements section in this handbook.

**Accident Reporting Requirements**

If an accident occurs involving a rental vehicle being used for official state business, the following web site provides detailed information regarding the actions required by the vehicle operator. [www.wichita.edu/travel](http://www.wichita.edu/travel)

**Meal Requirements**

Employees may be reimbursed for Meals & Incidental Expense (M&IE) while in travel status. M&IE reimbursement is based on quarter days with the daily M&IE rate divided equally between quarters. M&IE is provided for the time in which the employee is in travel status, including the quarters the employee departs and returns. A meal cannot be reimbursed if the place at which the official business is conducted is within 30 miles of the employee’s official station or if a meal is provided at no cost to the employee. Additionally a department may reduce the meals with prior approval see ‘Reimbursement at a Reduced Subsistence Allowance’ section below for further clarification and procedure.

**Single Day Trips**

In limited circumstances and at the discretion of the department, employees may be reimbursed for one meal per day for official state business travel in which overnight travel does not occur. The meal can be reimbursed if the traveler’s workday is extended three hours or more beyond the regularly scheduled work day. The standard workday for a WSU employee is 8 hours, making them have to work 11 hours before qualifying for a meal. M&IE cannot be reimbursed if the place at which the official business is conducted is within 30 miles of the employee’s official station or if a meal is provided at no cost to the employee. One breakfast, lunch or dinner may be paid, as determined by the department, at the following percentage of the daily M&IE rate: Breakfast 15%, Lunch 35% or Dinner 50%.

**Reduced Meal Allowance for Meals Provided at No Cost to the Employee**

A department shall reduce the meal allowance by the amount shown below for each meal provided to an employee if the cost of meals is included in the cost of a registration fee or other fees or charges paid by WSU or supplied without cost
by another party. This includes complimentary breakfasts offered to employees at lodging establishments, excluding light continental breakfasts.

**Lodging Reimbursement**

Daily lodging rates will be determined SOLEY by the use of the CONUS – U.S. General Services Administration defined rates found at: [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov) rates are adjusted bi-annually. Taxes associated with lodging are not considered when applying the maximum lodging limit to the traveler's lodging rate. Lodging for only one night may be prepaid with a P-Card if a deposit is required.

Lodging expense reimbursement is limited to the lodging establishment's lowest available rate for normal single occupancy on the day (or days) the lodging expense was incurred. The official receipt from the lodging establishment must be part of the documentation submitted with the employee's TR. Receipts provided to employees using express checkout are also acceptable provided that the dates of lodging, the daily room rate and the total lodging charges are in agreement. Non-itemized lodging receipts are sufficient for reimbursement unless rates are higher than the single rate and/or include charges in addition to room rate and taxes.

**Direct Payment of Lodging**

Direct payment to lodging establishments can be made via check on behalf of employees in travel status on official state business. Advance payment for lodging is not authorized except one night of lodging may be prepaid with a P-Card if a deposit is required. Departments are encouraged to contact the lodging establishment in advance and make arrangements for the employee’s lodging. Travelers authorized to bill lodging directly to the agency should be specific at check-in as to the appropriate department to be billed for the charges. Prior to or at the time of checkout, travelers should pay all charges for meals, room service, personal phone calls, movies, laundry and any other miscellaneous personal charges. Each payment for lodging expense should include the name of traveler(s), date(s) of lodging, location of lodging, daily room rate, and purpose of travel. Attach itemized lodging receipt to the TR. Only lodging (lowest available rate for normal single occupancy) and appropriate taxes (no sales tax within the State of Kansas) should be paid directly to the lodging establishment.

**Reimbursement at a Reduced Subsistence Allowance**

A department may pay an employee a reduced amount for M&IE or lodging expense with prior approval of the Budget Officer. To document approval to pay a reduced subsistence amount, agencies should complete form DA-37, Reduced Subsistence Allowance, and obtain agency head or designee approval signature and date in advance of the beginning of the date of the travel event. The employee must be notified of the reduced subsistence rate in advance of the beginning date of the travel event. A copy of the approved form must be maintained with the support documentation for each TR within TEM.

**Travel Expense Reimbursement for Employees Who Become Incapacitated During Travel**

If an employee becomes incapacitated due to illness or injury while on official state business away from the official station or domicile, the department may authorize payment to the employee for appropriate expenses, not to exceed five days per SOK policy 3004.

**Miscellaneous Expenses**

Any personal expenses incurred while in travel status will not be reimbursable. Receipts evidencing all miscellaneous expenditures should be submitted with the TR, except that no receipts are required for: telephone calls, telegrams, local transportation charges, unattended parking meters, unattended toll booths and turnpike tolls.
Employees may be reimbursed for transportation charges incurred during travel to conduct official business such as: city bus, taxi fares, shuttle service and other forms of transportation. Receipts for these charges are not required. Local transportation charges for personal use, such as travel from a lodging establishment to a restaurant are not reimbursable.

Charges for baggage in excess of the weight or size carried free by transportation companies are reimbursable if such excess baggage is used for official business (excess personal baggage expense is not reimbursable). Charges for storage of the baggage are also reimbursable if related to official business. Specific written justification must be submitted with the TR for incurring the baggage weight and storage charges.

Student Travel
Student Travel is not processed through TEM unless the student is an employee and traveling in ‘paid status’ for the purpose of their job. Contact Academic Affairs to fill out their form if the student is traveling in the capacity of a student only.

When a student employee receives Student Government Association (SGA) funding it needs to be processed through TEM, with notation of the amount allowed.

When a student employee receives a scholarship through Graduate School and there are additional funding sources the scholarship needs to be noted in TEM.

WSU Foundation Reimbursing Expenses
If the travel expenses are being reimbursed through WSU Foundation, send an email to the Travel Services Department at wsutraveloffice@wichita.edu and request that the TA be closed because Foundation is reimbursing the expenses. Direct any questions regarding requirements for reimbursement to the Foundation.

Contact Us
wsutraveloffice@wichita.edu or 316-978-3070.