Panther Funds

Panther Funds in place of cash

Like most people, you probably can’t get through a typical day without some cash in your pocket or purse. A few dollars come in handy when you’ve missed a meal and want a snack to keep your energy level up. Or when you aren’t feeling well and need a remedy from the drugstore. And every now and again you have to scrape up a handful of change to do your laundry.

But sometimes carrying cash can seem like more trouble than it’s worth. If you lose a crisp new $20 bill, the odds are it is gone for good. If your money is stolen, you’re in the same boat—anyone can spend it with no questions asked.

Panther Funds are a safe, convenient alternative to carrying cash. You use your Panther Card to access prepaid “stored value” Panther Funds for the purchase of books, food and beverages, merchandise, and a variety of services at locations both on and off campus. And with your picture on your Panther Card, no one but you can use it to access your funds.

Easy and safe

Panther Funds are as easy to use as they are safe.

Getting started is simple. Panther Funds is a free program that the University makes available to all students. There are no set-up costs or transaction fees with your Panther Funds account, and no minimum balance is required. As soon as you first arrive on campus, you can access your Panther Funds for the purchase of merchandise and services at participating merchants both on and off campus.

You can add Panther Funds to your account even before your official arrival on campus. Just go to Panther Central in the Litchfield Towers Lobby during your Pitt Start session to get your Panther Card and add Panther Funds on the spot. You also can call Panther Central at 412-648-1100 or use any of the following options to “load” funds onto your Panther Card:

Online: Students can go to the Panther Central Community at http://my.pitt.edu. Parents and guests can add funds by going to www.pc.pitt.edu/card/funds.html. This option is available only after students have received their official University-issued e-mail account, user name, and password.

In Person: Stop into Panther Central in the Litchfield Towers Lobby with cash, a check, or a valid Visa or MasterCard credit card and we’ll add funds to your card on the spot.

Telephone: Call Panther Central with a valid Visa or MasterCard credit card and we’ll add funds to your card.

Cash Management Center: Use the Cash Management Center (CMC) kiosks in the Litchfield Towers Lobby, Cathedral of Learning, the Barco Law Building, Victoria Hall, Hillman Library, or Bevier Engineering Library to load Panther Funds with cash or a valid MasterCard or Visa credit card.

Mail: You can add funds to your account by mailing a check to Panther Central with a note of instruction.

Important Note: Although we describe this process as “loading the card,” no actual value is stored on the card itself. The card simply serves as a way of accessing funds that the University holds in escrow on your behalf. If your card is lost or stolen, your funds will not also be lost or stolen.
Using Panther Funds

Parents are often relieved to know that Panther Funds can only be used for purchases—you cannot withdraw cash from your Panther Funds, nor can you get cash back with your purchases. You can use your Panther Funds to buy just about any necessity or pleasant indulgence at a large and growing number of on-campus and off-campus merchants.

These on-campus merchants accept Panther Funds:
The Book Center, The Health Book Center, Packages Plus, Panther Central, Parking Services Office, The Pittsburgh Panthers Team Store, and The Pitt Shop: Buy your textbooks, Pitt merchandise, and classroom and residence hall supplies and purchase parking and mailing services with Panther Funds.

University Libraries: Use Panther Funds to pay for photocopies and fines.

Laundry and Vending Machines: Use your Panther Funds in University laundry facilities or on-campus vending machines. Simply swipe your Panther Card through the card reader and make your selection; plus you get a 25-cent discount on each load of laundry when you use Panther funds. The days of scouring for loose change are over.

Copiers: Pay for copies and other services at the on-campus copy center. You also can use your Panther Funds at copiers located throughout the University Library System and the School of Law, the School of Nursing, and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Campus Dining Facilities, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Starbucks Coffee Carts: Use your Panther Funds the same as you would use cash to buy meals, beverages, and snacks at any of the University’s dining service facilities.

Student Health Service: Use Panther Funds to pay for prescriptions and services at the Student Health Service in the Medical Arts Building at 3708 Fifth Avenue.

Department of Theatre Arts: Use Panther Funds to purchase tickets to any Department of Theatre Arts performance at the Stephen Foster box office on the ground floor of Stephen Foster Memorial.

Checking your balance

Each time you use Panther Funds for a purchase, your remaining balance appears on your receipt and on the transaction terminal, whether it is a cash register or a vending machine. You also can check your balance online at the Panther Central Community at http://my.pitt.edu or at the Cash Management Center (CMC) kiosks in the Litchfield Towers Lobby, Cathedral of Learning, the Barco Law Building, Victoria Hall, Hillman Library, or Bevier Engineering Library. We do not provide balance information over the telephone.

Transaction history

View and print Panther Funds statements at the Panther Central Community at http://my.pitt.edu.

Lost your card? Your funds are safe.

If your Panther Card is lost or stolen, you should report it immediately to Panther Central at the Panther Central Community at http://my.pitt.edu, by telephone at 412-648-1100, or in person at Panther Central, Litchfield Towers Lobby.

When you receive a new card, or when we reactivate a card that you reported missing but later found, you will immediately have access to the Panther Funds that remained on your card at the time you reported it missing.

You may pay a replacement fee each time you receive a new Panther Card.

Additional information on Panther Funds is available online at www.pc.pitt.edu/card/funds.html.

Be venturesome!

There is so much more to attending our urban University than academics alone. Using Panther Funds at participating community merchants allows you to expand your horizons by experiencing the diversity of the surrounding Oakland community. Download a complete list of participating merchants from www.pc.pitt.edu/publications.html (click on “Participating Panther Funds Merchant List”).

Dining: Sample exotic new cuisines, revel in the perfect pastrami, discover the many different ways pizza can be prepared, practice capturing noodles with chopsticks, try some hot and spicy wings, eat the best cheese fries, treat yourself to a homemade ice cream cone, or indulge in a delectable pastry.

Practicalities: Stock up on sundries and convenience supplies, or go grocery shopping.