Exceptions to Competitive Requirements

Demand and Non-Demand Payments. The university may enter into contracts without competition for the following goods and/or services at the specified dollar amount(s). (§37 of the Governing Rules)

The purchase of good or services at ANY dollar amount that are produced/performed by or related to:

- Persons, in schools or workshops, under the supervision of the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
- Nonprofit sheltered workshops or other nonprofit organizations that offer transitional or supported employment services serving the handicapped
- Private educational institutions
- Other public educational institutions
- Speakers and performing artists
- Memberships and Association dues
- Sponsored research grant sub-awards and contract sub-awards, not to include the purchase of goods or services by Mason
- Group travel in foreign countries (including residencies)
- Conference facilities and services
- Participation in intercollegiate athletic tournaments and events including team travel and lodging, registration and tournament fees
- Royalties
- The purchase of legal services, provided that the Office of the Attorney General has been consulted, or expert witnesses or other services associated with litigation or regulatory proceedings
- Postage

Normally, competition is either not practicable or available for purchase of the following goods or services at a value not to exceed $200,000:

- Accreditation fees and academic testing services
- Advertisements/Advertising – all media
- Athletic officials appointed by the NCAA
- Books, printed materials, publications, reprints and subscriptions (e.g., print or electronic)
- Videocassettes and slide presentations when only available from the publisher/producer
- Booth space at conferences, exhibits, fairs and product shows
- Conference fees, course fees, seminars, training sessions, tuition and other registration fees when attended by university employee
- Court reporters
- Currency exchange services
- Facility rental
- Federal mentor-protégé projects
- Film rentals when only available from the producer or protected distributors
- Library books and other items for the library’s collection as per applicable Library acquisition procedures
- Lodging services
- Maintenance contracts for high-cost, sophisticated, scientific equipment where there is no known competitor and service must be purchased from the manufacturer of the equipment

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- Maintenance contracts for service of mainframe and super computers for which there is no competitive source available to service the equipment
- Pass through procurements (examples include contracting for alumni functions for which the institution is reimbursed by the alumni and materials purchases for students by a faculty member using state and for which the students fully reimburse the institution).
- Purchases from the federal government, other states and their agencies or institutions, and public bodies as long as the price is judged to be fair and reasonable
- Other purchases, less than $200,000, when determined in writing by the Purchasing Department.
- Referees, officials and umpires for intercollegiate athletic events
- Specialized software that is not available through ITS (when approved by ASC)
- Software maintenance contracts for software already purchased and in use at the university
- Software site licenses
- Software upgrades
- Student workshops (i.e., SOM-MBA programs, OCPE, etc.)
- Surplus property from the State or Federal government
- Testing or evaluation services
- Translation Services
- Used equipment (including vehicles)
- Utilities – Electricity, Natural Gas, Water, etc. at any dollar level. Note: If purchasing from a governmental source (i.e. Fairfax County) sole source is not required however reference should be made to COV §2.2-4301
- Writers

Other purchases that are greater than $100,000 but do not exceed $200,000, shall utilize informal competition, which includes either obtaining 3 quotes (2 SWaM where practicable) or just 2 SWaMs.

- Catering services
- Consulting services
- Education services, training courses, classes for students
- Facilitators/Mediators
- Photographers/Videographers
- Training sessions/workshops for employees

*Purchases not specifically outlined in this guide, must follow the stated procurement procedures outlined in the Purchasing Made Easy Manual. Please contact the Purchasing department for additional questions at purch1@gmu.edu or at ext. 3-2580.*