

Gifts of Property



Bowdoin

Gifts of Property

While most alumni and friends of Bowdoin make gifts with cash or appreciated publicly traded securities, other forms of property—real estate, personal property, and intellectual property—are often suitable gift assets as well. Property can be given to the College outright, in some cases used to fund life-income gifts, or can be given to the College through a provision in a will or living trust. It is important to have a conversation with Bowdoin's development office staff at an early point to ensure that your gift can be used by the College in the manner you intend.

What property might make a good gift?

- A primary residence, seasonal home, timber lot or other undeveloped real estate, or in some cases, commercial property
- Works of art and other collectibles, such as rare books or antiques
- Privately held securities and interests in limited liability partnerships
- Life insurance policies
- Publication royalties, copyrights, patent and mineral rights

Ways to give property

Gifts of property start with a conversation with the College to determine if the property can be accepted and what the timing of the gift might be. Gifts of property can be made in the following ways:

- An outright gift of property during a donor's lifetime
- A bequest of property after one's lifetime through a bequest provision in a will or living trust
- A retained life estate in real property, where a home or farm is transferred to the College, but the donor retains the use and enjoyment of the property for their lifetime

- A transfer of property into a charitable remainder trust (CRT) in exchange for an income stream for life or a term up to twenty years
- A transfer of income-producing property into a charitable lead trust to fund a donor's philanthropic plans for a term of years, allowing the property to appreciate over the term and revert back to the donor, pass to the next generation, or transfer into a charitable remainder trust

Each of these ways to give property has certain donor benefits, including tax benefits. In many, but not all circumstances, gifts of property generate an available federal charitable deduction for income tax purposes, but often require an appraisal. Anyone interested in making a gift of property to Bowdoin should consult with their financial and/or legal advisors.

When you make a gift of property to Bowdoin by bequest, retained life estate, or transfer it to a CRT, you will be welcomed into the Bowdoin Pines Society, our recognition group for those who choose to support the College through a legacy gift.

For more information, go to bowdoin.edu/gift-planning or contact the Office of Gift Planning at giftplanning@bowdoin.edu or 207-725-3172.

Please note that we do not give legal or financial advice, and none of the information above should be construed as such. We encourage you to consult your legal counsel or financial advisor before deciding whether to proceed with a gift.