



Gift Administration Fee Frequently Asked Questions

At the UNLV Foundation, our top priority is ensuring that every gift we receive is carefully managed, properly stewarded, and put to work exactly as our donors intend. To provide the highest level of service, the Foundation assesses a one-time 5% administrative fee on new gifts and a 10% administrative fee on planned gifts (such as bequests and trust distributions).

These fees support the essential infrastructure that allows us to raise, manage, and distribute philanthropic funds efficiently and responsibly while supporting our work to help UNLV fulfill its mission to transform the lives of our students and strengthen our community.

Why are gift administration fees necessary?

The gift administration fee helps cover the real and necessary costs associated with fundraising, including: providing timely and IRS-compliant gift receipts, maintaining accurate and transparent donor records, expertly managing, investing, and disbursing funds across the University, stewarding and recognizing our donors through publications, personalized communications, and special events, and growing a strong and sustainable development program to support UNLV's long-term success.

The gift administration fee allows the UNLV Foundation to responsibly manage your investment and ensures your gift creates the biggest impact possible at UNLV.

How are gift fees used?

The administration fee is applied to all gifts and allows the University to create the necessary infrastructure the Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement program requires for sophisticated development operations. For all new current use gifts, a five percent (5%) gift administration fee is assessed: four percent (4%) of each gift is invested directly in Foundation operations to support fundraising, stewardship, and financial management and one percent (1%) is returned to the benefiting college or program to reinvest in their own development efforts.

Gifts received through wills, trusts, retirement plans, or life insurance are critical to UNLV's long-term strength. These gifts often require more complex legal, financial, and administrative management. A ten percent (10%) fee is assessed when the gift is realized to cover the settlement coordination, trust and beneficiary management, legal review, compliance, reporting, and effective deployment of the donor's legacy. This fee is not shared with the benefiting college or program as it used to exclusive support the complex administration for these gifts.

When did the Foundation change its gift administration fee?

Effective July 1, 2019, the administration fee for new gifts increased from two percent (2%) to five percent (5%) to ensure adequate support for UNLV's fundraising operations. The UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees approved this change at their annual meeting on May 1, 2019. Effective October 26, 2025, the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees approved an administrative fee of ten percent (10%) on all new bequest gifts.

Why was the fee increased?

In July 2019, after a comprehensive review by the Foundation's Finance Committee and approval by the Board of Trustees, the administrative fee increased from two percent (2%) to five percent (5%). This change reflects the significant growth in UNLV's fundraising activities and ensures that the Foundation can continue to provide exceptional service and accountability at a larger scale, while remaining financially sound.

In October 2024, Board of Trustees implemented a 10% on all planned gifts due to the complex nature of these gifts and their administrative management. This fee ensures that every planned gift is honored, carefully administered, and maximized for UNLV's benefit while protecting and executing the donor's intentions.

The current fee structure ensures that we can continue to support our fundraising efforts, serve our donors and expand UNLV's impact.

How do other universities support their fundraising efforts?

Many public and private universities and their institutionally-related foundations invest gift-related revenue in development programs and campaigns. Some institutions have had such a system in place for more than 20 years and fees range up to thirteen percent (13%). Many of UNLV's peer institutions in the Mountain West Conference assess gift administration fees of five percent (5%). Universities in the University of California system assess administration fees of six percent (6%) and above.

How does the gift administration fee benefit the University?

All gift fees are invested in the Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, which is a revenue-generating division of the University. The benefit to the University as a whole is a well-funded and progressive development program.

When you give to UNLV, your support directly impacts students, faculty, and programs that are shaping the future of Nevada and beyond. The gift fee ensures that we are able to steward your investment with care, accountability, and vision now and for generations to come.