Charitable Gift Annuity
What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?
A Charitable Gift Annuity is a philanthropic arrangement that allows you to make a significant gift to Cornell University while also ensuring that you or a loved one receive fixed, regular income payments for the rest of your life. It’s an innovative way to give back to the institution that has meant so much to you while providing financial security for your future.

How does it work?
Typically, cash or appreciated securities—such as publicly traded stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, or closely held stock—are contributed to initiate the contract. In exchange for this generous gift, Cornell makes guaranteed payments to one or two individuals of your choosing, for life. These payments can be immediate or deferred until a designated time in the future. The minimum threshold for establishing an annuity contract is $10,000.

At Cornell, we typically follow annuity rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA). These rates are used by the vast majority of nonprofits that issue gift annuities. Since these rate tables are frequently updated, we encourage you to request a personalized gift illustration and review the benefits with your advisor.

The rate largely depends on the age of the annuitant(s) at the time of the gift. The older the annuitant(s), the more income you can expect to see. Once a contract is established, the rate is locked—it will never change and it is guaranteed for life. Upon termination, the remainder will then support the area(s) of your choosing at Cornell.

Sustaining excellence
With a Charitable Gift Annuity, you can support the programs and initiatives you care about most at Cornell—scholarships, faculty research, innovative programs, or the maintenance of our world-class facilities, for example. Your contribution ensures that Cornell remains a hub of excellence in higher education.

Personal reward
By establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity, you play an essential part in shaping Cornell’s future. Your support can provide immediate resources or create or further an endowment that supports an area that you love in perpetuity.

Tax benefits
Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity may provide you with a charitable deduction, helping you manage your tax liabilities. Additionally, a portion of your annuity income may be tax-free, further enhancing the financial benefits to you. The exact tax treatment depends on the source of the funds you used to establish the CGA and your age at the time of the gift.

Join the legacy
Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity is a way to leave a lasting legacy at Cornell. In recognition of your immediate and planned contribution for Cornell, you will be invited into the Cayuga Society to celebrate Cornell’s legacy alongside our other dedicated supporters.

Let us provide you with a personalized gift illustration that you can review with your advisors. Please contact our team and request an illustration today.

For more detailed information about charitable gift annuities and gift annuity rates, or to discuss how Charitable Gift Annuities can align with your philanthropic goals, please contact our dedicated team. Let us provide you with a personalized gift illustration that you can review with your advisors.

Learn more
Additional resources are available on our website giftplanning.giving.cornell.edu

Cornell’s Office of Trusts, Estates, and Gift Planning
☎ 1.800.481.1865 ❯ gift_planning@cornell.edu

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