

#### **Business Office**

### Expense Reimbursement Procedure (Official College Business)

#### Purpose

Centenary College of Louisiana is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment that embraces the highest standards of ethical conduct and behavior. As stewards of its resources and reputation, faculty and staff share an important responsibility for upholding the standards of excellence that define the College and strengthen the community's trust and confidence in its integrity. As such, in all cases and situations, reasonableness and sound business judgment is required and expected, as well as proper approvals and auditable documentation.

- Intent is to ensure that individuals traveling on College business neither gain nor lose personal funds as a result of that travel.
- Applies to all authorized travel, other reimbursable business expenses, and moving reimbursements.
- Terms of any grant or contract take precedence if they are more restrictive. Federally funded projects are subject to the guidelines in OMB Circular A-21 *Cost Principles for Educational Institutions*.
- Departments may impose travel guidelines that are more restrictive than this policy.

#### A) Responsibilities of Travelers or Purchasers

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements, either independently or through a travel agency. Centenary College does not maintain a centralized travel service.
- Business expenses are paid by the College if authorized, incurred in connection with College business, and properly documented.
- Accidents or other incidents that may result in a claim to the College must be reported immediately to Risk Management.

#### **B)** Responsibilities of Approving Officials

- The approving official responsible for the budget to be charged should approve travel and business expenditures.
- If the requestor is the approving official, then the person to whom the requestor reports to should be the approver.
- An approving official may delegate temporary authority to review and approve expenditures under his or her area of responsibility (for example, vacations or sick leave) to another appropriate approving party. The temporary party should be competent in matters of operation and budget. It is the approving official's responsibility to notify the Business Office by email or other documented communication of this reassignment.
- Employees may not approve their own expenditures, nor may they approve expenditures for their supervisor or otherwise normal approving party. Every expense reimbursement request must include the second signature of the approving party.
- The approving official should understand the business purpose for the travel or entertainment, and be satisfied that the expense has been incurred and reported in a manner consistent with this policy.
- Vice presidents expense reports are to be approved by the President; and the President's expense reports are to be approved by the Chair of the Board of Trustees or Chair of the Audit Committee.

#### C) Penalties

- 1st Violation: A written warning will be issued to the requestor.
- 2nd Violation: A written warning will be issued to the requestor, supervisor/budget manager, and cabinet member.
- 3rd: Violation: Expenses will not be reimbursed.

## I. Requirements

The purpose of this policy is to document the allowable business expenses eligible for reimbursement. These include necessary and reasonable expenses as defined under Section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code. Also included is additional reference information that may be useful to Centenary employees in submitting employee expense reports in order to receive timely reimbursement. If you are not sure how to classify a certain expense, contact the Accounts Payable Coordinator for assistance or Business Office at business\_office@centenary.edu.

#### **Substantiation Requirements**

All expenses must be accompanied by a receipt or supporting documentation as described further in this policy. Failure to provide such will result in denial of reimbursement. The College only offers a per diem rate in special pre-approved situations.

#### **Falsification of Expenses**

Submitting fraudulent receipts or falsifying your expense report will result in disciplinary action, including possible employment termination from the College

#### **Reimbursable Expenses**

Reimbursable travel expenses are limited to those expenses that are ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the College's business. Faculty, staff and students conducting College business are required to use the most economical methods of travel when planning their travel arrangements.

#### **Reimbursement Authorization**

All employees with travel expenses must complete the Expense Reimbursement Statement form. The Statement must be signed by the individual to be reimbursed and a second signature as follows:

#### Up to \$3,000.00

Faculty:	Budget Manger or Provost
Staff:	Budget Manager or Department Supervisor
Students:	Faculty/Staff Organization Advisor and Dean of Student Development

#### Over \$3,000.00 but less than \$5,000.00

Faculty:	Budget Manger and Provost
Staff:	Budget Manager or Department Supervisor and Division Vice President
Students:	Faculty/Staff Organization Advisor and Dean of Student Development

#### Over \$5,000.00

Faculty:	Budget Manger, Provost, and VPFA
Staff:	Budget Manager, Department Supervisor, Division Vice President, and VPFA
Students:	Faculty/Staff Organization Advisor, Dean of Student Development, and VPFA

#### **Expense Report Submission Deadline**

Expense reports should be submitted to Accounts Payable within 30 days after travel expenses have been incurred. Expenses older than 60 days when submitted for payment are subject to forfeiture of payment. Reimbursement checks/direct deposit for properly completed and authorized Expense Reimbursement Statements are typically paid within 10 business days. Accounts Payable generates payments each Thursday, with the direct deposit being posted on the following day.

# **II. Reimbursement Requirements**

All expenses should be paid by the employee and submitted for reimbursement according to the following categories and guidelines:

#### **Disallowable Reimbursements**

- Disallowed College Purchases: The following list of disallowed charges is not meant to be comprehensive but should provide the user with guidance on the appropriateness of charges. Request for exceptions must be approved, in writing, by the Vice President for Finance and Administration prior to purchase.
- Personal Subscription
- Parking or Traffic Violations
- Airline Clubs
- Personal Entertainment (movies, books, magazines, etc.)
- Childcare Expenses and Pet Boarding
- Conference Tours
- Fees involved by extending the trip for personal vacation
- Gift Cards (These should be processed as an advance. Considered Taxable Income for Recipient. Will be reported on 1099 or W-2)
- Lost or Stolen Property
- Contractual Services
- Tobacco Products
- Cash Advances
- Electronics (computers, laptops, iPads, tablets, printers, fax machines, copy machines, etc.) not authorized by IT Department. Employees are required to contact the IT department for approval before ordering directly. An approval from the IT Department must accompany receipt(s)
- Costs incurred by unreasonable failure to cancel transportation or hotel reservations;
- Fines
- Accident insurance premiums
- Membership in AAA or airline clubs (exception may be made upon department approval for those who do substantial travel on College business);
- Other personal expenses such as "pay per view" movies, health and grooming services or supplies; hotel mini-bars
- The portion of rental car, hotel or other travel expense unrelated to College business;
- Excessive tips (Excess of 20%)
- Excessive alcoholic beverage purchases. The general rule of thumb is the College will reimburse one drink per meal, per person. Alcoholic beverages should be submitted on a separate receipt.

#### Allowable Reimbursements

The following is a list of allowed charges for the College. This list is not meant to be comprehensive but should provide the user with guidance on the appropriateness of charges.

• Airfare/Rail

- Business Meals with External Business Community Members. (This will include local business meals.)
- One alcoholic drink per meal, or one bottle for three or more attendees
- Car Rental
- Car Service
- Checked Baggage Fees
- Conference Registration
- Flight Insurance (With Cabinet level approval)
- Gasoline or Mileage
- Hotel Expenditures
- Membership Dues to Professional Organizations (Must be related to job duties)
- On or Off-Campus Lunches/Entertainment up to \$500 with only faculty, staff, and/or students present will be allowed. (Each divisional Vice President will have the authority to approve parties within the division, which contribute to the mission of the unit. This approval would allow for the purchase of small refreshments.)
- On-line Job Advertisements (Please contact Human Resources Department to place job advertisements with vendors.
- Operational/Instructional Supplies and Equipment
- Parking
- Professional Subscription Services
- Restaurants and Food Marts (conducting business for Centenary College)
- Shuttles
- Taxi Cabs
- Tolls
- Webinars

Reimbursement should be minimized and thus, only done when both the purchase is necessary and all other methods of direct payment have been exhausted. The following outline is intended to provide general guidance for receipts submitted for individual reimbursement. Vendor receipts should include an itemized listing of purchases made, not just the amount paid. Vendor receipts should include business name, address, itemized listing of purchases made, total charges and amount paid. The following are not acceptable: customer copy of credit card receipt listing only total amount, illegible copies, and copies where information is cut off by the copier. Please submit ensure you have original receipts in hand and legible electronic versions are submitted.

Examples provided include, restaurant, store, taxi, parking, train, hotel, and air fare. You should use these as a guideline and apply the principles to various types of transactions.

- <u>Restaurant receipts should include: (see Example 1)</u>
  - Name of restaurant
  - Date
  - Number of guests
  - Itemized listing of food/beverages and price of each
  - Total charges
  - Amount paid

- Not acceptable:
  - Customer copy of credit card receipt listing only amount
  - Copies not legible or information cut off by copier
  - Purchase of alcoholic beverages

#### • Store receipts should include: (see Examples 2 & 3)

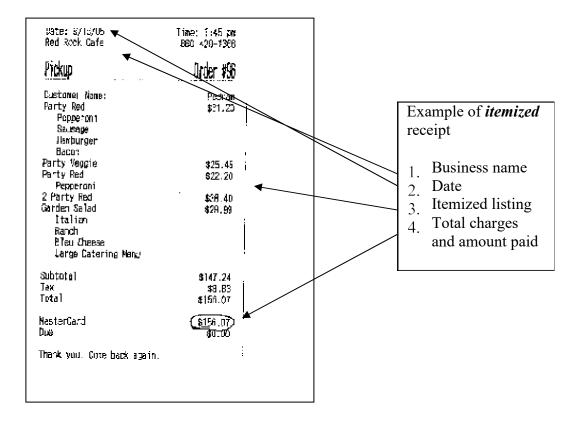
- Name of store
- Date
- Itemized listing of purchases and price of each
- Total charges
- Amount paid
- Not acceptable:
  - Customer copy of credit card receipt listing only amount
  - Copies not legible or information cut off by copier
  - Personal purchases cannot be reimbursed
  - Purchase of alcoholic beverages
- <u>Taxi receipts should include: (see Example 4)</u>
  - Name of taxi company/driver
  - Date
  - Destination from/to
  - Amount including tip if applicable
  - Not acceptable:
    - Blank receipts

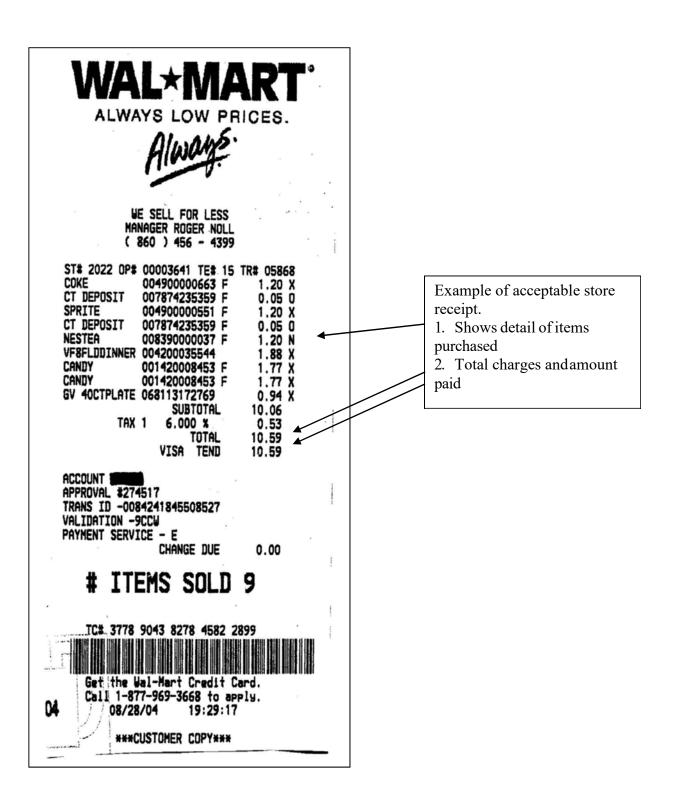
Parking receipts should include: (see Example 5)

- Name of company
- Date and time in
- Date and time out
- Total charges
- Amount paid
- Not acceptable:
  - Blank receipts
- Train receipts should include: (see Example 6)
  - Name of railroad
  - Date
  - Number of tickets purchased
  - Total charges
  - Amount paid
- Hotel receipts should include: (see Example 7)
  - Name of hotel and address
  - Check in date
  - Check out date
  - Number of guests/rooms
  - Room rate/taxes/fees per night's stay
  - Total charges
  - Amount paid

- Not acceptable:
  - Customer copy of credit card receipt listing only amount
  - Copies not legible or information cut off by copier
- Hotel/Airfare itinerary receipts should include: (see Examples 8 & 8a)
  - Name of business and address
  - Dates of travel
  - Number of guests/rooms
  - Room rate/taxes/fees per night's stay
  - Names of all traveling if in group
  - Total charges
  - Amount paid
  - Not acceptable:
    - Customer copy of credit card receipt listing only amount
    - Copies not legible or information cut off by copier
- Car rental receipts should include: (see Example 9)
  - Name of business and address; contact information
  - Dates of rental
  - Type of vehicle rented
  - Rates/taxes/service fees per vehicle
  - Total charges
  - Amount paid
  - Not acceptable:
    - Customer copy of credit card receipt listing only amount
    - Copies not legible or information cut off by copier

Example 1 - Restaurant Receipt





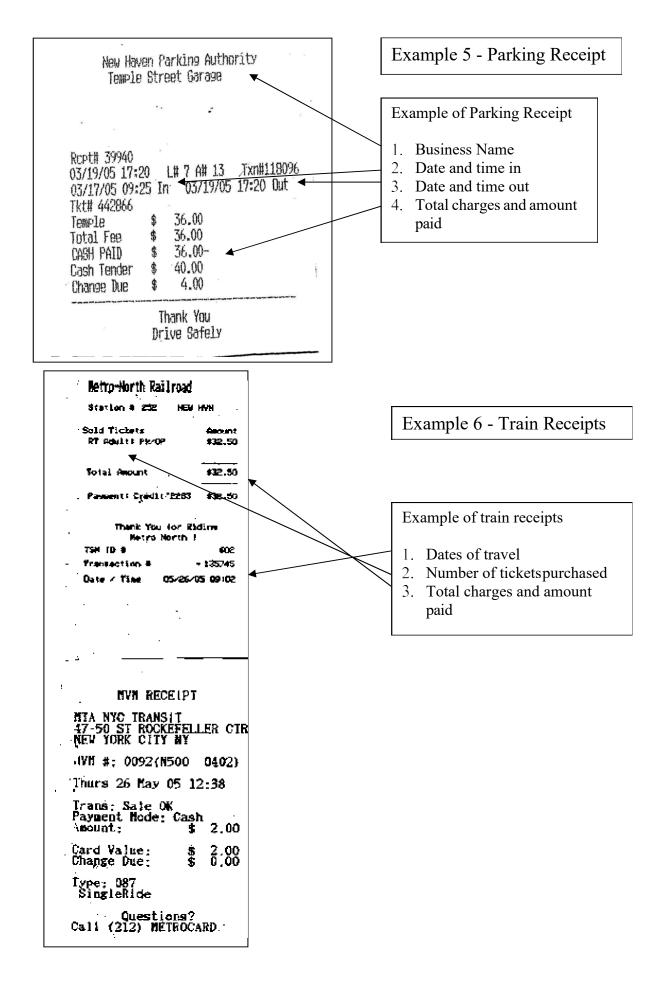
## Example 3 - Store Receipt - Cash Payment

	PLES
Low prices. E 110% Price- 35 Tal ' Vern	very item. Every day. Match. Guaranteed. cottville Road on, CT 06066 0) 870-4032 000572 1 006 45511 0109 01/12/05 11:16 OUR PRICE
1 125 CARD PETI 071912670605 1 A-Z INDEX 11X6 072782113230 SUBTOTAL Standard Tax 6 TOTAL Cash	5.19 3.5 R 3.59 8.78
Cash Change	10.69
TOTAL	ITEMS 2
with Staple	are and Save s-brand products. HOPPING AT STAPLES !

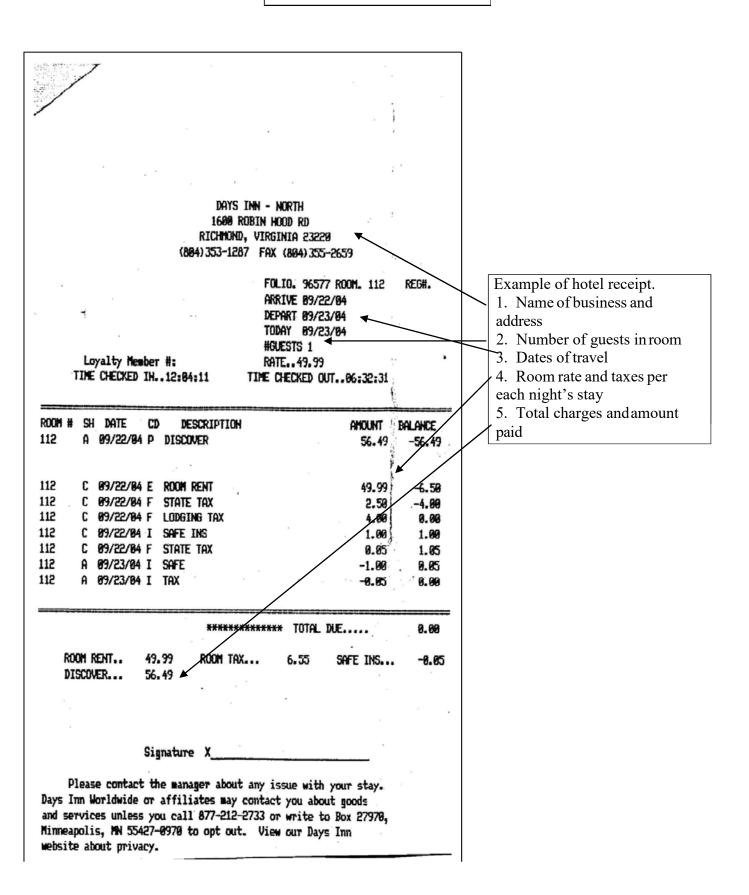
Example of *itemized* receipt showing payment by cash

# Example 4 - Taxi Receipt

American United Taxicab Services 646 South Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53204 Phone: 414-220-5000	
Date: 11/4/05 Amount: \$\$10.00   From: Valley Fields   To: Executive Inn   Driver: 12/3 CAB# 215	Example of taxi receipt 1. Business name 2. Date 3. Amount paid 4. Destination



#### Example 7 - Hotel Receipt



### Example 8 - Travel Itinerary Receipt

This is example of an itinerary submitted for reimbursement for complete travel including airfare and hotel. The itinerary is submitted when E-tickets are used for travel.

	Traveling, I			
	Norwalk, CT 06851 203-852-81 Fax 203-852-9322	100		www.traveling-inc.com
CUSTOMER	RSON: MR ITINE NBR: 1234567890	RARY/INVOIC	E ND.	DATE: Ø1 NOV Ø Page: Ø1
		•		Thank You!
FOR:			<b>x</b>	ORIGINAL INVOICE
29 DEC 94 AIR	AMERICA WEST LV NEW YORK JFK DEPART: TERMINAL 7 AR PHOENIX ARRIVE: TERMINAL 4 SE	FLT:11	ECONOMY 780A 1940A	FOOD FOR PURCHASE ERP: AIRBUS A319 ØSHR 4ØMIN NON-STOP REF: VC44BT
	PHOENIX DAYS INN DAYS INN TEMPE ASU 1221 E APACHE BLVD TEMPE AZ 85281 FONE 480-968-7793 FAX 480-968-4450 GUARANTEED LATE ARRI CONFIRMATION		OUT-22DEC 2 NIGHTS 1 ROOM RATE-53.10USD CANCEL BY Ø4P	PER NIGHT Day of Arrival
	AMERICA WEST LV PHOENIX DEPART: TERMINAL 4 AR NEW YORK JFK ARRIVE: TERMINAL 7 SE	FLT:14 AT-21D AT-21F	ЕСОНОМУ 1256Р 729Р	FOOD FOR PURCHASE EGP: AIRBUS A319 Ø4HR 33MIN NON-STOP REF: VC44BT
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	NORWALK TRANSACTION FEE VOUCHER	BILLED		40.05 40.00
OFFICIALITY PARTY	CE Tensiles leo lo activo es intermetitors osas	CONTINUED	ON PAGE 2	inte oc booking for one door which are not directly

Example 8a - Continuation of Itinerary Receipt

This is continuation of itinerary showing amount due and credit card payment made.

	322	www.traveli	ng-inc.con
SALES PERSON: MR CUSTOMER NER: 1234567890	ITINERARY/INVOICE NO.	DATE: PAGE:	01 NOV 02
10:		7hank'	You!
FOR:		ORIG	BINAL INVOID
AIR TICKET } ELEC TKT AIR TICKET ELEC TKT	BILLED TO		330.3
	SUB TOTAL NET CC BILLING		741.4
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		Ø.(
TICKETS ARE NON REFUN THE HOTEL IS GUARANTES CAN PAY THEM DIRECTLY THE DAYS INN HAS AN A LOOK FOR THE COURTES UPON ARRIVAL THESE ARE E TKTS	RE 1 1/2 HR CKIN AND A VALID PHOT DABLE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE FEES ED ON THE CREDIT CARD AND YOU UPON ARRIVAL AND CHECKOUT IRPORT SHUTTLE Y PHONE IN THE BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA KT NUMBERS ARE '		

Example 9 - Car Rental Receipt

