

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the JSUDF do with my gift?

JSUDF does exactly what you intend. We deposit 100% of your gift into one or more of the accounts established at JSUDF by JSU's president, provosts, chancellors, deans, department chairs, and program managers to hold their gift funds. We then confirm the designation in a thank-you receipt. The JSU staff member in charge of the account submits a request for your gift. After ensuring that the request meets the account's guidelines, JSUDF issues a check.

Unrestricted gifts: JSU designates about a half of your unrestricted gifts to developing student leaders, rewarding outstanding teaching and academic performance, recruiting faculty, and conducting events that showcase the University. The remainder of the unrestricted funds supports JSUDF communications and fundraising or, at JSU's request, important University initiatives for which other funding is not available.

- **How is JSUDF funded?**

1. *JSUDF's operating budget has two sources:*

- A 4% fee is assessed on all restricted and unrestricted gifts except for inter-transfers
- Income from rents, royalties, JSUDF's operating endowment, and unrestricted gifts.

- **Why are JSU and JSUDF separate institutions?**

- Confidentiality: Laws mandate that records and meetings of state institutions be open to the public. Because JSUDF is separate from JSU, it is able to keep confidential gift records, wills, trust agreements, correspondence, and other highly personal documents related to gifts.
- Return on investment: State statutes limit how state institutions can invest their funds. JSUDF, subject to different though equally stringent rules and regulations, can realize a significantly higher return on JSU's endowment.
- Flexibility: JSU prepares budgets two years in advance and has limited discretionary funds. Gift funds, administered by JSUDF, add to the pool of discretionary funding. Gift funds can also be used in ways that state moneys cannot, such as faculty research in other countries, travel assistance, food and sustenance support and more.

- **What is the role of the Jackson State University Foundation?**

The Jackson State University Foundation is a non-profit organization whose sole mission is to raise funds for the benefit of Jackson State University. The University is faced with continuous rising costs, which have created tremendous financial pressures on its operating budget. For the University to sustain and enhance its margin of excellence, it has been necessary for it to rely on increased funds from private sources. State appropriations and income from tuition and fees do not meet the total cost of education. In order to continue the University's tradition of offering the quality of a private education at an affordable, public-school price, the JSUDF must continue to be successful in raising private support.

2. How does the JSUDF raise funds?

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Each year, the JSUDF's comprehensive fund-raising program is reviewed. Typical segments include the following areas:

Annual Giving

A basis for all other forms of giving, Annual Giving consists of both unrestricted and restricted giving. The Annual Fund is completed on a yearly basis through phonathons, direct mail, and personal solicitation strategies.

Planned Giving

This program is designed to raise funds, primarily for the endowment of the Foundation, by utilizing estate planning devices such as wills, bequests, trusts, gift annuities, and life insurance policies.

Comprehensive Campaigns

A comprehensive campaign is a special program designed to specifically fund a particular project or initiative.

Corporate and Foundation Giving

This program is designed to obtain support from corporations and foundations, usually on a larger scale, and can consist of either annual or capital gifts.

3. What is the difference between unrestricted and restricted giving?

Unrestricted and restricted giving are both important to the JSUDF because they provide needed support in many areas.

Unrestricted giving allows the University President and JSUDF Board of Directors to determine which needs are greatest at a particular time. In addition, unrestricted contributions can be put to use where there is a need immediately such as, scholarships, computer and scientific equipment, joint student/faculty research programs, cultural programming, and more.

Restricted giving allows the donor to designate his or her gift to a specific area within the University. Restricted gifts are often made to academic departments, athletic teams, specific scholarships, and more.

4. Where exactly do my contributions go?

All contributions are made through the JSUDF. If you choose to designate your gift, it will be used in the area that you specify. If you give unrestricted contributions, the money will be used to fulfill the most crucial needs of the University. Each year, the JSUDF sends out an Annual Report to its donors, which describes the specific allocation of funds.

5. What other outlets are supported by private contributions?

Capital funds are used for many initiatives, including the improvement of new facilities, the building of new structures, and the enhancement of the endowment.

6. Why should I give? No one gave to me while I attended Tiger land.

Whether you realize it or not, you did benefit from the generosity of others while you attended Jackson State University. Facility renovations, improved technology, and cultural programming are just a few of the areas that are provided through private support and that impact each JSU student. In addition, you may have received scholarships and loans that enabled you to attend college.

7. Will I receive recognition for giving?

Yes. Each donor is listed in our Annual Report. In addition, if you are a member of one of our Annual Fund Gift Clubs, you will receive added benefits such as a campus activities card, dinner invitations, library access, and parking privileges (benefits vary by gift club).

8. What is a matching gift company, and how do I find out if I work for one?

Matching gifts are, in essence, "free" money for the JSUDF. Matching gift companies match charitable contributions made by their employees. The ratio could be a 1:1 (dollar for dollar) match or could be as high as 2:1 or 3:1. This allows you to double, triple, or even quadruple your gift. To find out if your company matches gifts or call your human resources office. They should have all of the information you need in order to utilize this program.

9. Are there giving programs for people who are not JSU alumni?

Yes, friends of the University and parents of current and past students are encouraged to contribute. We conduct parent phonathons and contact friends of the University during our phonathons as well.

10. What is the JSUDF's fiscal year?

Contributions are counted within the Foundation's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Because of this, if you give in June, you may receive a phone call or letter in the fall because it is a new fiscal year for us.