

Bequests and Retirement Plan Gifts

If you are considering including the school in your estate plans, you have many options to create an enduring legacy. Among the easiest and most flexible options are bequests and IRA designations

A bequest is a gift from your estate—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property—made through your will or revocable trust, or through a beneficiary designation in your retirement plan or life insurance policy. Some advantages of creating a bequest include:

- A bequest costs nothing now, yet gives you the satisfaction of knowing you have provided for Stanford GSB in the future
- You retain control and use of your assets during your lifetime
- Gifts to Stanford GSB from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes

If you have already included Stanford GSB in your estate plans, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the purpose of your gift is understood by the school, and recognize you for your extraordinary commitment.



“Stanford GSB plays a significant role in my career and life. To show my appreciation and to pay it forward, I make annual gifts, and I’ve also included the GSB in my estate plan.”

— Tom Shannon, MBA ’82,
has included a bequest provision in his estate plan

Making a Bequest

Bequests can be for a specific amount, for a percentage of your estate, or for all or a portion of what remains after you have provided for your family. Bequests can provide immediate, unrestricted resources or be endowed (at certain gift levels) to provide support for the GSB in perpetuity.

To make a bequest, you must sign a new will or living trust instrument, add a codicil to your present will, or make an amendment to your present trust instrument. You’ll also need the legal name of Stanford University, The Board of Trustees of The Leland Stanford Junior University, and Stanford University’s federal tax ID number, 94-1156365.

Sample language for a general bequest to Stanford GSB:

I hereby give _____* to THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, an educational institution, to support the objects and purposes of Stanford Graduate School of Business.

* Fill in the blank with the dollar amount, percentage of estate, or specific property you intend to give to Stanford.

Please contact the GSB Development Office for additional language to direct your gift to a specific purpose or to establish an endowed fund.

Designate Your IRA

Designating the GSB as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy can be an easy, tax-effective way to support Stanford GSB. Simply contact the retirement plan administrator or life insurance company and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form to name The Board of Trustees of The Leland Stanford Junior University, federal tax ID number 94-1156365, as beneficiary. Many plans permit you to make the change directly online. You can designate then a specific purpose, such as the GSB, for such a gift with a separate letter prepared with assistance from the Stanford Office of Planned Giving.

If you are 70½ or older, you can also make annual tax-free transfers directly from your IRA to Stanford GSB of up to \$100,000. Although you are not entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the distribution, these contributions count toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution, are excluded from your taxable income, and are not subject to annual charitable deduction limitations.

Let Us Thank You

When you make a planned gift of any amount, or if you have already provided for the school in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and recognize you, either by name or anonymously if you prefer.

Those who have made such plans for the business school are honored as GSB Legacy Partners. GSB Legacy Partners is affiliated with the university's Founding Grant Society, which recognizes planned gifts to any part of the university. Those honored as GSB Legacy Partners will also be recognized as members of the Founding Grant Society.

Notify Us of Your Plans

For more information on how you can contribute to the GSB's future through a planned gift, contact the GSB Development Office at 650.723.3356.