

Gift or Grant?

This table will help you determine whether the funding you are pursuing is a gift or a grant. For assistance with gifts, contact the Office of Development. For assistance with grants, contact the Office of Research Administration. If you are uncertain whether your funding will be a gift or a grant, please contact our offices for guidance.

Nature of the...	Gift	Grant
Donor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • private foundation or corporation, depending on the nature of the factors below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • governmental or quasi-governmental source • private foundation or corporation, depending on the nature of the factors below
Solicitation/Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may or may not include a formal proposal or request for funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>usually</u> includes a formal request for funds, often in response to a formal “Request for Proposals” (RFP)
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freely given, with no expectation of benefit for the donor • no expectation that any portion of the contribution be returned if not spent by a specified date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • given in support of a specific objective determined either by the donor or the recipient • some or all must be returned if the terms of the agreement are not fulfilled, or the funding is not spent, within a specified period
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to advance the mission of the recipient • may be restricted to a specific purpose • may include faculty, student, programmatic, or capital support • all contributions to endowments are considered gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to advance the missions of both the recipient and the donor • <u>always</u> restricted to a specific purpose • may include faculty, student, staff, programmatic, or research support • rarely for capital or general operating support
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a general proposal suggesting the manner in which the funds are to be spent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a specific and detailed proposal for the manner in which the funds are to be spent
Reporting Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • while a report may be required, it is of a narrative nature and includes an informal accounting of budgets or expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a mandatory formal report that must include details of expenditures, as well as other evaluative criteria, to assure that funds were used as <u>specified in the proposal</u>
Ownership of Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recipient retains control and ownership of any results associated with the work of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in some cases, donor may assume full or partial ownership of the work accomplished • all funded projects with commercial value—including those involving patents, copyrights, advance and exclusive knowledge—are grants
Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • donor does not receive any direct economic or other tangible benefit commensurate with the value of the contribution • tax advantages, goodwill, donor clubs, and public recognition do not constitute “benefits” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • donor may receive direct economic or other tangible benefits (e.g., research results, consulting reports, replicable program models, etc.)¹

¹ Passage of the Bayh-Dole Act in 1980 allowed universities and other non-profit entities, which had received government research grants and contracts, to retain the title to their inventions.