

Columbia University Founders Society General Overview

The Columbia University Founders Society **empowers entrepreneurs** to unite business success with philanthropic achievement. Members benefit from a network of like-minded business founders and gain access to the University's rich entrepreneurial ecosystem.



When the time is right for you, like a liquidity event or successful quarter, donate a percentage of your success to the University. Tax benefits come into play at the time of your gift.

Becoming a member of the Founders Society is easy. Simply **make a pledge** to donate a percentage of wealth resulting from your venture to any area at Columbia University. Completing the University's pledge form makes you an instant Founders Society member.



Signatories have **full control** over the timing, amount, and designation of their gift. Your pledge is a statement of intent only.

For more information about the Founders Society, read the FAQs on the other side of this sheet or contact Ed Cangialosi, Gift Planning Officer, at ec2731@columbia.edu or 212-851-7988.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Columbia University Founders Society?

Members of Columbia's Founders Society are like-minded business founders, equity holders, and investors who have made a nonbinding pledge to contribute a percentage of their venture's future proceeds to benefit the University. Alumni and friends who make the pledge immediately gain membership in the Founders Society and have full control over the timing, amount, and designation of their gift, which can support any school or area at Columbia. Make the pledge and tap into the University's rich entrepreneurial ecosystem, while connecting with fellow founders who understand the importance of tying commercial advancement to philanthropic achievement.

Who can become a member of the Founders Society?

Anyone who holds equity in a company such as founders, investors, and institutional investors.

How do I become a member of the Founders Society?

Simply fill out and submit the University's pledge form. Then, when you are preparing for a liquidity event, contact us so that we can discuss tax-efficient ways of honoring your pledge.

What happens after I make the pledge?

Making a pledge grants you instant membership in Columbia's Founders Society, an exclusive network of entrepreneurs. If desired, your name and company will be featured on the Founders Society website, which promotes your venture and encourages others to make a pledge.

Is there a cost to joining the Founders Society?

There is no cost—no commission, transaction fee, or hidden costs.

Is my pledge legally binding?

Your pledge is an indicator of your intentions to fulfill the commitment and is not legally binding.

What happens if I never exit or if the business fails?

Your pledge is based only on the success of your venture.

Is there a minimum pledge percentage?

The percentage that you give is completely up to you.

Can I designate my pledge to any area of Columbia University?

Yes, pledges can be made to any school, program, or center. Founders Society members don't have to decide on the exact designation when making the pledge. We can help identify areas to support over time given your particular interests and goals.

What tax benefit do I receive by making the pledge?

Columbia University is a not-for-profit or 501(c)(3), allowing your gift to count against your taxes as a charitable gift. The tax benefit will come at the time of your gift, not at the time you make your pledge.