TRUSTS, CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES, AND BEQUESTS

Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, and Bequests are all types of planned gifts that assist donors in reaching their philanthropic goals.

What is a TRUST, and how can it be used for a donation?
A trust, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), enables you to receive recurring income during your lifetime. Then any remaining assets in the trust are distributed to the UNT Foundation as the designated charity to be utilized as you designated.

What is a CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA), and how does it differ from a trust?
A CGA is similar to a trust but enables you to receive a guaranteed lifetime. Unlike a trust, a CGA provides you fixed, predictable payments.

What is a BEQUEST?
A bequest is a designation in your will or life insurance policy, for a donation to the university or the UNT Foundation as a beneficiary.

How do I establish a TRUST, CGA or name UNT in my will?
The Planned Giving Team, within the University Division of Advancement (Advancement), has expertise in assist you in structuring these giving vehicles to align with your philanthropic goals.

Can I establish an endowment in connection with a TRUST, CGA or BEQUEST?
Yes, if you want to create an endowment funded through a trust, CGA, retirement account beneficiary designation, or a bequest, we recommend setting them up together.

Who manages the funds for TRUSTS and CGAs?
The UNT Foundation partners with HighGround Advisors, a Dallas-based trust company, to manage these funds.

Who serves as trustee or executor of an estate?
You may appoint an individual trustee or select HighGround Advisors or another trust company of your liking to fulfill this role.

Process for establishing a TRUST or CGA

- Sign a trust/CGA agreement and, if applicable, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an associated endowment.
- Transfer funds to your new account at HighGround Advisors.
- UNT Foundation coordinates the set up with HighGround Advisors.
- Complete a direct deposit authorization form, including a voided check for bank account verification. This information is required so HighGround can send the donor their distribution checks.
- The Advancement Planned Giving Team can develop a gift illustration, outlining expected payouts based on actuarial data.

What is the minimum funding amount for a TRUST or CGA?
$60,000 minimum, with a goal that at least $30,000 be allocated to the UNT Foundation to establish an endowment. ($30,000 is the endowment minimum.)

Can I establish a CGA now but defer payments?
Yes. A deferred CGA allows payments to begin at a later date, with a maximum deferral period of seven years.

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What is the payout rate for a TRUST or CGA?
Payout rates are determined by tables provided by the American Council on Gift Annuities, which factor in actuarial and market data.

Are dual-life CGAs available?
Yes, provided the age difference between the two annuitants does not exceed seven years.

What is the minimum age to establish a CGA?
You must be at least 55 years old.

What is the maximum amount for a TRUST?
There is no upper limit for a trust.

What is the maximum amount for a CGA?
$120,000.

This information is not intended as legal advice. Because each person's circumstances are different, please consult with a licensed estate attorney to discuss your specific estate planning needs.

Who can I contact with questions?

University Advancement - Gift Administration
giving@unt.edu | 940-369-9200

UNT Foundation
endowunt@unt.edu | 940-565-4555