



Emory EIM – Endowment FAQs

Why is an endowment important to Emory?

Endowments are the financial foundation of leading research universities. Emory's endowment provides essential resources for the academic mission, including the funds for student scholarships, faculty professorships, research initiatives and other programs. The endowment is managed to provide these funds in perpetuity, creating a reliable source of funding for Emory's mission today and in the future.

What is Emory's Endowment?

An individual endowment account is established by a contractual agreement between a philanthropic donor and the university. These accounts are often restricted to a specific purpose (such as a student scholarship) depending on the donor's wishes and with the agreement of the university. The distribution from the endowment account can only be used for the agreed upon purpose.

Emory's endowment is a collection of more than 2,400 individual accounts that are pooled to make long-term investments in financial markets. Annually, a percentage of the endowment is paid out to provide funds for the specific purpose of each individual endowment account.

Can Emory spend its endowment on anything?

No. Most of the endowment accounts have specific requirements on how they can be used. Only the annual payout from each account may be spent, according to the agreement with the donor. The endowment itself may not be spent since it is restricted for the fund's specific purpose in perpetuity.

Do tuition dollars go into Emory's endowment?

No. Tuition dollars are used to pay for the annual costs of educating students, providing student services, and the general operations of the university.

Who manages Emory's endowment and investments?

The Emory Investment Management (EIM) team is responsible for the financial management of the endowment. EIM is overseen by the Investment Committee of the Emory University Board of Trustees.

What are Emory's Investment Priorities?

Emory invests to maximize the financial return to support its academic, research, and healthcare mission while generating long-term growth to ensure support for future generations of the Emory community.

What is Emory's investment approach?

Given the perpetual nature of the endowment, EIM takes a long-term view in its investment approach while balancing the market risk associated with any investment. Emory's portfolio is diversified across a broad range of financial asset classes and strategies available to institutional investors.

Does Emory disclose its endowment holdings?

No. EIM maintains the confidentiality of its investments. Contractual obligations with outside investment managers, who invest resources on Emory's behalf using proprietary investment strategies, necessitate confidentiality.