

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WASHU'S ENDOWMENT AND ANNUAL FUND?

To put it simply, the Annual Fund is like your checking account, and the endowment is like your long-term investments. You can't touch the principal of those investments when you need to go to the grocery store or get your car fixed, but you can take the money from your checking account. The Annual Fund is flexible enough to make sure students have things like computers or suits and dress shoes for interviews. Deans and administrators can use Annual Fund dollars to bring leading scholars and artists to campus or make sure student entrepreneurs can travel to pitch competitions. And so much more.

IF THE ENDOWMENT IS SO BIG, WHY DOESN'T IT COVER ALL THE UNIVERSITY'S EXPENSES?

Because it's not designed that way. When a person endows a gift, they restrict what that gift is to be used for and how much can be taken out at any given time. By law, that money can only be spent on its original intent — scholarships, professorships, buildings, or research, to name a few.

HOW DOES MY ANNUAL FUND GIFT ACTUALLY BENEFIT STUDENTS?

The Annual Fund allows the university's deans and administrators to be nimble and respond to student needs in real time. It funds scholarships. It means resources for the clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities that our students count on to find community and make their WashU experience truly special. If it's part of the student experience, it's probably supported in some way by the Annual Fund.

DOES MY GIFT, EVEN A SMALL ONE, REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Absolutely! A gift of \$10 or \$100 may not seem like much on its own, even though it might be a lot to your budget. But small gifts add up. In fact, in 2023-24, gifts of \$100 or less added up to over \$1.5 million! That's a lot of interdisciplinary research, seed grant funding, professional development for graduate students, internship stipends, and more.

