



Wills and Estate Gifts at Abilene Christian University

Your last gift can leave an enduring legacy



ABILENE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY



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Your last gift can leave an enduring legacy

Estate gifts build – and have helped build – Abilene Christian University into the institution of excellence it is today. From building the university’s endowment, to creating scholarships, to founding entire programs and schools, estate gifts to ACU have changed the landscape of what we can offer to our students – and to the world.

Including a gift in your estate plan costs you nothing now, but your legacy support will likely have more of an impact on future generations than you may have ever imagined.

While endorsing ACU’s mission of training students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world, you also can receive important tax benefits. All estate gifts to ACU are free from federal estate taxes, and gifts of certain assets – such as retirement plan assets – allow you to donate assets that may have been tax liabilities to your other beneficiaries.

Whether you want to memorialize loved ones, minimize tax obligations for your heirs, or simply find a way to maximize your support to the parts of ACU you care about the most, estate gifts encompass a variety of giving methods that can be tailored to the legacy you want to leave.



What language should I use to make a gift to ACU?

Unrestricted gifts are especially valuable to ACU because they allow the university to fulfill its highest priorities and greatest needs and to quickly respond to the ever-changing higher education landscape. Sample language for an unrestricted gift:

*I give and bequeath _____
(include a specific dollar amount or percentage) of my _____
(entire/residual) estate to ABILENE
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY for its
general purposes.*

Restricted gifts allow you to support a particular program or purpose you might have in mind. You may choose to help fund scholarships, special programs, pioneering research, faculty salaries, or a particular area or department of interest. Sample language for a restricted gift:

*I give and bequeath _____
(include a specific dollar amount or percentage) of my _____
(entire/residual) estate to ABILENE
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY to ...*

... provide scholarships for students attending ACU.

*... provide support for _____
(list a specific scholarship, department, program or purpose)*

If there is a particular area of study or program you would like to support, please call The ACU Office of Gift Planning to discuss your wishes. We can provide you with the appropriate language to ensure your gift will be used as you intend.



What can I give through my estate?

Specific amount or percentage

Whether you want to fund a specific program, support a scholarship or make an unrestricted gift to the university, you can designate a specific dollar amount or percentage of your overall estate to support Abilene Christian University.

Residual amount

You also can designate that ACU would receive all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after you provide for your other beneficiaries. As a residual beneficiary, ACU will share in any fluctuations in the value of your estate, eliminating any concern you may have that a specific bequest to the university will reduce the inheritance of family or friends.

Specific asset

Specific assets such as securities, your home or other property can also be left to ACU, or your executor can be directed that the proceeds from the sale of these assets support the university. If you wish to make a gift of real property through your estate, we strongly advise you to consult with The ACU Office of Gift Planning so that we can ensure that your gift can be used in the way you intend.

Retirement fund assets

Retirement funds are subject to both income and estate taxes (which can total up to 70 percent), and are thus ideal assets to leave to charities, which are tax-exempt and can benefit from the full value of the fund. Estate gifts through retirement funds are also easy to make. You can designate Abilene Christian University as the full or partial beneficiary of the remainder of a retirement fund through a change of beneficiary form provided by your plan administrator.

Testamentary life income gift

Provide for loved ones in your estate plan by including a provision in your will establishing a life income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder unitrust, for the benefit of a friend or family member. This gift will provide an income stream to your chosen beneficiary or beneficiaries during their lifetimes (or a term of years) and then come to ACU to support the purpose you designate.



Your Gift, Your Legacy

ACU will work to faithfully use your gift to honor your intentions. Your estate gift can be directed to a current use or endowed fund. Below are a few common endowment designations. If there is a particular area of study or program you would like to support, please call The ACU Office of Gift Planning to discuss your wishes.

- **Scholarship endowments:** Endowments dedicated to scholarships provide critical insurance in two important ways: They help ACU keep its commitment to accessibility and affordability for our students; and the ability to offer aggressive scholarship packages ensures ACU will always be able to compete for the best and brightest students.
- **Academic endowments:** Academic endowments allow ACU students to receive an education from some of the finest Christian faculty in the world. These funds support outstanding scholarship and instruction by helping the university attract, retain, recognize and reward premier Christian scholars. Academic endowments can be in the form of faculty chairs, professorships, fellowship/research, and general departmental endowments. Please contact The ACU Office of Gift Planning to discuss particular funding minimums for restricted gifts.
- **Athletics endowments:** The remarkable success of ACU Wildcat student-athletes over the years is a tribute to them, the coaches and the tradition of winning that permeates the program. Endowment for the athletics program in general, and for individual sports in particular, will help keep ACU's winning tradition alive.
- **Facilities and equipment endowments:** Maintaining the university's facilities and state-of-the-art equipment is essential to our mission of educating students for worldwide Christian service and leadership. Because ACU is committed to academic excellence, the university must provide the tools necessary to prepare graduates for today's technology-driven workplace. Endowing facilities and equipment ensures ACU students will receive the highest-quality Christian education.

For more information, please contact:

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