

Appendix A – George Mason University Required Endowment and Deferred (Planned) Gift Minimums

I. Endowments ⁽¹⁾

The foundation defines and manages its true and quasi-endowments in accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and GAAP as codified by FASB. Endowments may be designated by the donor for a restricted purpose in any school, college, department or program within the university and may be named in honor of donors or their designees. Endowments are governed by a written gift agreement executed by the original or lead donor, the foundation, and the university. Endowment funds are invested and managed by professional investment advisors with the oversight of the foundation Investment Committee.

Endowments require a minimum level of funding to be established (table below). The Gift Acceptance Committee establishes the minimum required levels and updates the amounts periodically. Gifts may be made over a period of up to five years or through other means as described in University Policy 1123 – Gift Acceptance Policy. The Gift Acceptance Committee will review for acceptance non-standard endowment proposals on a case by case basis.

Endowment Type ⁽²⁾	Endowment Minimum
General Restricted Endowment – Established for a donor’s designated purpose that is approved by the university, may be scholarship or program related	\$25,000
Endowed Lectureship – Established to provide program support for a lecture series, may include travel and honoraria, publication and reception costs	\$50,000
Endowed Fund for Undergraduate Scholarships (est. 50% tuition costs) In State Students Out of State Students	\$175,000 \$325,000
Endowed Fund for Graduate Fellowships (est. 50% tuition costs)	\$175,000 - \$350,000
Endowed Fund for an Athletic Team – Established for general support of a specific athletic program	\$100,000
Endowed Fund for Head Coach Position – Established for general support of a coaching position in a particular sport	\$250,000 - \$1,000,000
Endowed Fund for Faculty Research – Established to fund research costs and related support for specified faculty or programs	\$250,000
Endowed Faculty Fellowship – Established to support academic endeavors for specified faculty and his or her programs	\$150,000

Endowed Professorships / Chairs – Established to support academic endeavors for specified professors and their programs or supplemental support for specified professors named to a chair position	
Endowed Term Professorship	\$500,000
Endowed Professorship	\$1,500,000
Endowed Chair	\$2,000,000
Endowed University Executive Funds – Established to provide a discretionary fund for a university leader to utilize to enhance his/her strategic objectives	
Endowed President’s Fund for Excellence	\$10,000,000
Endowed Provost’s Fund for Excellence	\$5,000,000
Endowed Dean’s Fund for Excellence	\$1,000,000

II. Deferred (Planned) Gifts

Charitable Gift Annuity	\$25,000
Charitable Remainder Trust	\$100,000
Charitable Lead Trust	\$1,000,000

(1) Endowment assets are invested in a widely-diversified portfolio managed by independent financial advisors. The endowment spending policy seeks to ensure that the present value of existing funds grows at a rate that exceeds inflation while generating a predictable stream of spendable income. The current spending or payout rate is four percent of the three-year rolling average of the market value for endowments with a fair market value (FMV) equal to or exceeding the corpus value. Any earnings in excess are reinvested in the endowment. A two-percent spending rate will apply for those accounts with a FMV below the original gift value, but not less than 80 percent of the corpus. If the FMV has diminished below 80 percent of the corpus, no distribution will be made.

(2) The minimum for creating a new non-endowed gift fund is \$5,000. Such funds may be used to support scholarships, prizes, awards and programs.