



Welcome to the
Miami University Endowment

A guide to your new fund



Endowment:

an investment that provides ongoing support for the university and spends a portion of the annual earnings to support a cause you choose.

By establishing an endowment at Miami, you are creating a better future for our students, faculty, and staff as well as a permanent source of financial stability for our university. You are transforming the lives of the next generation of Miamians, our future entrepreneurs, changemakers, and leaders.

Your endowment reflects your priorities and goals. No matter what your endowment supports—it may be a scholarship providing financial aid or a fund advancing the work of our dedicated faculty, academic programs, student organizations, or campus life—it stands as an enduring tribute to your generosity.

Now that you have entrusted us with your investment, please know that we take very seriously our responsibilities to steward your endowment wisely and spend your funds in a transparent manner that aligns with your intentions.

Our goal is not just to meet, but to exceed, your expectations.





Endowments by the Numbers

3,005

Individual endowment funds that make up the Miami University endowment pool supporting all areas of the university.

**\$24
million**

Amount distributed by the endowment in fiscal year 2023, providing a vital source of financial support to a wide variety of students, faculty, and programs across our campuses

**\$190
million**

Cumulative distributions from the Miami University endowment pool over the past 10 years

Funding Your Philanthropic Passion

Creating an endowment demonstrates your commitment to making a lasting impact.

Miami's investment and spending policies strive to ensure that all endowed funds provide consistent and sustainable annual distributions to benefit current students while preserving the endowment principal to assist future students. Miami's investment philosophy governing the endowment pool is informed by the understanding that economic cycles will rise and fall, but that a well-diversified portfolio will provide the long-term growth necessary to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment across generations.

Who manages Miami's endowment assets?

The Investment Committee of the Miami University Foundation Board of Directors provides governance oversight to the combined endowment assets of Miami University and the Miami University Foundation. The Foundation Board employs an external firm, Strategic Investment Group, to oversee the day-to-day management of the investments. More information about the Foundation Board can be found here: www.givetomiamioh.org/foundationboard

How much do Miami's endowments distribute each year?

Following the policy established by the Miami University Foundation Board, the **endowment distributes four percent** of the average of the previous 12 quarterly market values as of March 31 of each fiscal year. An endowment will not produce an annual distribution until it reaches a fund balance of at least \$25,000. Also, annual distributions typically take three to four years to build up to a full distribution, depending upon the length of a pledge commitment, the timing of pledge payments, and the amount of earnings. Therefore, for most endowments, the distribution rate will be less than four percent in the first few years.

For example:

If an endowment has a balance of \$100,000, in a typical year when fully funded, the endowment's annual distribution would be approximately \$4,000.

After the end of the university's fiscal year on June 30, the \$4,000 would be transferred out of your endowed fund and into your expendable fund. This expendable fund acts as a bank account for the responsible financial manager to spend for the coming fiscal year. The endowed principal remains in the endowment and continues to grow, supporting the fund's mission in perpetuity.







Our Responsibility to You

We want you to have an extraordinary philanthropic experience.

We are committed to managing your fund according to your vision and sharing its impact. One way that we demonstrate fiscal transparency and accountability is by providing an annual endowment report on your fund, which contains the following information:

- **Financial report** for your endowment and expendable accounts.
- **Investment report** on the endowment pool's overall investment performance.
- **Information about the impact of your fund** (including scholarship recipients, if applicable).

How do you know if your endowment is being used in accordance with your intentions and objectives?

Compliance with donor intent is a fundamental responsibility of the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations. In addition to providing an annual endowment report, we have a number of processes in place to ensure we spend your gifts appropriately:

- Your gifts are held in your own fund and are separately accounted for.
- Your Endowment Gift Agreement establishes the spending criteria that determine how your fund can be used.
- Our staff conducts regular compliance and spending audits to ensure that your fund is being spent as you intend.
- To understand the full scope of our compliance procedures, please refer to our Donor Intent Policy: www.givetomiamioh.org/donor-intent





Frequently Asked Questions about Endowment Funds

When will your annual endowment report arrive?

You can expect your annual endowment report to arrive in the fall, and it will contain information about the previous fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

How will your annual endowment report be delivered?

If we have a valid email address on file for you, we default to email delivery. However, we are happy to produce a paper copy of your report if that is what you prefer. You can update your email address or share your preference for print reports by reaching out to the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations.

Can other people receive annual endowment reports for your fund?

Yes, we are happy to send annual endowment reports to the next generation of your loved ones or to other individuals of your choosing. Please contact the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations to add new contacts.

Can other people donate to your endowed fund?

Yes, anyone else can make a gift at any time by indicating the endowed fund name on their checks to Miami University or by using Miami's online giving form.

Can you receive notifications when others make gifts to your endowed fund?

Yes, you can opt in to receive an email notification when a donor makes a gift to your endowed fund. Please contact the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations to let us know you would like to receive these notifications.

Scholarships 101

Many of our endowed funds are scholarships; this page pertains to scholarships only.

Scholarships help attract bright, talented, and motivated students and empower them all the way to graduation day. They are one of Miami's top priorities because they transform lives.

Your Endowment Gift Agreement establishes the criteria that will determine how your scholarship is awarded. It also identifies the spending authority who is responsible for awarding the funds. Once your endowed fund matures and distributes spendable funds into your expendable account (after an endowment balance surpasses the \$25,000 threshold, or immediately in the case of a Match the Promise Scholarship), a recipient will be identified to receive the award. If you have questions specific to a Match the Promise Scholarship, please contact us or visit the following link: www.givetomiamioh.org/MTP

Frequently Asked Questions about Scholarships

What will you learn about the recipient(s) of your scholarship?

Your annual endowment report will share a list of your scholarship recipient(s) from the previous fiscal year. In addition, when provided by the scholarship recipient, scholarship donors also receive letters of gratitude from their current recipient(s), as well as biographical information about each recipient. These messages of gratitude typically arrive after the annual endowment report.

Can you meet the recipient(s) of your scholarship?

Yes, we would be happy to facilitate an opportunity for you to connect with the recipient(s) of your scholarship. If a student is able and willing to meet, we can help coordinate an on-campus luncheon or arrange a video chat. Feel free to contact the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations to initiate this meeting.

Can you contact the recipient(s) of your scholarship?

While we cannot give out student contact information for privacy reasons, if you would like to send a message to your recipient, please send it to the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations, and we will be glad to pass it along to the scholarship recipient.



The Impact of Endowments

Endowments touch every part of campus, and they change lives.

3,619

Talented and hardworking students who received life-changing opportunities from donor-funded **scholarships** in academic year 2022-23

"This scholarship means I can study a field I love without a huge financial burden on myself or my parents. I'm extremely grateful to the donors who have supported me. Without them and without this scholarship, I see myself in a very different spot."

-Ty Gray '24



65

Faculty who benefited in academic year 2022-23 from endowed **professorships and faculty support funds** that help recruit and retain leading teacher-scholars and provide resources to support their cutting-edge work

"To have donor support for a program that is aligned with the needs of business leaders is something unique to Miami."

-Megan Gerhardt, PhD
Robert D. Johnson Director of the Isaac-Oxley Center for Business Leadership



Our Pledge to You

We strive to uphold the following principles of ethical fundraising and stewardship practices from the Donor Bill of Rights.

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

- I. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- III. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
- IV. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- V. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
- VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
- VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- IX. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
- X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

The Donor Bill of Rights was created by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and the Giving Institute: Leading Consultants to Non-Profits.





Thank You!

Your investment supports in perpetuity the people and potential of Miami University.

We are profoundly grateful for your generosity and your commitment to make Miami the best place to learn and grow. The extraordinary work that is taking place at Miami would not be possible without visionaries like you. Thank you for choosing to be a catalyst for change now and for many generations to come.

Questions? Contact the Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations!

The Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations is happy to answer any questions you may have about your fund or your giving. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

Office of Stewardship and Donor Relations

513-529-5211

stewardship@MiamiOH.edu



Miami University,
a student-centered public
university founded in 1809,
has built its success through
an unwavering commitment to
liberal arts undergraduate
education and the active
engagement of its students
in both curricular and
co-curricular life.

It is deeply committed to
student success, builds great
student and alumni loyalty,
and empowers its students,
faculty, and staff to become
engaged citizens who use their
knowledge and skills with
integrity and compassion to
improve the future of our
global society.



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