Making Saint Louis University a part of your estate planning is a powerful act of philanthropy that expresses a shared belief in the power of higher education to transform lives. Including a charitable bequest to SLU in a will or designating the University as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy creates an ongoing partnership between donors and SLU, one that fosters a legacy while benefitting current and future students. Read on for more information about how to create these partnerships.

“...I am drawn to the field of speech pathology because it is rewarding to see the progress in clients and how that progress positively affects their quality of life and relationship with those around them. My scholarship provides me with the opportunity to pursue a degree in a field I am passionate about with less financial stress. Without the generosity of my scholarship donor, I would not have the opportunity to advance and develop as a well-rounded individual.”

Kelsey Rosenquist
Graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Recipient of the Cathy Golden Scholarship, funded in part by an estate gift from Mary Patricia Golden (Law ’88)

**Lasting Legacy: The Power of Partnership**

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Make a specific bequest
This type of bequest is an exact description of a dollar amount or specific asset from your estate to go to a beneficiary. It is very important that specific bequests be exact—vagueness can lead to confusion. Keep in mind that specific bequests are usually the first to be paid out of the estate.

When Anne made her will, she left her collection of fine porcelains to her niece and $5,000 to SLU.

Make a percentage bequest
This bequest designates a fraction of the available estate to a beneficiary. Many prefer this kind of bequest because the relative size of the bequest is tied to the value of the estate, and that treats all heirs equally.

When David made his will, he left 45% of his estate to his son, 45% to his daughter, and 10% to SLU.

Make a residual bequest
This bequest assigns all the property that remains after the payment of administration costs, taxes, expenses and every other bequest has been satisfied. A simple way to describe the residue of an estate is that which is “left over.” After you have made provisions for individuals with exact amounts, you can give whatever is left of your estate to a worthy charity such as Saint Louis University. This option assures that your heirs are taken care of first.

When Carolyn made her will, she left $250,000 to each of her four children, $50,000 to her friend Helen, and whatever was left of her estate to SLU.

When Brian made his will, he bequeathed all his estate to his wife, Eunice. In the event she does not survive his death, his estate will be divided between four worthwhile charities.

When Brian made his will, he left 45% of his estate to his son, 45% to his daughter, and 10% to SLU.

How to Include Anyone (Including SLU) in Your Will
How you include a charity in your will depends on what sort of gift you would like to make, and how you want to provide for your other beneficiaries.

How a Bequest Can Perpetuate an Annual Gift
Mary, a loyal alumna, supports SLU each year with a gift of $1,000. By including in her will a bequest of $50,000 to SLU’s endowment, her estate gift will provide about $2,000 in its first year. The endowment will continue to generate income year after year, providing a perpetual source of support for SLU.

Tel Us by Name
If you would like to make a bequest to SLU in your will or designate the University as a beneficiary of an account or life insurance policy, listing our exact legal name is important. Our legal name is St. Louis University.

Talk With Us
If you have included SLU in your estate planning but are not a member of the 1818 Society, please contact the Office of Planned Giving; we would appreciate the opportunity to recognize your generosity. We’re also eager to ensure that your intentions are met and look forward to discussing your ideas about what your gift can do at SLU.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of including SLU in your estate planning, we would be happy to discuss options with you or provide information you can share with your attorney for creating a planned gift.

Visit our website
Our website features several tools that can assist you with designing a bequest or other planned gift to accomplish your philanthropic and financial objectives. To further explore, log on to plannedgiving.slu.edu.

HELPFUL FACTS ABOUT BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

What is a beneficiary designation?
A beneficiary designation is a written statement of who should receive the proceeds of a savings account, life insurance policy or IRA at the death of the holder. Usually, you list one or more beneficiaries when the policy or account is created.

Why are beneficiary designations important?
They are very important because a recorded beneficiary designation controls how the account or policy will be distributed upon your death. Many people are not fully aware that a will only covers those assets that go through probate—and not necessarily these accounts and policies.

How do I change a beneficiary designation?
Contact the administrator. They likely have your current beneficiary designations on file and can provide a form for changing a beneficiary or adding a new one.

Why should I name a charity as a beneficiary?
Naming a charity such as SLU in your will or life insurance policy is another way of leaving a legacy. The same considerations that go into including a charitable bequest in a will apply here. Since philanthropic considerations are part of your estate planning, consider naming a charity as a beneficiary in order to meet your charitable giving goals.

Sample Bequest Language
I give, devise and bequeath to St. Louis University, a Missouri corporation, located in St. Louis, Missouri, [the sum of $___ for its general purposes] or [___% of the residue of my estate for its general purposes].
“It was very fortunate to complete my Ph.D. at SLU and wish to assure that future Ph.D. candidates can do the same when they reach the dissertation stage of their studies. Having the resources to fund dissertation research can be a challenge, and I hope our gift will provide the means for a deserving student to complete his or her Ph.D.”

— Doug and Hilda Adams

“Many years ago, friends of my father established a scholarship fund in his honor. I am continuing to honor my father by remembering Saint Louis University’s future through their planned gifts. Recognized planned gifts include bequest provisions in a will or trust, life income arrangements, lead trusts, life estates, gifts of life insurance, and beneficiary designations made with retirement assets or insurance policies.

The 1818 Society honors alumni and friends who have invested in Saint Louis University’s future through their planned gifts. Recognized planned gifts include bequest provisions in a will or trust, life income arrangements, lead trusts, life estates, gifts of life insurance, and beneficiary designations made with retirement assets or insurance policies.

— Mary Olive Dwyer
As a three-degree holder from the University, I am very interested in helping others attend this outstanding institution. It gives me great satisfaction to participate in this endeavor.

— Richard Mueller

“Much of what I have accomplished in my medical career is due to Saint Louis University.”

— Edward Witten, M.D.

“Saint Louis University has given so much to me that I wanted to give back to her.”

— Fr. Nicholas Smith
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