

Bequests and Other Gifts from Your Estate

A revocable gift in the form of a bequest or other testamentary arrangement can help to preserve the excellence of Amherst for future generations of students and provide numerous benefits to you.

There are many ways to benefit Amherst through your estate plan without having to part with assets you feel you may need in the future for personal or family responsibilities. Here are just a few:

The Outright Bequest

The outright bequest is the most common means of remembering Amherst College. A bequest is a provision in your will or living trust that directs that a portion of your estate should be transferred to Amherst College at a time subsequent to your death. There are many types of outright bequests, including:

Specific Bequest: This is the most popular type of charitable bequest. You simply leave a specific dollar amount (e.g., \$25,000) to Amherst.

Percentage Bequest: You direct that a certain percentage of your estate goes to Amherst (e.g., 15 percent). Regardless of the size of your estate at death (after payment of debts, expenses and taxes), you'll know that a portion of your estate will benefit the College.

Residual Bequest: After all other specific bequests, taxes and expenses have been paid, Amherst receives all or a portion of what remains – the residual.

Contingent Bequest: Amherst College is named the contingent or next beneficiary should the primary beneficiary (spouse, child, friend) pre-decease you.

For an example of suggested language you can use when remembering Amherst in your plans, please see the reverse side of this sheet.

Testamentary Gifts that Benefit Loved Ones and Amherst

Through your will or living trust, you can create charitable gift plans that offer tangible benefits to your heirs, and then to Amherst College. These plans can be modified or rescinded by you any time prior to your death.

Income to Beneficiaries – Principal to Amherst: A charitable trust or other life income plans offered by Amherst can be named in your estate plan to receive a contribution at your passing. These gifts provide the beneficiary(ies) you name with an income over time rather than a lump sum distribution. Once the beneficiary's income interest in the agreement ends, the remaining principal comes to Amherst.

"Endow" your Annual Gift: If you customarily give Amherst \$250 each year, a bequest of \$5,000 to Amherst's endowment will provide annual income of approximately five percent (or \$250) in perpetuity.

Give What Is Left in Your Pension Plan

One of the most tax advantageous gifts you can make to Amherst may be through your Individual Retirement Account (IRA), 401(k) plan, Keogh plan, or other qualified retirement savings plan. This is because funds distributed from retirement assets are subject to income tax, whether they are distributed to you during your lifetime, or to heirs upon your death.

If you name Amherst or another charity as the beneficiary, you avoid income tax on the funds, and the amount Amherst receives is more than would otherwise go to your heirs.

Gifts from Financial Accounts & Life Insurance

In most states you can transfer almost any financial account—savings, checking, CD, credit union account—to Amherst College without changing your will. (This does not apply to brokerage accounts, however.)

You can create a P.O.D. (pay on death) account and direct that your deposit will be "payable on death" to the College, while keeping the right to revoke the arrangement at any time. (Another device called a "Totten Trust" will also allow you to accomplish this same type of gift.)

You can also name Amherst as the death beneficiary of a life insurance policy, but keep the lifetime ownership rights (the right to borrow against it or cash it in).

Your estate will be entitled to a charitable deduction for any amount passing to Amherst from these arrangements.

Johnson Chapel Associates

Johnson Chapel Associates is an Amherst College society formed to recognize those individuals who have included Amherst in their estate plans or entered into a life-income arrangement. There are currently more than 800 Johnson Chapel Associates members.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about the gift plans described above, or other planned gifts at Amherst, please see our website giftplanning.amherst.edu or contact Julie Lackner, Director of Gift Planning, Amherst College, PO Box 5000, Amherst, MA 01002-5000, Phone: 413-542-5193, fax: 413-542-2042, email: jlackner@amherst.edu.

Language for Making an Outright Bequest to Amherst College

If you are planning on making an outright bequest to Amherst College in your will or living trust, we suggest the following language:

"I give _____ (dollar amount, percentage amount, or description of the asset) to the Trustees of Amherst College, in Amherst, Massachusetts, to be used for the general purposes of the College.

Executors may direct bequests to the Chief Financial Officer
Amherst College, PO Box 5000, Amherst, MA 01002-5000

If you wish to designate a specific use for the bequest, please contact the College prior to finalizing your plans in order to discuss any designations you may be considering. This will help to avoid creating a bequest that may be vague in its intention or difficult for the College to fulfill. If you wish to make a specific bequest, please contact Julie Lackner, Director of Gift Planning, for appropriate sample language.

Sample Bequest Language

You can make an unrestricted gift that offers Amherst the flexibility to use your funding where it is needed most. Gift planning staff would also be delighted to help you create a bequest for a purpose close to your heart on campus.

If you are planning on making a bequest to Amherst College in your will or living trust, please consider using the following language:

Outright Bequest

I give _____ (dollar amount, percentage amount, or description of the asset) to the Trustees of Amherst College, in Amherst, Massachusetts, to be used for the general purposes of the College.

Contingent Bequest

In the event my spouse (and/or) children should pre-decease me, I hereby bequeath to Trustees of Amherst College, in Amherst, Massachusetts, \$ _____ to be used for the general purposes of the College.

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Residual Bequest

I bequeath to the Trustees of Amherst College, in Amherst, Massachusetts, to be used for the general purposes of the College, the balance of my estate once all other bequests, debts, taxes and expenses have been distributed.

Specific Bequest

If you wish to designate a specific use for the bequest, please contact the College prior to finalizing your plans in order to discuss any designations you may be considering. This will help to avoid creating a bequest that may be vague in its intention or difficult for the College to fulfill. If you wish to make a specific bequest, please contact Julie Lackner, Director of Gift Planning.

Suggested language for a specific bequest, including a contingency clause:

I bequeath to the Trustees of Amherst College, in Amherst, Massachusetts, \$ _____ to be used for _____ . If, in the opinion of the College, all or part of the funds cannot be applied in conformance with the purposes stated, Amherst College may use the funds for such other purposes as the College deems practicable to effect the intent of the donor. All decisions of Amherst in the exercise of its discretion in this regard shall be final and binding on all concerned parties.