

HSU Foundation Contribution Administration Fee FAQ

Q. How much is the fee?

A. Each donation to the Foundation is assessed a one-time administrative fee equal to 5% of donations to all gifts.

Q. Why does HSU have a Contribution Administration Fee?

A. The fee is used to pay the administrative expenses involved in the acceptance and administration of charitable contributions that the Foundation is required to pay. The Contribution Administration Fee is a charge to cover some of these costs. Additionally, the fee also provides unrestricted support to HSU, allowing the president to support current priorities.

Q. How are operations of the HSU Foundation funded?

A. Foundation operations are funded through a combination of revenue from earnings on short-term funds, endowment management fees, real estate/property management income, and gift fees.

Q. Do other colleges and universities charge gift fees? Nationally? In California?

A. A gift fee of 5% is not uncommon at university foundations throughout the country. In fact, 5% is a relatively low rate, allowing 95% of each charitable contribution to the Foundation to be available to support the intended philanthropic purpose, which is significantly more direct benefit than most charities can promise.

Q. Can the gift fee be waived?

A. If a gift is made by a private foundation that has a written policy stating it will not pay gift fees, the HSU Foundation will waive the fee.

Q. Can donors increase their gifts to cover the cost of the fee?

Many of our generous donors are willing to increase their contributions to accommodate the 5% Contribution Administration Fee. If you have any questions on this, please contact the Development office at 707-826-5200 or email giving@humboldt.edu.

Q. Does the HSU Foundation charge other fees?

A. The HSU Foundation may use third party electronic vendors that charge their own fees.