Giving to Duke
GIFT PLANNING

Bequests and Retirement Plans

Give more for less than you think.

James B. Duke had the foresight and ambition to leave an estate gift that transformed Trinity College into Duke University in 1924. Since then, generations of donors have left their own legacies at this special institution. These gifts touch every corner of campus by: **providing scholarships** for thousands of deserving students, **funding groundbreaking discoveries** in science and medicine, **bringing the most dynamic scholars** to our faculty, and much more.

BENEFITS

Including Duke in your estate plan may allow you to do more than you thought possible while achieving your own personal and financial goals. You can:

- Maintain access to your assets in case you need them.
- Contribute any dollar amount or percentage of your estate.
- Gain potential tax advantages.
- Support the areas of Duke that matter to you.

Estate gifts also allow you to have financial flexibility because they are revocable, meaning you can adjust them if your plans change.

OPTIONS

INCLUDE DUKE IN YOUR WILL OR REVOCABLE TRUST

This is one of the most common and simple ways to leave a legacy gift. You and your attorney may find sample charitable bequest language on our website (giving.duke.edu/giftplanning) or by contacting Duke's Office of Gift Planning.

If you include Duke in your plans, please let us know! Understanding your goals helps ensure that funds are used at Duke in accordance with your wishes.

ESTATE GIFTS BY THE NUMBERS

Youngest donor: 19

Oldest donor: 104

Gift range: $100 – $31,000,000

Median bequest intention: $100,000

Median realized bequest: $25,000

Total Heritage Society members: 3,798

Nearly $400 million given to Duke through estate gifts in the last 40 years

Want to learn more?

Phil Buchanan, senior philanthropic counsel, describes the advantages of bequests and retirement account designations in this 3-minute video. Click the video to watch, or visit **bit.ly/ugvbequest**.

DESIGNATE DUKE AS THE BENEFICIARY OF A RETIREMENT PLAN

For many Americans, retirement plans such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and 403(b)s represent a significant portion of their net worth. Yet these plans are generally not given favorable tax treatment upon the death of their owner. In fact, such assets may be taxed twice:

- First, these assets may be subject to federal estate taxes as high as 40 percent (plus state estate taxes in some cases).
- Second, these assets may be subject to income tax when withdrawn by heirs. Heirs with high incomes may have a combined federal and state marginal tax rate of 40 percent or more.

This combination of taxes can consume two-thirds or more of a retirement account.

EXAMPLE: Tax treatment of $100,000 IRA assets left to heirs vs. left to Duke

	Initial Amount	Estate Tax	Net After Estate Tax	Income Tax	Net After Income Tax	Net % After Tax
To Heirs	$100,000	($40,000)	$60,000	($24,000)	$36,000	36%
To Duke	$100,000	$0	$100,000	$0	$100,000	100%

Assumptions: Donor subject to federal estate tax; heirs subject to combined federal and state income tax marginal rate of 40 percent. State inheritance taxes are not considered here.

When retirement plan assets are left to charity, neither estate nor income taxes are imposed. Thus, 100 percent of a retirement plan left to Duke will be received by the university and can be applied to the area most important to you. Legacy gifts through a retirement plan are easy to complete. You simply fill out a beneficiary designation form that is provided by the plan administrator.

DESIGNATE DUKE AS THE BENEFICIARY OF A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Naming Duke as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a simple way to leave a substantial legacy at Duke and can be accomplished by completing a beneficiary designation form provided by your insurance carrier.

You may also name Duke as both the sole owner and beneficiary of a paid-up life insurance policy. Donating a policy this way is irrevocable and may entitle you to an immediate charitable income tax deduction.

Unleash your inner philanthropist.

We can help you explore creative ways to amplify your impact at Duke, while staying comfortable with your level of giving.

CONTACT US TODAY.
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Get more insights on our blog:
giving.duke.edu/blog