

FAQS

General Bates Fund Questions

<p>“What types of gifts count toward the Bates Fund?”</p>	<p>All current-use gifts. There are a few categories within the Bates Fund to which donors may designate their gift -- scholarships, academic excellence, the arts, library, residential life, and Friends of Bates Athletics.</p> <p>Gifts made to endowed funds or capital projects are not included in the Bates Fund; however, all gifts to any designation count toward our alumni participation rate.</p>
<p>“How can I make a gift?”</p>	<p>There are many ways to make a gift to Bates. Please visit bates.edu/giving/ways-to-give for detailed information on all avenues.</p>
<p>“Is there a way to split my gift into monthly/recurring installments?”</p>	<p>Yes! Bates has a recurring gift program that allows you to set up an automatic monthly payment. Please visit bates.edu/giving/ways-to-give for information on how to get started.</p>
<p>“How is Bates Fund money used?”</p>	<p>Bates Fund budget-relieving gifts provide support for the fundamental aspects of a Bates education: everything from faculty salaries and curriculum development to athletic team travel and dance performances. Examples of Bates Fund support for this fiscal year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Financial Aid: Bates provides more than \$37 million in grant aid to students each year. Bates meets 100% of demonstrated financial need, with nearly half of our students receiving financial aid. The average aid package is \$51,099 (including grant, loan, and work study).● Instruction and Research: The Bates Fund helps compensate 200+ top-in-their-field faculty members, allowing Bates to maintain a 10:1 student to faculty ratio.● Academic Support: The Bates Fund assists in funding for necessary library staffing, technology, and holdings to support 350,000 library visits by students, faculty, and guests.● Student Services: The Bates Fund supports Purposeful Work offerings and events—such as one-on-one counseling, employer information sessions, internships, and workshops.

<p>“Why does participation matter?”</p>	<p>There are several reasons why participation matters to Bates!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A gift to Bates shows that you care about your Bates experience and believe in the power of higher education for generations to come. ● Our rate of alumni participation is one factor considered by key college rankings across the country. While no ranking system can fully represent the experience of any college, they are an indicator of a college’s status and value. ● Bates’ status as an elite institution benefits all alumni who are in the job market. Having Bates on one’s résumé helps open doors and opportunities. ● Federal and corporate grant-making foundations take note of a college’s participation rate, so even a small gift can help Bates secure critical outside funding.
<p>“Will my company match my donation?”</p>	<p>Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to support their colleges and universities. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, and if it will match your gift to Bates, please visit doublethedonation.com/batescollege or contact your company’s human resources office. Most companies match dollar for dollar, but some will double or triple an employee’s gift!</p> <p>For more information on matching gifts, please visit bates.edu/giving/matching-gifts.</p>
<p>“What is the Mount David Society? Why should I join?”</p>	<p>The Mount David Society (MDS) is the leadership giving society of the Bates Fund and a premiere giving program for the college.</p> <p>MDS members make annual commitments to Bates of \$2,500 or more (there are special rates for young alumni) and their philanthropy is critical to the success of the Bates Fund and overall fundraising efforts. Last year, just over 10% of donors to Bates gave at the MDS level; however, their support represented 80% of the Bates Fund overall.</p> <p>MDS members receive special opportunities to meet and network with fellow MDS members and Bates leaders, both on campus and at regional gatherings.</p> <p>For additional membership benefits and information, please visit bates.edu/mds.</p>

<p>“How should I respond to questions about the cost of a Bates education?”</p>	<p>Bates’ commitment to affordability and accessibility is a direct extension of the ethical vision that inspired the college’s founders: an education that is open to all will ensure that future leaders and visionaries emerge from every walk of life and are able to collaborate with people representing diverse cultures and viewpoints. Bates prides itself on providing the highest quality residential educational opportunities for students of all backgrounds. A Bates education is expensive to provide. That said, to reduce Bates’ tuition dependency, we need the support of alumni and parents.</p> <p>Since Clayton Spencer’s inauguration as the college’s eighth president, creation of opportunities for and access to a Bates education has been a central focus. President Spencer has been a leading policy maker and administrator working for the reformation of college financial aid. Consequently, Bates’ commitment to financial aid has become an even stronger priority.</p> <p>Bates provides more than \$37 million in grant aid to students every year. Nearly half of Bates students receive financial aid, and the average financial aid award, including grant, loan and work, is \$51,099. The college's entire financial aid budget supports students with demonstrated financial need.</p>
<p>“What is the pledge follow-up process?”</p>	<p>Once the college has received information on an individual’s pledge intention (e.g., \$100 by June 30), the alumni or parent will be sent pledge reminders in the mail throughout the year (until their gift is received). Alumni or parents who make specified pledges will not receive any further solicitations, only pledge reminders.</p> <p>Once an unspecified pledge (no specific amount) is reported to the college, the alumnus/a or parent will continue to receive solicitation mailings regarding the Bates Fund. In other words, for these purposes, an unspecified pledge is treated as if no pledge had been made.</p>
<p>“Where can I see my class’s fundraising progress?”</p>	<p>The Bates Fund Leaderboard showcases each class's progress toward fundraising goals. Data is refreshed nightly; bookmark bates.edu/giving/bates-fund-leaderboard to track your class throughout the fiscal year!</p>