



# TOP 5 REASONS TO DOCUMENT YOUR BEQUEST

## 1. PEACE OF MIND.

Sharing your estate plans with the University **ensures that your wishes will be met**. The Office of Gift Planning can provide sample bequest language to help you, your legal adviser, or your financial planner carry out your intentions. For endowed scholarships, fellowships, or professorships minimum amounts and specific language are required.

## 2. DESIGNATING A PURPOSE.

If you have a special purpose in mind, your University representative can work with you to draft a Letter of Direction which **designates your gift for a specific area or program**.

## 3. NO OBLIGATIONS.

Documenting your bequest **does not make it binding or irrevocable**—you still have the liberty to revise your estate plan if your circumstances or priorities change.

## 4. IT COUNTS.

Planned gifts are a crucial source of support for the University, accounting for 20 percent of the value of all gifts received. Documentation **authorizes your gift to count toward the University's fundraising goals**, assists with long-term planning efforts, and inspires others.

## 5. RECOGNITION.

When the University is aware of your gift it **allows us to express our gratitude** during your lifetime. While simply notifying us of a bequest intention qualifies you for membership in the Phoenix Society, providing further details such as the amount of your gift may qualify you for membership in other philanthropic societies as well. Society members receive many benefits including customized communications, special invitations, honor rolls, and personal assistance.

To document your bequest, contact us or visit [giftplanning.uchicago.edu/document](https://giftplanning.uchicago.edu/document).