



MAKE A GIFT LEAVE A LEGACY

Estate Planning Guide

FILL THE WESTERN SKY

THE CAMPAIGN *for*
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Make an Estate Plan to Protect the Ones You Love.



Show your family how much you care by creating or updating your will or estate plan.

When you make a gift to the Western Carolina University Foundation through your will, trust, or retirement plan, you're helping support future Catamounts for years to come.

Estate gifts offer creative, flexible strategies for your estate and charitable planning. Some even provide you with income. Many can reduce your taxes.

One Charitable Gift, A Lifetime of Benefits

Your gift will help the Western Carolina University Foundation fulfill its mission of promoting higher education and supporting the enhancement of Western Carolina University.

- You will enjoy a wide variety of tax benefits.
- You will give back to the causes that mean the most to you.





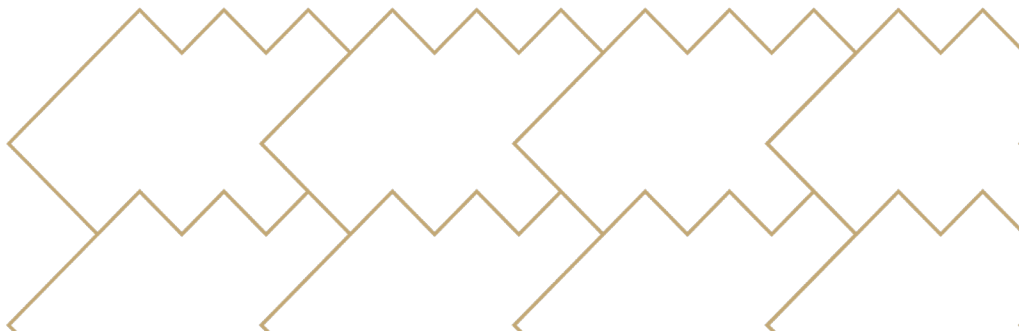
Let Us Assist with Your Plan

We recognize that each of our supporters' goals is unique, and we welcome the opportunity to assist you and your professional adviser in ways to include your philanthropic objectives into a well-crafted estate plan.

Through your planned or estate gift, you will be helping us meet the goals of our comprehensive fundraising campaign titled "Fill the Western Sky." Your investment in this campaign is an investment in the student experience and will support high-quality academic, engagement, and athletics initiatives.

We Can Provide:

- Suggested bequest language
- Language for named endowed funds
- Beneficiary designations
- Guidance on high impact priorities across WCU



TRANSFORMATIVE GIFTS CONNECTING GENERATIONS

Giving to Western Carolina University can be done either directly or through a gift model that can provide tax benefits and even income.

Estate gifts include the following options:

- Bequests
- Beneficiary Designation Gifts
- Blended Gifts
- IRA Rollover
- Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
- Retirement Assets
- Outright Gifts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT)



LEGACY MAKERS

BEQUESTS:

You may be looking for a way to make a significant gift to help further our mission. A bequest is a gift made through your will or trust. It is one of the most popular and flexible ways that you can support WCU.

BEQUEST LANGUAGE:

SPECIFIC DOLLAR AMOUNT:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath \$DOLLARS to the Western Carolina University Foundation, a nonprofit organization located at 201 H.F. Robinson, Cullowhee, NC, 28723, Federal Tax ID #23-7159170, for the Western Carolina University Foundation's general use and purpose.

PERCENTAGE OF ESTATE:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath PERCENTAGE OF YOUR ESTATE to the Western Carolina University Foundation, a nonprofit organization located at 201 H.F. Robinson, Cullowhee, NC, 28723, Federal Tax ID #23-7159170, for the Western Carolina University Foundation's general use and purpose.

SPECIFIC PERSONAL PROPERTY:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY to the Western Carolina University Foundation, a nonprofit organization located at 201 H.F. Robinson, Cullowhee, NC, 28723, Federal Tax ID #23-7159170, for the Western Carolina University Foundation's general use and purposes.

If you are considering a bequest but would like to ensure that your bequest will be used only for a specific purpose, please let us know. We would be happy to work with you and your attorney to help you identify ways to give that will ensure your charitable objectives can be met. We will also work with you and your attorney to craft language to accomplish your objectives.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION GIFTS:

You can designate us as a beneficiary of a retirement, investment, or bank account or your life insurance policy.

This enables you to support areas of WCU that you care about, continue to use the account as long as needed, and receive tax benefits.

BLENDED GIFTS:

Are you already making annual gifts to support WCU?

A planned gift can be added to your annual gifts of cash or property this year to increase the impact of your giving, provide greater tax savings, preserve wealth for you and your family, and advance our mission.

IRA ROLLOVER:

If you are 70½ or older, you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals.

With an IRA charitable rollover, you can benefit yourself and help us fulfill our mission.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION:

Those 73 or older must take a Required Minimum Distribution from their IRA.

A gift from your IRA can help you avoid taxes associated with RMDs. And, making a donation to WCU as your first IRA withdrawal counts toward your RMD and results in tax savings.

RETIREMENT ASSETS:

Most people will not use all of their retirement assets during their lifetime.

A gift of your retirement assets, such as a contribution from your IRA, 401k, 403b, pension, or other tax deferred plan, is an excellent way to help further our mission.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS:

Have you already included a bequest in your will or created another planned gift?

You could begin to see the impact of your giving today by making outright gifts of cash or property. Avoid capital gains tax by making a gift of your real estate, stock, or other appreciating investments.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST:

A charitable remainder trust is an excellent way to benefit yourself, your spouse, or other family members. It combines substantial tax savings with the ability to produce a very good income for you or your family members. Charitable remainder trusts are especially helpful for individuals who retire and would like to sell land or stock tax-free and receive a generous income.

Make a Plan to Protect the Ones You Love.

Leaving Your Legacy

Some conversations are difficult to have, and some tasks are easy to put off. That may be why more than 70 percent of Americans do not have a valid will. Even worse, many existing wills are also out of date. This can cause unnecessary hardships for your loved ones and cost thousands of dollars in taxes and fees.

It is critical that you have a comprehensive and valid will in place. To help you create your legacy, we've developed this brief guide to help you meet your goals while saving potential future expenses and headaches.

Consider what will happen without a valid will:

- An administrator for your estate will be appointed by the court at your family's expense.
- Your assets will be distributed according to the laws in your state, regardless of your wishes or those of your family.
- If you have no living relatives, the state receives everything you own.
- Your beneficiaries may be responsible for taxes, probate fees, and other expenses that could have been avoided had a valid will been in place.

Three Steps to Estate Planning:

1. Write Down What You Own
2. Know How Property Is Transferred
3. Sign Your Will and Medical Directives

Planning Outline:

- Your Contact Information
- Important Contacts List
- Current Will
- Recent Tax Returns
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage License
- Durable Power of Attorney for Finances
- Health Care Directives
- Any Military Records
- List of Assets: Accounts, Property, Stocks, Insurance
- List of Liabilities
- List of Beneficiaries





A Free Tool to Get You Started

The Western Carolina University Foundation has partnered with FreeWill, an online tool that guides you through the process of creating a legally valid will. It's easy to use, free of charge, and can be completed in 20 minutes or less.

Estate planning also can be used to create planned gifts to benefit nonprofits or organizations, including Western Carolina University. Many WCU alumni and friends have used estate planning as a vehicle for designating some of their assets to establish scholarship funds and other endowments to support students, foster faculty development, and provide programmatic improvements.

Learn more at freewill.com/wcu.



All planned gifts should be directed to the Western Carolina University Foundation at 1 University Drive, 201 H.F. Robinson Administration Building, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

Tax ID Number: 23-7159170.

**Contact Us at 828-227-7124
or email: development@wcu.edu.**



TOGETHER WE CAN FILL THE WESTERN SKY

Documented planned gifts bequeathed to the WCU Foundation receive recognition and stewardship as part of The Madison Legacy Society.

Each year, a native Fraser magnolia tree will be planted in honor of new Madison Legacy Society donors as a symbol of this long-lasting impact.



For more information about The Madison Legacy Society and its benefits, please contact:
donorrelations@wcu.edu
or call (828) 227-7124.

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY