CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

The Shock the World campaign seeks to raise $83.5 million for scholarships and fellowships, which are scholarships awarded to graduate students. That represents a nearly 80 percent increase in scholarships funded through private support.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP
Endowed funds are valuable because they provide support in perpetuity. Once endowed, these funds make annual distributions of 4 percent of the fund balance, for a period of many years, even generations. The minimum donation to endow a scholarship or fellowship is $35,000, which can be spread in equal payments over as many as five consecutive years.

EXAMPLE: A gift of $100,000 will create an endowment that will pay out about $4,000 a year. (The 4 percent payout rate is the level currently authorized by the WSU Foundation Board of Directors.)

CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP
The donated amount is available for immediate use. Once the balance is exhausted, the fund is closed. The minimum amount required to establish a current scholarship is $5,000, which can be spread in equal payments over as many as five consecutive years.

EXAMPLE: A gift of $25,000 may provide a scholarship of about $5,000 a year, for five years. Unless the donor contributes more to the fund, it is closed once the funds have been expended.

People who create scholarships and fellowships at Wichita State University usually have very personal reasons. One recent donor never had the opportunity to go to college, so he wanted to help others achieve what he couldn't. Others believe their experience at Wichita State helped them succeed in life, so they want to give back to today's students. Organizations and companies endow scholarships and fellowships because they know advanced education is critical to a strong workforce.

Most recognize that no university can compete for the best and brightest young minds – or help deserving students in need – without providing scholarships that will cover part of their financial burden. The generous gifts of friends and supporters like you will strengthen Wichita State's ability to offer meaningful financial assistance to more students.
You help set guidelines for a scholarship/fellowship

- Donors often select one or more areas of the university to support with their scholarship, such as an academic college or department.

- A general designation means the scholarship may be awarded to any student who meets the qualifications set by the donor.

- Those qualifications may include year in school, major, minimum grade-point average, etc.

- Donors can choose whether annual awards will be given to one student or several, whether they will be based on financial need, and whether recipients may receive the scholarship for more than one year.

Annual costs for WSU students

- $7,896 Tuition and fees for an undergraduate, residential student enrolled in 15 hours a semester.

- $1,000 Books and supplies.

- $10,000 - $12,000 for on-campus room and board.

Of interest

- $1,883 – average scholarship award through the WSU Foundation

- $24,935.08 – average debt of WSU students who graduate with debt.

What they’re saying

My scholarship removes some of the financial burden on me and my family. It provides me with the extra time to focus on my studies, instead of having to work full-time.

- Jose Carlos
  junior majoring in entrepreneurship

Even though I work, it's been tough financially to pay my bills and take care of my daughter. I want to have a career that allows me to provide for a family. I'm very grateful for the scholarships I receive that allow me to pursue a better quality of life.

- Ashley Renshaw
  senior majoring in dental hygiene

The defining trait of scholarships is that they make a difference. For some students, a scholarship will determine whether they go to college or not. For others, a scholarship will dictate whether they have to work full- or part-time. And for many, a scholarship means an improved college experience.

- John Bardo
  WSU President

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*A fee of 5 percent is assessed on gifts to the WSU Foundation.*