

Empowering Stanford students

Funding scholarships is a direct way to open doors of opportunity for talented students—and prepare them to be the leaders that we will need in the decades to come.



Thanks to donor support, almost 50 percent of our undergrads can depend on need-based financial aid from the university.

The promise of access, opportunity, and top-quality education is intrinsic to Stanford’s identity and history—and remains critical to its vision for the future. Stanford opened its doors in 1891 as a nondenominational, coeducational institution, welcoming students of all backgrounds. Our founders, Jane and Leland Stanford, understood education as a vehicle to “correct inequalities.” Their goal was “to open an avenue whereby the deserving and exceptional may rise through their own efforts,” at a university dedicated to generating knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Today, as students face increasing economic and social pressures, Stanford’s capacity to provide an inclusive and transformative education is vitally important. Indeed, the need is urgent and the cost is great. The partnership of alumni, parents, and friends in providing additional support for undergraduate scholarships, both need-based and athletic, has never been more valuable. Underscoring its commitment to this priority, the university has established a major scholarship matching fund initiative that aims to affirm—and amplify—Stanford’s foundational mission.

Affordability and opportunity

The university's need-blind admission policy guarantees that qualified U.S. undergraduates will be accepted based strictly on their talents, not on their ability to pay. Backed by donors, Stanford meets the demonstrated financial need of all accepted undergraduates—and strives to provide the resources necessary for them to thrive academically and personally throughout their four undergraduate years.

Far-reaching impact

The benefits of your scholarship support include:

Inspiring promising and exceptional students.

A Stanford scholarship opens the door to innumerable opportunities for academic and personal growth. For those who are the first in their families to attend college, their achievements can inspire whole families and even communities.

Fostering a talented and diverse community.

Different backgrounds and perspectives create a richer educational environment for all Stanford students, who learn as much from each other as they do in the classroom.

Preparing engaged citizens and future leaders.

When students are prepared for leadership roles in business, public service, research, and other fields, their influence is immeasurable. Stanford graduates have a positive impact on countless communities and lives beyond the Farm.

Fundamentally, donor investment in need-based scholarships makes it possible for exceptional undergraduates from a wide range of backgrounds and across the socioeconomic spectrum to attend the university. At the same time, funding for athletic scholarships helps talented student-athletes come to Stanford and achieve their full potential in the classroom and in intercollegiate competition.

This vibrant campus environment reflects the dynamic nature of our country and our world, and ultimately elevates learning for *all* students. Fostering a diverse student body is especially important now: Fully understanding today's complex and global problems requires interacting with the broadest range of people and gaining exposure to ways of thinking and life experiences that are different from one's own. The imperative of building an inclusive community at Stanford—and making certain that diversity of thought and experience is represented in all aspects of Stanford's education mission—is embedded in every aspect of the university's Long-Range Vision.

"Coming from a low-income family, I joined the U.S. Army after high school with the hope that someday I would be able to afford a high-quality college education. Never did I expect myself to have the privilege of attending Stanford. Thanks to your kindness, I am part of an incredible, supportive community that cultivates my love for learning and encourages me to improve the world."



Tina Wong, '22
from a letter to
scholarship donors

Preparing students for a life of purpose

The Stanford undergraduate experience nurtures the *entire* student, inside and outside the classroom. For many students, this transformative experience is possible only because of scholarship support. Our students gain not only skills and knowledge, but breadth, compassion, resilience, and the capacity for leadership as well.

Innovative curricula across disciplines include core classes about the obligations of citizenship and the value of lifelong learning. Newly restructured majors offer students the chance to explore the wide range of opportunities available at Stanford—and the tools to succeed in whatever major they choose, no matter their level of high school preparation. Immersive learning experiences, including research and capstone projects, Cardinal Service opportunities, and Bing Overseas Studies trips, enable students to challenge themselves as they define their own educational journeys.

More than 600 student organizations, from arts to business development to public service, allow undergraduates to express creativity, gain skills, and build connections. Students in Stanford's varsity athletics program learn about teamwork and perseverance; their achievements inspire pride and create memorable shared experiences across the student body.

Underpinning all these elements of the student experience are programs that foster community and a sense of belonging—conditions that are fundamental to students' capacity for personal and intellectual growth. These include an array of avenues for advising, mentoring, and mental health support. In addition, group-based transition programs, such as Leland Scholars and Stanford Summer Engineering Academy, help prepare incoming students—especially those from under-resourced high schools—for the academic rigor and personal challenges of Stanford life. Courses such as *Frosh 101* and *Transfer 101* give students a chance to connect with peers for emotional and social support as they begin their Stanford careers. Through programming and activities, seven campus community centers support diverse student populations while also facilitating multicultural exploration and conversation among all students.

While these resources are valuable to every student, they are particularly important for first-generation or low-income (FLI) students, who may have little context for navigating college. These students can also look to Stanford's FLI Office, which connects undergraduates to a network of services and support campus wide.

"While I may have had limited resources before coming to Stanford, I can assure you that I have always had limitless aspirations. There have been many challenges in my life, but I have learned to look for the positives in every situation. I know that my college experience is something I will treasure for the rest of my life. I will never forget the sacrifices made to allow students like myself to attend this university."



Ethan Sperla, '23

from a letter to scholarship donors

Tradition and impact

Endowed scholarship funds are the foundation of Stanford's financial aid program. Dedicated to supporting students in perpetuity, they generate the bulk of our resources and help carry our commitment into the future.

Support for student-athletes

One of Stanford's great sources of pride is our top-ranked intercollegiate athletics program.

Over the course of the university's history, Stanford's student-athletes have set the standard for exceptional achievement in both academics and athletics. Stanford is firmly committed to diversity and gender equity in athletics, and maintains one of the highest student-athlete to undergraduate student body ratios in the nation: Nearly 11 percent of the undergraduate student body participates in varsity athletics across 36 programs. Cheering on the Cardinal is an integral part of life at Stanford, and the commitment and dedication of Stanford's student-athletes serve as an inspiration for fans and followers well beyond the Farm.

From the university's earliest years, when Jane Stanford used her deceased son's boyhood savings to create the Leland Stanford, Jr., Memorial Scholarship Fund, every Stanford education has been subsidized by donations from its founders, alumni, parents, and friends. Keeping this commitment stands among the university's greatest achievements and highest goals. This promise to students—so fundamental to the history and destiny of Stanford—depends upon the commitment of scholarship donors.



Again and again, alumni, parents, and friends have opened doors to the next generation of promising and exceptional students. Scholarship supporters have created more than 1,800 named undergraduate and athletic scholarship funds over the decades. Combined with contributions made through annual funds, these gifts ensure that nearly 3,400 undergraduates and 500 student-athletes benefit from the generosity of others every year.

"I have learned so much here, not only on the football field but also through the constant support of professors and academic advisors. I would not have had so many great learning experiences, chances to grow, and the opportunity to become a better version of myself if it were not for your kindness and willingness to help me attend Stanford University."

Simi Fehoko, '22

from a letter to scholarship donors



UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

An accelerating need

Stanford's commitment to meeting students' full demonstrated financial need is costly—and the need is increasing. Since 2006, Stanford has more than tripled its investment in financial aid. At the same time, new benchmarks designed to assist middle-income families are providing higher levels of financial support overall: Undergraduates from families earning less than \$150,000 now qualify for full-tuition scholarships. For those below \$75,000, scholarships also cover room, board, and expenses. This threshold will increase to \$100,000 for the 2023–24 academic year. Students from families with incomes of \$150,000 or more (particularly those with more than one child in college) may also qualify for some assistance.

49% of undergraduates receive need-based aid directly from the university.

Nearly **20%** of Stanford's newest class of undergraduates are among the first generation in their families to attend a four-year university.

86% of undergrads leave Stanford with no debt. Of the remaining students who do take out loans, the median debt upon graduation is \$12,000, well below the national average.

"I'm a first-generation, low-income student, and when I think back on my Stanford experience, I feel incredibly grateful. Because of the financial aid I received, I was able to attend Stanford for four years, to graduate debt-free, and to do something that I really loved. The Class of 2020 has been through a whole lot in the last year. But I think that's what makes us special—the fact that we've endured this together."



Sam Duke, '20
from a video message
to scholarship donors

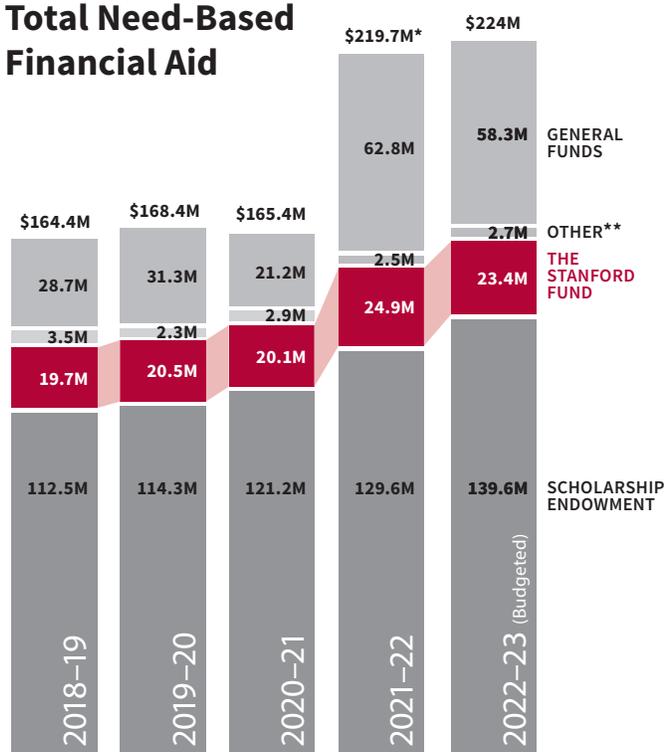
UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

Meeting the moment

Stanford's investment in financial aid is paying off in a robust learning environment: The student body today is more diverse in every respect. This comes at a cost, however. Stanford's need-based financial aid budget has more than tripled since 2006 and is expected to increase continually, as Stanford families confront new economic challenges. In addition, new financial aid benchmarks adopted for the 2023–24 academic year will make aid available to even more students. To meet this growing need, the university relies on the generosity of the Stanford community of alumni, parents, and supporters.

The university remains committed to its core value: to attract and nurture students from the widest possible range of income levels, backgrounds, talents, and life experiences—even in the face of global challenges. The partnership of committed donors is critical to making this possible.

Total Need-Based Financial Aid



* The threshold for middle-income families who qualify for need-based aid increased to \$75,000 in 2021–22, providing higher levels of financial support overall. In addition, the number of students who took gap years in 2021–22 resulted in a larger than normal incoming class in 2021–22.

** Includes licensing, expendable gifts, and other funds

UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

Two ways to give, plus “Fast Forward” matching

There are two ways to create a Stanford undergraduate scholarship:

- 1. Fund an annual scholarship** (need-based or athletic). Current-year scholarship funds can be established with a gift of \$25,000 through The Stanford Fund or the Buck/Cardinal Club.
- 2. Establish an endowed scholarship** (need-based or athletic). This creates a permanent source of funding for students today and into the future. Endowed scholarships can be established with a gift of \$250,000.

Fast Forward matching

Because financial aid is one of Stanford’s highest priorities, the university has mounted the Fast Forward Match, a significant drive seeking gifts that will simultaneously support both current-year and endowed scholarships.

For donors able to commit at least \$500,000 (or \$250,000 for graduates within the last 15 years), Stanford will match your gift at a ratio of 1:2 (match amount to donor amount). The combined funds create both a current-year scholarship and an endowed scholarship fund in your name.

Your gift goes to work fast, with students receiving aid now. And it keeps going forward, with endowed funds supporting students of the future in perpetuity.

How Fast Forward matching works

Total donor gift amount	\$500K	\$1.0M	\$2.5M	\$5.0M	\$250K (recent graduates)
Amount of gift directed to annual scholarships (Stanford Fund or Buck/Cardinal)	\$125K	\$250K	\$500K	\$1.0M	\$50K
Amount of gift directed to endowed fund	\$375K	\$750K	\$2.0M	\$4.0M	\$200K
University match applied to endowed fund	\$250K	\$500K	\$1.25M	\$2.5M	\$125K
Total endowed fund, after match	\$625K	\$1.25M	\$3.25M	\$6.5M	\$325K
Number of one-year Stanford Fund or Buck/Cardinal scholarship grants created (total over five years)*	5	10	20	40	2
Number of students supported each year in perpetuity by endowed fund (when fully funded)**	1 (partial)	1-2	3-4	6-7	1 (partial)

* Based on Stanford Fund Scholarship award of \$25K.

** Based on annual fund payout of 5.5% and average scholarship award of \$52K. Because award amounts vary based on each student’s demonstrated need, the number of recipients supported will vary. As the endowed fund’s value increases over time, the fund may support more students.

For more information, please contact

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