Four Reasons to Have a Will

1. Protect your assets for family and loved ones. An estate planning attorney can maximize the benefit your family and loved ones derive from your assets.

2. Provide guidance so that your wishes are carried out. Your Will can be written in a manner to make your specific desires clear, leaving no room for ambiguity.

3. Appoint appropriate individuals to carry out your wishes. You can appoint a guardian for minor children and name an executor to administer your estate.

4. Benefit others after your lifetime. By including charitable bequests, you can help others while leaving a personal or family legacy.

In honor of Hamilton’s bicentennial, the College hopes to enroll 200 new Joel Bristol Associates. If you have provided for Hamilton in your Will or would like to endow your Annual Fund contribution, or support the arts or scholarships through your estate plan, please return the reply card.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED GIFTS, GO TO WWW.HAMILTON.EDU/PLANNINGYOURGIFT OR RETURN THE REPLY CARD.
I Want to Leave a Bequest

If you are having a Will prepared for the first time or revising your existing Will, you can easily add a provision for Hamilton. Your attorney can draft a Codicil (a supplement) to your existing Will that is otherwise satisfactory. In either case, the suggested language is fairly straightforward:

“I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Hamilton College, an educational corporation established by law at Clinton, New York, (here follows the amount in dollars, the percentage of the residuary estate, or an accurate description of the securities, real estate or other property given) to be used for the general purposes of the College.”

Is it better to leave an amount in dollars or a percentage?

Personal finances change throughout one’s lifetime. If you leave a percentage, it will remain proportionately the same regardless of the total value of your assets.

What if I want my bequest to be designated for a specific purpose, for example, a scholarship?

You should contact us to discuss your desired purpose so we may provide the appropriate language and documentation.

Tax Pointer

With gift and estate taxes in a state of flux, some experts are advising their clients to take advantage of the current gift tax unified credit to transfer up to $5,120,000 to heirs in case that amount is reduced to $1 million on January 1, 2013.

You are encouraged to consult your legal and financial advisers regarding your personal situation.