

Credit Card Merchant Account Fees
Updated April 2024

Departmental Merchants with Dedicated Merchant Account

If credit card merchant status is requested, and the office of Finance has determined that a dedicated account is necessary, please note the department is financially responsible for interchange, bank and applicable payment gateway fees. Interchange fees are assessed by card associations, namely Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover, and bank fees are assessed by Wells Fargo Merchant Services. Additional charges may apply such as payment gateway or other third party service charges necessary to enable the business solution to connect with the payment processor.

Interchange fees will depend on:

1. Whether or not the product or service being sold qualifies for an **'emerging markets'** rate available only to universities on the sale of specific goods and services to students for educational related expenses;
2. How the payment is processed (i.e., by the card being present, online, etc.);
3. The card brand of Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover; and
4. The type of card used by the customer (e.g., Business, Purchase, Corporate, Corporate or Consumer Elite or World Perk program cards, etc.)

Departments that qualify for **emerging markets** rates can expect to pay between 1.5% and 2.50% depending on how the payment is processed, the card brand, and the type of card used by the customer. Activities not qualifying for emerging markets rates, such as event registration, can expect to pay between 2.0% to 5.0%, depending on how the payment is processed, the card brand, and the type of card used by the customer.

Indirect Department Merchants

Event Registration, seasonal credit card merchants, and other low-volume merchants who utilize payment systems managed centrally through CASHNet, or the university's central portal are allocated fees based upon actual fees paid by the university. Event registration users typically do not qualify for the **emerging markets** rate, and as such the fees assessed will be higher than the emerging markets-qualifying departments.

CASHNet Event Registration and Central Portal users: Fees are allocated at a rate of 2.5%

Target-X Data Base and Registration System Users: Fees are allocated at a rate of 2.5%

Before accepting credit card payments in any form, please contact the Office of Finance at compliance@sandiego.edu or extension 260-2248 for merchant type designation and specific instructions.