Frequently Asked Questions

How are scholarships named and how is the selection criteria established?
The primary donor to a scholarship determines the scholarship name. You can establish a scholarship in your own name or choose to name it for a friend, family member, or a favorite faculty member. You also help determine the criteria used to award the scholarship.

How is the scholarship awarded?
Scholarships are advertised on the University website and applications are collected online. Typically, a selection committee carefully reviews each application and selects the most deserving recipient(s) based on the established criteria.

Will I be notified when a student is awarded the scholarship?
You will be notified annually when the scholarship recipient(s) has been selected. If your fund is endowed, you will also receive a report advising you of the performance of the fund.

When an endowed scholarship is established, can you add to the principal?
Yes, you can add to the principal at any time. The larger the amount of the principal, the more available earnings—the more Nevada students will benefit from your endowed scholarship. Anyone can contribute to the principal of an existing scholarship fund.

For more information, please contact
University of Nevada, Reno Foundation:

John Carothers, Vice President
for Development and Alumni Relations

Bruce, Mack Associate Vice President
for Development and Alumni Relations

University of Nevada, Reno Foundation
Development and Alumni Relations
Morrill Hall Alumni Center / Mail Stop 0007
Reno, NV 89557
Telephone: (775) 784-1352
Fax: (775) 784-1394
Email: giving@unr.edu
www.unr.edu/giving

Creating a named scholarship through the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation is one way to assist students and leave a legacy to the University.
Scholarship funds are a key component of the University’s efforts to help students succeed. Funds can be established in honor of, or in memory of, a family member, a friend, a co-worker, a student, a faculty member, or a mentor. Additionally, many companies create scholarship funds to help increase their corporate presence at the University of Nevada, Reno. Scholarship award recipients are selected based on criteria determined by the donor.

Establishing a Scholarship Fund

Scholarships may be funded with immediate gifts of cash or stock or through planned gifts such as annuities, bequests, trusts, insurance, real estate, etc.

Step 1: Determine the Type of Scholarship Fund

The first step is to determine whether you would like to establish an “endowed” scholarship or an “annual” scholarship:

**Endowed Scholarships:** Endowed scholarship funds are designed to be permanent and perpetual and can be created with a gift totaling a minimum amount of $10,000, contributed in full at the outset or may build to the endowment level of $10,000 in a period of one to five years. The principal of the fund is invested to produce income, and an annual award is made to deserving students based upon area of interest, geographical origin, merit, financial need, academic achievement and/or other criteria.

**Annual Scholarships:** Annual scholarships can be established with an outright gift of $1,000 or more. An annual commitment of $1,000 per year for five years is recommended, and the annual gift is awarded to recipients over the five-year period. Unlike an endowed scholarship described above, an annual scholarship is not a permanent fund and is awarded only as long you (or others) choose to contribute to the fund.

Step 2: Establish Scholarship Criteria

As a scholarship donor, you choose the name of the scholarship as well as the criteria. Development and Foundation officers will help you create the criteria for your scholarship. Endowed and annual scholarships are awarded to deserving students based upon area of interest, geographical origin, merit, financial need, academic achievement and/or other criteria.

Many donors choose to leave their scholarships “unrestricted,” giving the University the greatest flexibility in designating the awards to students with the greatest financial need and academic merit. Occasionally donors like to establish certain general criteria for their scholarship funds. Criteria are broadly defined to assure that all available funds can be matched to eligible students. The University Foundation must agree to any award conditions established by the donor.

Step 3: Administration of Scholarship Funds

Typically, a selection committee reviews the scholarship applications submitted by students and selects the most deserving recipient(s) based on the donor-established criteria. Major donors to a scholarship fund are notified annually when the scholarship recipient(s) has been selected and are informed about the recipient. These greatful recipients often write a thank-you note to the donor, and in some cases, the recipient and donor have an opportunity to meet.

**Give to an Existing Scholarship:** You may find that a scholarship has already been established for your favorite professor, friend, or family member, or one that matches your interests.

**Tax Benefits of Funding a Scholarship:** An outright gift of cash or appreciated securities will allow you to receive immediate tax benefits in the year you make the gift to the University. In the case of appreciated securities, you may also avoid capital gains taxes.

You can also provide for your scholarship in your estate plans. Estate gifts are an easy way to establish a scholarship without affecting your current income or assets.

**How Do I Begin the Process?**

To learn how you can help secure the dream of a college education for the next generation, we encourage you to contact the University’s Foundation office at (775) 784-1352 or giving@unr.edu.

Establish a Scholarship with a Planned Gift

Many new scholarships are begun at the University of Nevada, Reno through a bequest in their will, an annuity and trusts. The procedure is for donors to list the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation as a beneficiary. Here’s some simple language to create a scholarship endowment:

“...to be distributed to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation which qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. (The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation’s tax ID is 94-2781749.)

The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation is to establish an endowment fund with the distribution from this trust to be known as the ‘(name of the fund) Scholarship Endowment Fund.” Available endowment earnings are to be used exclusively for awarding scholarships to deserving students at the University of Nevada, Reno.”

The Foundation’s Planned Giving office is happy to work with donors confidentially and free of charge.

Friends and alumni that establish a scholarship in this manner are eligible to become members of the Nevada Legacy Society.