

Faculty Gifts to Department

Responsibility

Responsible McCormick Official: Associate Dean Joseph Schofer
Responsible Office: McCormick Office of the Dean
Last Updated: March 16, 2021

Overview

Northwestern and McCormick are the beneficiaries of substantial charitable giving on the part of our faculty. Those gifts are important in quantity and sentiment, and they are recognized and appreciated. However, giving money to support one's own research activities, whether for pure generosity, to grow one's research, or to make up a deficit, is not permitted.

Faculty members contributing to their department or to McCormick should direct their gifts through the Office of Alumni Relations and Development, which can certify tax deductibility as long as the gift is not to oneself or of personal benefit, per the terms of the [Policy on Gifts to Northwestern University from Faculty and Staff](#).

Of course, as the donor, a faculty member may direct the use of the gift, but the direction may not be toward one's own research program or other activities. For example, one can contribute to McCormick, to undergraduate education, to a student group, or to a department. One may further direct that gift to buy equipment for an undergraduate lab or for a shared use research lab, but not for equipment exclusively for one's own lab or to support a student in one's own lab. The donor may benefit from some of the funds he or she contributes to the school or a department, but not as the sole or even primary beneficiary. For any directed charitable gifts there must be a systematic and equitable way to deploy the funds.