How Do I Buy or Handle … 

Restricted Purchases

Unallowable Expenditures

Some expenditures are considered improper uses of state funds. Some examples are gifts, flowers, holiday decorations or parties, etc.

The University’s Controllers office outlines restricted purchases through procedures.

General Restrictions

For various reasons relating to control and good business practices, university departments typically CANNOT purchase these goods and/or services. To purchase these items, the department should contact the Procurement Department or the entity responsible for overseeing the goods/services, if applicable. If an occasion arises where there is an appropriate need for a department to directly purchase the goods/services listed below, they must have written/documentated approval from Procurement or the entity responsible for overseeing the goods/services. Departments must maintain these approvals in their files for audit purposes.

NOTE: See Section Administrative and Pre-Approvals for an explanation regarding the entities responsible for specific purchases.

- Air conditioners, except for Physical Plant. Refer to University Policy 5705
- Alcoholic beverages
- Copier maintenance contracts
- Firearms and ammunition, except for Police Department; these items must be approved through the Police Department
- Lab Refrigerators, freezers and fume hoods
- Narcotics or dangerous drugs (prescription drugs), except for Student Health Services and Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
- Purchases from state employees or immediate family
- Radioactive materials. These materials must be purchased through Environmental Health and Safety Services
• Student Insurance
• Vendor issued gift cards or prepaid phone cards
• Yearly maintenance and/or service agreements paid monthly having an annual cost exceeding $10,000
• Any renovation, security/fire systems, painting, electrical, building locks/keys, etc. refer to University Policy 5405 and 5620. Any renovation, security/fire system, painting, electrical, building locks/keys (Requests must go through Facilities via HokieServ)

The following commodities need approval from The Police Department.

Drug Precursors:
• Anthranilic acid
• Norpseudoephedrine
• Benzyl cyanide
• Phenylacetic acid
• Ephedrine
• Phenylpropanolamine
• Ergonovine
• Piperidine
• Ergotamine
• Pseudoephedrine
• N-Acetylanthranilic acid
• Methylenedioxypyphenyl
• Propane

A record of this approval must be retained in the ordering departments purchasing and/or P-Card files. Police review and approval may be obtained from the Director of University Police, Police Department, (540) 231-6183.