The Stanford Endowment
Fact Sheet

Stanford has an endowment that provides long-term support for many activities at the university. The endowment comes from charitable gifts made by donors, and it is a major source of funding for student scholarships at Stanford. But there are many limits on how the endowment can be used.

The endowment comes from charitable gifts to the university. When these gifts are given, they often are designated for specific purposes that cannot be changed. More than 75% of the endowment is restricted in this way.

75% = Legally restricted for specific purposes.

The endowment exists to support the university for the long term. Like most universities, Stanford can only spend about 5% of the total value of the endowment in any given year.

5% = Amount Stanford can spend in a year.

$26.5 Billion

Payout from the endowment supports nearly every part of the university, including faculty salaries, research, student services, libraries, athletics and student financial aid.

Payout from the endowment is the largest source of undergraduate and graduate student financial aid.

20% = Funded by payout from the endowment.

$321 Million

2/3 Comes from the endowment.

Financial aid for undergraduate and graduate students.

$50,313

Average need-based scholarship amount for nearly 1/2 of all undergraduate students. The endowment funds our commitment to cover tuition for undergraduate families with incomes of $125,000 and below.