



Why Should I Consider Donating My Body?

Q. Why should I consider donating my body to science?

No text book, anatomical chart, or computer program can substitute for the study of the human body through anatomical donation. At the University of Delaware, the students who have the privilege to utilize these donations are training to become physical therapists. The knowledge they gain will enable them to become proficient and skilled practitioners. Anatomical gifts to our program are used exclusively for anatomical study. We do not carry out any experimentation whatsoever.

Q. How do I donate my body to the University of Delaware Anatomical Gift Program?

Prospective donors should contact Lisa Shakespeare at lshakes@udel.edu to obtain an information packet. The packet will contain a donor form for you to complete and return to us. Your remitted form is considered a “registry” stating you are a prospective donor. Please understand that the signed form is not a contract and does not bind the donor or their estate to donate when you pass. Once we receive your donation form, we will send you a donor card to keep on hand that includes contact information for the program.

Prospective donors must be 18 years or older to qualify for anatomical donation. For an information packet you may also contact our office at 302-831-8521.

Q. How long will my donated body be at University of Delaware?

Your donated body may be kept in the Anatomical Gift Program for a period of up to two years before the remains are transported back to the funeral home where they will be cremated and returned to the family or disposed at the donor’s request.

Q. How much will it cost to donate my body?

The following expenses will be covered by the University of Delaware Anatomical Gift Program for anatomical donation:

- Transportation costs (within the state of Delaware)
- Preparation of the donor
- Cremation

Non-covered expenses under the anatomical donation program are (if chosen):

- Obituaries
- Death certificates
- Religious ceremony arranged with the funeral home
- Merchandise purchased through the funeral home
- Postal fee for the forwarding of the cremated remains via the U.S. Post Office to the designated receiver.



Q. For what reason(s) will my body not be accepted? Reason for which a donor cannot be accepted include:

- Weight of deceased prior to death exceeds 250 pounds
- Amputation of any limbs
- Existence of infectious or communicable disease (blood borne or airborne)
- Autopsy
- Organ donation (except anything related to the eyes)
- Recent surgery (within 30 days of death)

Q. Will there be a memorial service?

The doctor of physical therapy (DPT) students host an annual Service of Gratitude for anatomical donors whose studies were completed during that academic year. Families of these donors will be sent an invitation to attend the event.

More can be found on our [website](#).

Q. Who needs to be notified?

You should notify your family, close friends, physician and attorney (if applicable) of your decision to donate your body to University of Delaware Anatomical Gift Program. You should update end-of-life decisions and legal paperwork. Typically, your HIPAA form and Health Care Proxy must include the Executor and next-of-kin that will act on your behalf at the time of death.

Q. Is there a specific funeral home you work with for anatomical donation?

University of Delaware Anatomical Gift Program welcomes the opportunity to work with all local funeral homes. Please feel free to contact us for a list of funeral homes whom we have worked with in the past.