Ways to Give

cash and securities/employer matching gifts/planned gifts/in-kind gifts
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Gifts of Cash and Securities

A Gift by Cash or Check

Your cash gift is truly precious, providing the most financial flexibility to Macaulay Honors College. A gift made by check is the most common and convenient way to give. Gifts may be made outright or you can arrange to pledge your giving over a period of up to five years. Checks should be made payable to Macaulay Honors College Foundation, our 501(c)(3) supporting foundation. If you prefer, you may charge your gift through MasterCard or Visa. If you itemize your tax deductions, your gift is fully deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. Any excess may be carried forward for up to five additional years. A general-purpose gift is always the most helpful to us; however, if you wish to designate the use of your gift, you may do so at the time you make the gift by enclosing a brief note.

Securities

A gift of securities such as stocks, mutual funds, or bonds, can provide attractive benefits in some circumstances. An outright gift of long-term appreciated securities (securities held for more than a year) avoids capital gains taxes, and in most cases, the donor obtains a charitable income tax deduction equal to the market value of the securities. For gifts of property, your gift is fully deductible up to 30% of your adjusted gross income and, like gifts of cash, may be carried forward for five additional years.

Gifts of Closely Held Stock

An owner of closely held stock may give the stock to Macaulay Honors College and receive important financial benefits. Closely held corporations are corporations whose stock is owned by family members and/or by business associates. The stock is private in that it is not publicly traded, and in most cases there are restrictions on the transfer of the stock to third parties.

Donors considering a gift of closely held stock must not enter into a prior written agreement with either the closely held corporation or a potential third-party purchaser. The transfer should be an arm’s-length, independent transaction. Donors who make gifts of appreciated assets should consult with their attorneys or tax advisers.

Employee Matching Gifts

Many employers have a policy that they will match your charitable donation, thereby doubling or tripling your giving to Macaulay Honors College. If you contact us at 212-729-2942, we would be glad to check with our database to see if we have the particulars of your employer’s matching program. Generally, to take advantage of your employer’s gift matching program you should:

✓ Check with your Human Resources Office to see if your employer offers this benefit.
If they do, complete the company matching gift form they will provide and return it to us if possible.

Alert Macaulay Honors College that you are trying to secure a matching gift.

Bequest and Planned Gifts

Some people choose to make a profound difference in the future of higher education through generous donations made through a bequest in their will. These kinds of gifts create a legacy of helping others, and they often provide substantial tax advantages. The simplest, most common planned gift is a simple bequest through your will or living trust. Because it is often family members who are put in a will, Macaulay considers a bequest gift one of the highest honors a donor can bestow.

You can arrange with your attorney and financial adviser to make a gift from your estate. These professionals can also describe the tax advantages involved in your particular circumstances. Often the gift language reads: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Macaulay Honors College Foundation, now or formerly in the City of New York, 35 West 67th Street, New York, NY (dollar amount, percentage, or __ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate), to be used for its general purposes."

For your reference and convenience, our IRS Form 990 and a document verifying our tax-exempt status are available from our development office at 212-729-2942. The following information is often useful for arranging a bequest gift:

**Legal Name**
Macaulay Honors College Foundation

**Legal Address**
35 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023

**Nonprofit Status**
501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation dedicated to the support of Macaulay Honors College/CUNY

If you are willing to share with us your estate plans benefiting Macaulay Honors College, we would be pleased to note your generosity on our website and as a member of our Legacy Society celebrating those who support Macaulay Honors College with a planned gift. We are glad to celebrate the generosity of others in this way and to encourage additional giving. For more information on how you can include Macaulay Honors College in your estate plans, please contact Amina Holman at amina.holman@mhc.cuny.edu.

There are other ways to make a planned gift that we would be happy to discuss with you. Some of the most common kinds of planned giving include:

*Gifts of Life Insurance*

There are different ways in which you may use life insurance to make a gift to Macaulay Honors College:

- Make a gift of an existing life insurance policy.
- Establish a new policy and name Macaulay Honors College Foundation as the owner and beneficiary of the policy.

*A Word about Life Income Gifts*

Many organizations arrange a gift such that the donor can receive direct financial benefits in ways that are well worth exploring. These benefits include an income for life for the donor and/or the donor’s spouse and a charitable income
tax deduction, in addition to the positive outcome and good feeling that comes from making a gift to an organization like Macaulay Honors College. In particular, some of the financial benefits that can come with a life income gift include:

* A stream of income for the lifetime of the donor and/or the donor’s spouse
* A charitable income tax deduction
* An opportunity to establish an endowed fund in the donor’s name or the name of a loved one
* Possible avoidance of capital gains taxes on gifts of appreciated property
* A higher yield than from current investments
* A reduction in federal estate taxes

Some of the considerations to determine what kind of structure is most beneficial include:

* What is the age of the donor and/or the donor’s spouse?
* Will the gift be based on one or two beneficiaries?
* Will the gift be funded with cash, appreciated securities, or real estate?

Your interest in a life income gift could set a powerful example for other donors considering giving to Macaulay Honors College, and we would be pleased to discuss the concept with you. It is important to note that due to need for financial administration, these kinds of gifts require a minimum donation of $50,000. They also require the involvement of legal and financial planning advisers.

**In-Kind Donations**

Sometimes instead of giving money to a charity to buy needed goods, the goods themselves are given. These are called in-kind donations. Macaulay Honors College often accepts in-kind donations of computers, works of art, and things of value in good condition that can be productively put to work in an educational environment to the benefit of our students. We are very grateful for all donations; however, Macaulay Honors College is not always able to accept every gift because of the changing needs of our students.

In-kind donations are often tax deductible under IRS rules based on the fair market value, which is the price the items would sell for on the open market. If you wish to deduct your in-kind gift, you should refer to IRS Publication 561: *Determining the Value of Donated Property*. The IRS has special forms for the deduction of gifts valued over $500. For donations valued over $5,000 the donor must seek a qualified appraisal of value. For your reference and convenience you can find Publication 561 and other IRS information and forms at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Thank you for your generosity to Macaulay Honors College