

POLICY & PROCEDURES MEMORANDUM

TITLE:	PURCHASING PROCEDURES
EFFECTIVE DATE:	December 2, 2020* <i>(*Legislative Update, 1/2015 Emergency Purchases, 29 CFR 97.35 Update 8/11/2009; Title Updates 1/11/2006; Original 5/20/2003)</i>
CANCELLATION:	BA-3300.1A Legislative Update 1/2015
CATEGORY:	Business Affairs (BA)

POLICY STATEMENT

In compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39, Louisiana Procurement Code, and the Governor's Executive Order on *Small Purchases*, faculty and staff members must follow the methods and procedures mandated by the Office of State Purchasing as outlined in this memorandum to arrange or make valid purchases for the College. Only purchases of goods, supplies, and services obtained through these procedures are considered valid purchases of the College. ***Any purchase by College faculty or staff members without the prior consent of the Purchasing Department and/or obtained through any other method(s) will be the sole responsibility of the person making the unauthorized purchase.***

Prior to any commitment or purchase by the College, all purchases of goods, supplies, and services over the amount of \$30.00 (excluding professional service contracts as described in Section 13) must be approved by (1) the appropriate signature line of authority up through the necessary Dean, Executive Dean, or Vice Chancellor, (2) the Budget Office, and (3) the Delgado Community College Purchasing Department.

After a faculty or staff member follows the procedures outlined in this memorandum and provides pertinent information for a purchase, the Purchasing Department determines the appropriate method of purchase that complies with all College and State of Louisiana rules and regulations. The Purchasing Department then issues a purchase order to the appropriate vendor.

PROCEDURES & SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. **Purpose**

To establish policies and procedures for all purchases, rentals, and leases of services, materials, equipment, and supplies for Delgado Community College.

2. **Scope and Applicability**

This policy and procedures memorandum applies to all employees and student organization members of Delgado Community College.

3. **Definitions**

The following are definitions that are used throughout the purchasing process. Individuals involved in requesting purchases should become familiar with the following definitions as they are commonly referred to throughout the purchasing process.

Bid – A competitively priced offer made by an intended seller, usually in reply to an Invitation to Bid.

Business Office Liaison – The individual, designated by the department head, who has been trained by the Purchasing Department to have access to the department’s purchasing information on the online purchasing system.

Confirmation Purchase Order – A purchase order that is processed, but is not mailed out to the vendor. The order is placed via telephone, either by the buyer, or sometimes, by the end-user *only* as directed by the buyer. All confirming orders are marked “Confirmation Order.”

Contract – For the purposes of this memorandum, when used as a noun, “contract” refers to an agreement enforceable by law, between two or more competent parties, for the procurement of goods or services; when used as a verb, “contract” means to make an agreement regarding the procurement of goods or services.

Cover Order – A purchase order to one vendor for a set amount of money covering a specific period of time for the purchase of unnamed items on an “as needed” basis. Each cover order specifies which employees have the authority to purchase on the order.

Emergency – An occurrence of a serious and urgent nature demanding immediate attention. (See Section 11, *Emergency Purchases*, for more specific definition.)

End-User (Requestor) – The faculty or staff member or student organization member who has requested and will use the goods and/or services.

Goods – materials, equipment, supplies, printing and data processing hardware and software.

Invitation to Bid – A document containing or incorporating by reference the specifications or scope of work and all contractual terms and conditions used to solicit written bids for a specific requirement for goods or nonprofessional services.

Lease/Maintenance Purchase Order – A purchase order whose contents cover either the lease of goods for the College, or the maintenance and/or repair of goods currently belonging to the College.

Open Market Purchase – A purchase of \$10,000 or less that may be made without any form of competitive bidding.

Pre-paid Purchase Order – An executed purchase order for which the goods and/or services must be paid for prior to delivery.

Procurement – The procedure for obtaining goods or services, including all activities from the planning steps and preparation and processing of a requisition, through receipt and acceptance of delivery.

Purchase Requisition (see Requisition for Purchase)

Purchase Order – A document the College uses to execute a purchase transaction with a vendor. It serves as notice to a vendor that an award has been made and that performance can be initiated under the terms and conditions of the contract.

Regular Purchase Order – A purchase order executed by the Purchasing Department and mailed or faxed to the appropriate vendor.

Requestor (End-User) – The faculty or staff member or student organization member who has requested and will use the goods and/or services.

Requisition for Purchase – The form used by the College to initiate the procurement of goods or services.

Vendor – One who sells goods and/or services.

4. **Principles of Purchasing**

In accordance with State purchasing rules and regulations, the following principles are adhered to throughout the purchasing process.

- ***Authority to Purchase/Contract.*** A person must have specific authority to obligate the College to pay for goods and services. The Purchasing Department is the authorized department to place an order directly with a vendor or to enter into a non-professional services contract to obligate the College. Any purchase by College faculty or staff members without the prior consent of the Purchasing Department and/or obtained through any other method(s) will be the sole responsibility of the person making the unauthorized purchase. Depending on the circumstances, employees making unauthorized purchases may be subject to disciplinary action.
- ***Competition.*** The College buys goods and services through public competition and the College seeks to obtain goods and services at the best value. Value is assured when the goods and services are obtained in a timely manner, at an appropriate level of quality, with reasonable cost, through the appropriate level of competition, and in accordance with applicable state rules and regulations.
- ***Open Process.*** As a public institution, the College's purchases are open to public inspection and oversight. Formal sealed bids are opened publicly, and the amount of each bid is announced and recorded. Completed solicitations are public records and available for inspection by the public.
- ***Selection of Vendors.*** The College purchases from the lowest cost vendor who can meet the College's requirements. The Purchasing Department and the requesting department share responsibility for developing the specifications. Departments are encouraged to provide the names of vendors to the Purchasing Department in order to broaden the supplier base.
- ***Standards.*** Certain goods and services are standardized so as to take advantage of economies of scale. The Purchasing Director has the responsibility and authority to question the quality and kind of materials requested to ensure that the best interests of the College may be served. In particular, the College uses "state contracts" (commodities that are bid on a yearly basis by the Office of State Purchasing for use by all state agencies) whenever possible. The advantage of using these contracts is that no bidding is required regardless of the amount of the requisition (as described in Section 12, *State Contracts*).

- **Conflict of Interest.** College employees and student organization members may not personally benefit from their official positions or decisions. Any College employee or student organization member who has, or whose relative has, a substantial interest in any contract with, sale to, purchase from or service for the College must make known that interest to the College and refrain from participating in any manner in the process associated with procuring the good or service.

5. **Ordering Goods or Services for the College**

Any faculty or staff member may initiate a request for the purchase of goods, services, and/or supplies. For purchases over \$30.00, this is done by completing a [Requisition for Purchase Form](#), Form 3300/001 (Attachment A). After completing the form, the requestor gives it to the department's Business Office Liaison (a business office liaison is designated by each department head).

When the department's Business Office Liaison receives the request, he/she **determines if it is approved at the department's approval level**, and, if it is approved, enters it into the College's on-line purchasing system. Once entered, it is assigned a requisition number by the system. At that time, the requisition is automatically transferred through the designated signature line of authority. Each level throughout the signature line of authority has the option to approve, disapprove, or hold any request for purchase. Only after all appropriate approvals have been completed is the Purchasing Department authorized to act on the request.

6. **Methods of Purchase**

The correct method of purchase is determined by the Purchasing Department in accordance with state rules and regulations. ***It is not permissible to artificially divide a larger purchase into smaller purchases in an attempt to avoid the competitive bidding process or the solicitation of competitive bids.*** Usually, the method of purchase is determined by the monetary amount of the request as follows:

Purchases Under \$30.00

These requests are not put on a [Requisition for Purchase Form](#). Instead, with the approval of his/her supervisor, these purchases are made directly by a faculty or staff member who can then be reimbursed from the appropriate petty cash fund.

Purchases of \$30.01 - \$10,000

These requests may be purchased on the open market, usually from the requestor's recommended vendor. No bidding is required.

Purchases of \$10,000.01 - \$20,000

These requests may be bid by either telephone, facsimile, email or mail. Quotations must be requested from at least (3) bidders. The Purchasing Department determines the selection of vendors for bids. The end-user is encouraged to provide the Purchasing Department with suggested vendor names.

Purchases of \$20,000.01 - \$30,000

Written quotations are solicited from a minimum of five (5) vendors by either facsimile, email, hand delivery or mail. The appropriate terms, specifications, and special conditions are compiled by the Purchasing Department with the help of the end-user. Solicitations by facsimile, email or hand delivery are bid for a minimum of three business (3) days; solicitations by mail are bid for a minimum of ten (10) business days. An opening date is specified in the bid package and bids are accepted until that date. The bids must be returned to the Purchasing Department where they are reviewed, with the bid awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Purchases of \$30,000.01 and Above

These requests must be sent out in written format for a minimum of ten (10) business days to at least eight (8) appropriate vendors.* Any bids requiring installation may be subject to a longer timeframe. The appropriate terms, specifications, and special conditions provided by the end user will be compiled by the Purchasing Department. A specific time is set for a formal bid opening, and all solicited vendors are invited. At the appointed time and place, bids are opened publicly. All bids are reviewed and the bid is awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder following a fourteen (14) calendar day protest period. If equivalent bids are submitted, the requestor may be consulted before determining a vendor. For purchases of \$30,000.01 and above, an advertisement for the bid is placed in the appropriate newspaper(s).

The Purchasing Department follows these methods for purchases of goods, services, and supplies. In the case of circumstances requiring exceptions to these guidelines, the Purchasing Department follows the procedures for these exceptions as outlined by the *Louisiana Procurement Code*.

*As per 29 CFR 97.35 "Subawards to Debarred or Suspended Parties," debarred or suspended parties are ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs. The Purchasing Department verifies, through the State's Excluded Parties List System, that vendors selected to provide goods and services for over \$100,000 have not been suspended or debarred from Federal procurements and/or contracts.

*(*Legislative Update 1/2015;
29 CFR 97.35 Update 8/11/2009;
Title Update 1/11/2006; Original 5/20/2003)*

7. **Purchases Requiring Installation or Assembly Services**

When inputting requisitions that may require installation or assembly, including but not limited to electrical, construction or maintenance services, it is incumbent upon the requisitioning department's Business Office Liaison to notify the necessary department of the needed services and the expected arrival date of the purchase. Generally, installation or assembly could involve the services of either or both the Maintenance Department and the Office of Information Technology (OIT). In order to ensure that the equipment or moveable property is installed or assembled in an accurate and timely manner for use by the end user, this notification is required in order to provide the Maintenance Department and the Office of Information Technology with sufficient lead time to provide the needed services upon arrival of the purchased equipment.

If computer equipment is being purchased that deviates from the College's standard base configurations the purchase requisition must be approved by the Office of Information Technology (OIT). If OIT's services are needed, they must be requested through the [OIT Help Desk](#) upon purchase with an estimated date of delivery expected. If maintenance services are needed a Maintenance Work Order is submitted through the [Facilities and Planning Services](#) webpage, indicating an estimated delivery date, must be completed.

8. **Inquiries Regarding Status of Requisitions and Purchase Orders**

All faculty and staff members should consult the department's Business Office Liaison when inquiring about the status of a requisition or a purchase order. Business Office Liaisons have been trained to access this information on the online purchasing system. If necessary, the department's Business Office Liaison consults the Purchasing Department for further information.

9. **Changes to Requisitions and Purchase Orders**

A. **Changes to Requisitions for Purchase**

A faculty or staff member needing to change a requisition for purchase after it has been entered into the system must contact the department's Business Office Liaison to see if the change is possible within state purchasing guidelines. If the change is possible, the department's Business Office Liaison makes the necessary change(s) in the purchasing system and informs the Purchasing Department in writing of the change. Initial requisitions should be as accurate as possible. If the end user desires a postponed delivery date, this should be indicated in the "Delivery Date" section of the requisition.

*(*Legislative Update 1/2015;
29 CFR 97.35 Update 8/11/2009;
Title Update 1/11/2006; Original 5/20/2003)*

B. Changes to Purchase Orders

Changes to a purchase order may only be made by the Purchasing Department if the change is in accordance with state purchasing guidelines. Any faculty or staff member requesting a change(s) in a purchase order must contact the Purchasing Department. He or she is not authorized to make any changes, not even unilateral changes, to any order.

10. Planning Purchases for Summer Session and Fall Semester

Proper planning of purchases assists faculty and staff members in having the supplies and services needed at the appropriate time. Because of the deadlines required for each end-of-year budget closeout, purchasing for Summer Session and Fall Semester should be planned for prior to the end of the Spring Semester.

11. Emergency Purchases

The Chancellor, upon recommendation by the Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Affairs, may make or authorize others to make emergency procurements when there exists an imminent threat to the public health, welfare, safety, or public property under emergency conditions as defined in accordance with Office of State Purchasing regulations.

Every effort will be made to obtain quotations from three or more vendors when supplies, services, or major repairs are to be purchased on an emergency basis, except for standard equipment parts for which prices are established. Immediate purchasing shall be discouraged as much as is practicable. When supplies, services, or major repairs are urgently required and time does not permit the obtaining of written quotations, the Director of Purchasing may obtain quotations by telephoning or otherwise, but such quotations will be made on the relative purchase requisitions.

The Director of Purchasing will make a written determination of the basis of the emergency that includes the facts and circumstances leading to the conclusion that such procurement was necessary as well as a written determination detailing the steps taken prior to selecting a particular contractor and the basis for the final selection. The written determination shall be included in the contract file either prior to contracting or as soon thereafter as practicable.

12. State Contracts

"State Contracts" are commodities that are bid on a yearly basis by the Office of State Purchasing for use by all state agencies. The advantage of using these contracts is that no bidding is required, regardless of the amount of the requisition.

(*Legislative Update 1/2015;
29 CFR 97.35 Update 8/11/2009;
Title Update 1/11/2006; Original 5/20/2003)

The College uses state contracts whenever possible. Faculty and staff are encouraged to consult the Purchasing Department as to whether the item(s) or service(s) they are seeking are on state contract before pursuing other avenues of purchase. To research the possibility of using a state contract faculty and staff may access information on state contracts online at the [Office of State Purchasing](#) web site.

13. **Professional Services Contracts**

Securing vendors for professional services are handled differently from the procedures outlined in this memorandum; requisitions for purchase are not used for such purchases. Professional services such as consulting, artistic, medical, architectural, and management services, etc., are arranged through a Professional Services Contract (Form 3311/001) and are procured by the Business Affairs Office in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum BA-3311.1C, [Contracts for Professional, Personal, Consulting and Social Services](#).

14. **Cancellation**

This policy and procedures memorandum cancels BA-3300.1A, Legislative Update dated January 2015.

Policy Reference:

Delgado Policy and Procedures Memorandum BA-3311.1C,
[Contracts for Professional, Personal, Consulting and Social Services](#)
Louisiana Revised Statute 39, Louisiana Procurement Code
Office of State Purchasing Rules and Regulations
Governor's Executive Order, *Small Purchases*
U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 29 CFR 97.35 *Subawards to Debarred or Suspended Parties*

Review Process:

Ad Hoc Committee on Purchasing Procedures 3/18/2003
Business Affairs 4/22/202003
Executive Council 5/20/2003
Title Update - Approved by Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Affairs 1/11/2006
29CFR 97.35 Update - Approved by Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Affairs 8/11/2009
Legislative Update - Approved by Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Affairs 1/2015
Procedural Update - Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Affairs Approval 12/2/2020

Distribution: Distributed Electronically Via College's website

Attachment: Attachment A - [Requisition for Purchase Form](#) (Form 3300/001)