

Lamar University New Credit Card Policy

What is changing?

Effective January 1, 2010, Lamar University has adopted a new policy regarding the acceptance of credit cards as payment for tuition and fees.

- If paying with a credit card, a convenience fee of 2% of the total payment amount, with a \$3.00 minimum, will be charged.
- You can avoid paying the convenience fee by utilizing the new Electronic Check option. Electronic Check enables you to make payments directly from any checking or savings account.
- **VISA credit cards will no longer be accepted** for payments of tuition and fees. The University will continue to accept Master Card, American Express and Discover.

Credit cards offer a convenient manner for students and parents to pay tuition and fees, however, the cost to the University for providing this service has grown to more than \$400,000 annually. In fairness to the entire student body, the University has decided to require those who want the convenience of paying with a credit card to cover a portion of the cost. This change will benefit the University and allow us to allocate those resources to other priorities.

How was the 2% rate determined?

Section 54.5011 of the Texas Education Code allows the University to recover the direct costs charged to the University by the credit card companies. The 2% was based on an estimate of those direct costs. All amounts collected are to recover existing costs and the University will continue to pay for a portion of the cost of accepting credit cards.

Why is VISA no longer accepted?

VISA will not allow the University to assess a convenience fee that is based on a percentage of the amount charged.

Can I make a credit card payment in person or over the phone?

Credit card payments can only be made online. No credit cards will be accepted at the cashier's office or over the phone. Several conveniently located self service kiosks will be placed around campus for you to use to make credit card payments. Kiosks locations will be in the Wimberly Building, Shelia Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, Cardinal Village Phase II and Plummer Administration, Room 114.

Is there a way I can avoid paying the 2% convenience fee?

You can avoid paying the 2% convenience fee by paying in person with cash or check at the Cashier's Office located in the Wimberly Building Room 114. You may also mail a check to P.O. Box 10183, Beaumont, TX 77710. Please include your student ID number on your check. Be sure to mail your

payments at least one week before a payment due date to avoid having your classes dropped and/or late fees being assessed to your account.

To avoid the convenience fee online, you may use the electronic check option which deducts the payment directly from a checking or savings account.

Will the convenience fee be included on my student account?

No. The convenience fee is assessed in addition to the charges listed on your student account. It is only assessed when you choose to pay with a credit card and it will not appear on your student account. The charge will appear as a separate line item on your credit card statement.

How will I know how much the convenience fee will cost?

When you elect to process a payment online, you will receive a message that a fee will be assessed for the use of a credit card. The message will include the amount that will be charged to your credit card that is in addition to the amount you are paying on your student account. The charge will be 2% of the total amount paid or \$3.00, whichever is greater.

Are other Universities charging a convenience fee for credit card transactions?

Yes. Convenience fees are not unique to Lamar University. Campuses of the University of Texas System and the Texas A & M System and other universities in Texas, as well as other states, charge a fee for the convenience of using credit cards online as a form of payment.