

FUNDING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE VENTURA COLLEGE FOUNDATION: SUSTAINABILITY GIFT ASSESSMENT Q & A

1. What is the new sustainability gift structure?

Effective March 20, 2020, the one-time, up-front sustainability gift assessment will increase from 5% for campus donations only to 10% on all future charitable contributions received as part of the funding strategy that will build capacity for increased private donations to the VC Foundation.

2. What will the VC Foundation do with the additional funds?

The VC Foundation is committed to providing the best service possible to ensure that gifts are used according to our donors' intentions. Like other organizations that depend on philanthropic support, the Foundation needs to cover operational costs incurred in managing its fundraising and program delivery operations.

The sustainability gift will help generate the assets needed to meet the increasing demands for private support to the Foundation and to support the rising costs related to private fundraising and program delivery. It will allow for the necessary expansion of its fundraising initiatives and development efforts as well as student and campus support. Without the efforts of the Foundation in obtaining these funds, there would be far fewer private gifts to the Foundation, resulting in fewer scholarships and programs. These funds are essential in the efforts to transform the lives of Ventura College Students.

3. Do other universities take this approach to fund advancement?

Yes. This approach has been in practice for several years by many universities, community college foundations, and nonprofits across the country. Gift assessments from our peers range from 2% to more than 10% annually. Growth in effective, efficient, and timely support to students is made possible by donors through professional staff and systems. Ninety cents of each dollar you give to the VC Foundation gets put to the specific purpose you choose to support.

4. Do assessments affect the tax-deductible amount of a donor's gift?

No, donors receive the full tax credit and a receipt for the full amount of their gift. Information indicating full tax credit and related gift assessment fees are and will continue to be, included on all gift receipts.

5. Will open pledges for current use gifts be charged the increased gift fee?

Qualifying payments on fixed pledges (pledges with a defined end date) made before March 20, 2020, will be grandfathered at the 5% rate for campus program donations. Beginning March 20, 2020, all open-ended (perpetual) pledges, typically pledges set up through payroll deduction, bank draft, or credit card will be assessed at the new prevailing current rate, 10%, regardless of the assessment rate at time pledge was recorded.

6. Can the sustainability gift be waived?

If a gift is made by a private foundation that has a written policy stating it will not pay gift fees or administrative costs, the VC Foundation will waive the sustainability gift.

7. Does the VC Foundation charge other fees?

Like the vast majority of other foundations, the VC Foundations charges an annual fee to manage endowed funds that are invested in perpetuity. Because we want to maximize our endowment's growth over time, we keep this annual management fee to a minimum. Additionally, a 10% sustainability gift is taken from the earnings distributed annually from any endowed or investment fund managed by the VC Foundation.

If you have additional questions or would like more information on the VC Foundation's Sustainability Gift Policy, please contact Gerry Pantoja, Director of Major & Planned Giving at 805.289.6158 or gpantoja@vcccd.edu.