

When will Uniform Guidance be implemented?

Uniform Guidance went live for all campuses on July 1, 2018.

What are the Federal funding thresholds?

The micro-purchase threshold is \$10,000, and the Simplified Acquisition Threshold is \$250,000. The CA Public Contract Code requires the UC to bid at a lower threshold – \$100,000. However, because the stricter rule applies, the Federal bid threshold is also \$100,000 for UC. Purchases between \$10,000 and \$100,000 either could be informally quoted or formally bid, since we encourage competitive bidding when possible.

How do these thresholds apply to mixed funding?

As an example: If you have a transaction around \$100,000, with \$9,000 in Federal funds and \$91,000 in State funds, you would only have to adhere to State law. In other words, if it's over \$100,000, you would bid, and if it's under \$100,000 you wouldn't have to bid (although it's always a good idea). But, if the Federal funds portion is over the \$10,000 threshold, you must adhere to Federal requirements for the whole transaction.

Is the \$100,000 threshold an annual amount or per agreement? What if it is a 3- or 5-year agreement?

For Federal funds, if you know the total contract will be over the \$100,000 threshold, even if the contract stretches over multiple years and is under \$100k annually, the transaction should still be treated as over the \$100,000 threshold and subject to Uniform Guidance and FAR.

The procedures for non-Federally funded transactions under \$100,000 has not changed.

Using the example of a 5-year contract with \$25k per year in expense, UG says because the overall contract would be greater than \$100k, it should be bid and the SSPR form should be used. But, Bus-43 states that our bid requirement is “annual expenditures greater than 100k.” So, as an expenditure under \$100k or more annually, our policy does not compel a bid.

How do we manage competing requirements between UG, FAR and Bus-43?

The UG and FAR allow non-Federal entities to use our own policies, but only to the extent they comport with Federal requirements. In other words, BUS-43 does not trump Federal regulations. If a non-Federal entity knows they are purchasing a good or service over the competitive bid threshold, then we need to treat it as such. The Simplified Acquisition Threshold does not limit the transaction dollar value to a time value – it is an “anticipated value” when using Federal funds.

How does the SSPR Form work for multi-year systemwide contracts, like Fisher Scientific/VWR? Is a Form required for each and every transaction which meets the Federal fund \$10k threshold?

Yes, the form is required for each transaction to document for the government how the purchase was made. While UG and FAR support the use of competitively bid blanket contracts, the requirement to document each transaction is required by UG and FAR as part of the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

Is the SSPR Form required for catalog transactions that exceed the \$10k Federal fund threshold?

Yes, the form is still required as noted above. Your eProcurement system can route orders based on account string, vendor, or dollar amount. Alternatively, your campus may opt for another option for documenting the purchases.

Is it recommended that Campus departments document Source Selection and Price Reasonableness for under \$100,000 (non-Federal) and under \$10,000 (Federal), even though it's not required?

*That is a campus decision. Some campuses continue to document all purchases under \$100,000 though it is **not** required by the State, or purchases under \$10,000 though it is **not** required Federally.*

In situations where campus funds are being used up front, and then being rebated or reimbursed by Federal funds, would Uniform Guidance apply?

Yes, in any case where Federal funds are being used – either upfront or reimbursed later – Uniform Guidance would apply.

Is this form needed for internal use of funds, like recharges between campus departments?

No, you do not need to use this form for internal use, only with outside vendors.

Who will train campus departments on completing the form?

The form is located on the UCOP website with a set of comprehensive instructions for completing the Form. These instructions also include detailed definitions of terms, along with additional resources. If department users run into problems completing the form, they can contact their campus Procurement Department or Dept. of Contracts and Grants or Research liaison group for coaching to complete it.

Will campus departments revolt upon needing to complete this form?

The campuses that have already implemented UG haven't experienced trouble rolling it out to their departments. Ultimately, this is part of the terms and conditions requirements for Federal awards. Whether they realize it or not, researchers have already done this work, they just have to document it now.

Will requiring a department signature on the SSPR Form prevent POs from being approved in a timely manner?

The person responsible for the funding on the transaction within that campus department should sign the form at the same time as they complete the form, so there should not be a delay. Departments could put together a list of account approvers to expedite the completion of the form. Electronic signatures are acceptable.

Can an assistant sign the SSPR form for a PI?

The signature is essentially a certification of whom made the decision to work with that vendor using that account string/fund. If an assistant made that purchase decision, they can sign the form. However, to avoid fraud, the person responsible for the funding and the purchase decision must be the one to sign the form.

Does Procurement need to sign the SSPR form?

No, procurement does not need to sign it. When this form accompanies a requisition, Procurement will review the form, and validate that the information meets governmental requirements. Purchasing will not approve the requisition without having conducted this review.

How should we attach the forms?

When using the fillable PDF format, all relevant documents can be attached to the requisition as a packet. When using the form in Word(.doc) format, attach the documents to the requisition.

Once the form is signed and approved, where should it be maintained for record-keeping?

It should be attached to the requisition in the campus eProcurement system. If your departments keep files internally, the form should be filed with the records for that transaction.

Do PIs need to verify that change of brand, manufacturer or supplier would compromise the continuity and integrity of a project?

In the sole source description, the PI needs to describe what would happen if they did change brands and how it would impact their project, including costs, delays, etc.

Does Conflict of Interest (COI) apply to mixed funds, and does it apply to retired staff as well?

Conflict of Interest requirements apply regardless of funding source – Federal, non-Federal or mixed funding. Yes, the UC-COI policy applies to retired staff if they are the Supplier receiving funds, check BUS-43 for COI details.

Do small businesses need to be certified?

Yes, the University defines a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) as an independently owned and operated concern, certified, or certifiable, as a Small Business by the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA), by applicable state or local government agencies (such as the California Department of General Services Office of Small Business & Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise) and other recognized certifying agencies or councils.

UC SOURCE SELECTION & PRICE REASONABLENESS (SSPR) FORM
— FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS —

Can purchasing be limited to companies within the USA?

Though there may be advantages to limiting purchasing geographically, Federal government funding doesn't allow us to limit purchasing to the US, unless overseas companies cannot meet particular specifications of a project (such as data security or necessary response time requirements, etc.).

Is the SSPR form required for Facility Manual Contracts (e.g. Construction)?

No; the SSPR form is only required for the Procurement of non-construction goods and services.

Is the SSPR form required for purchases done by construction contractors on behalf of the University? (For example, equipment to fill a building during a new building project, procured by UC's contractor or a sub-contractor using their systems, not ours.) *Same answer as above, if the purchase is handled under a construction contract.*