

Partnering to achieve your mission and your vision

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools

January 10th, 2025

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A business of Marsh McLennan



- 1. Partnership
- 2. Portfolio
- 3. Pricing



Partnership

22 Mercer

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools mission and impact



Helping all students experience meaningful educational moments that leads to successful academic careers.



Impact

- 74 Schools served
- 42,282 Students empowered
- 6,625 Teachers & staff supported

Growth

- Increased net assets by ~\$5M over the last 5 years
- Avg. contributions of ~\$3M/yr over the last 6 years
- Highest contributions in 2023 of over \$4.2M

Portfolio

- Exploring OCIO services; currently have 3(21) advice
- Target allocation of 63% equity, 7% alts, 30% fixed income
- Public charity; not required to make a minimum distribution

Data and information on this slide sourced from Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools website and Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools staff.



Mercer

Why clients partner with us

Institutionally focused

We are committed to providing tailored, high-level support for institutional clients to effectively address their unique challenges and stakeholder needs

Mercer

Service excellence

We act as an extension of your staff, offering proactive support and leveraging Marsh McLennan's extensive resources to meet your needs with responsiveness and operational scale

Time-tested

Trust Mercer, a global leader in OCIO assets and investment consulting, to expertly help guide you through market uncertainties, as we have for like-minded organizations over the past thirty years

1 Data as of June 30, 2024. Mercer cannot guarantee access to opportunities. Access is at the discretion of the investment manager.

🧼 Mercer

Differentiated investment ideas

Leverage our 200+ global asset manager research team to access unique investment solutions and help enhance your portfolio's long-term success through experienced manager selection and fee negotiation¹

Curated expertise

Our philosophy is to bring the right expertise at the right time directly to you from a team of investment research and portfolio professionals around the world to help meet your needs

A boutique structure of support

Core Team



Michael Doyle, CFA®, CAIA

Senior Investment Consultant

Michael will focus on strategic investment planning, portfolio construction, spending and liquidity analysis, and more



Matthew Burke, CFA®

Investment Consultant

Matthew helps with portfolio oversight, investment objectives, asset allocation, spending, fund selection, and investment performance



Specialist Support

Bill Burns, CFA® Not-for-Profit Central Leader Responsible for client outcomes and client satisfaction across the Central territory



Lucy Momjian, CFA[®], CAIA Senior Education Strategist

Researches trends in the education space to help tie portfolio risk profiles to the operating environment



Jeremy Tennenbaum, CFA® Senior Nonprofit Strategist Researches topics such as fundraising, spending, and governance

Not-for-profit specialists



Dedicated analyst and performance analyst

2

Investment manager research



Global strategic research



Operations and implementation



Trusted partner for OCIO services

Mercer's Not-for-Profit (NFP) Investment Practice

- Providing OCIO solutions globally since 1995
- 163 US NFP Team Members
 - 76 Consultants
 - 72 Strategists, Associates, Analysts and Administration
 - 15 Business Development
- Managing over \$68B in OCIO assets
- Average NFP client has been with Mercer for over 12 years

We work with many organizations like you

- Partnering with 191 Education clients, 112 of which are Independent
 Schools
- 357 number of accounts with assets between \$10-\$20M
- 4 nonprofit clients in Lincoln

Pensions&Investments

Mercer ranks **1st globally by institutional outsourced assets under management**, in a 2024 survey of outsourced CIO providers. Source is Pensions & Investments October 2024, based on data as of June 30, 2024.¹

95% client retention rate²

95% in favorable satisfaction scores³

Data as of June 30, 2024, unless noted otherwise.

1 Source: "Pension & Investment" magazine's 2024 Consultants Survey, worldwide outsourced assets under management as of June 30, 2024 as reported by 32 participating firms to P&I

(https://https://researchcenter.pionline.com/rankings/consultant/datatable). Global AUM: \$492.4 billion; US AUM: \$202 billion. Mercer did not pay a fee to be included in this survey. This survey is not indicative of the adviser's future performance. 2 Retention based on client counts from June 30, 2022 - June 30, 2023, excluding annuity purchases.

3 Client satisfaction based on Mercer's 2024 Client Satisfaction Survey. All responses are sourced from the Client Satisfaction Survey obtained on 5/8/2024. Responses provided in the testimonials were given by current clients. It is important to note that these clients did not receive any form of compensation for providing their testimonials. Additionally, Mercer has not identified any material conflicts of interest that would affect the clients' responses. The responses provided may not be representative or typical of all Mercer clients. If you have any further inquiries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. For a comprehensive list of questions & responses pertaining to this survey results, please reach out to Mercer Client Survey Inquiries.

Please see Important Notices for important information about Assets under Management (AUM) and Assets under Advisory (AUA).

How we partner with education-focused clients

By working with Mercer, you are joining a community of like-minded organizations with access to extensive resources and networking opportunities¹

Dedicated education focus

Focused attention on Mercer's

 education best practices and trends,
 including sponsorships of higher
 education events including The National
 Association of College and University
 Business Officers and Association of
 Governing Boards of Universities and
 Colleges



Key stakeholder support & engagement

 Extensive support for key stakeholders including Boards, donors, students and other constituents to help clients efficiently fulfill their fiduciary duties and increasing stakeholder engagement



Peer Networking

- Partner with **US education institutions** to complement your efforts
- **Unique events** for clients to support the advancement of your mission



- Dedicated operational support team to
 alleviate the burden on staff
- Complete access to Mercer's thought leaders highlighted during Investment Committee meetings and as needed¹



¹ Mercer cannot guarantee access to opportunities. Access is at the discretion of the investment manager.

Strategic communication plan

Investment timeline			Quarterly Economic and Portfolio Review			• Spending Analysis Year-end Review			
	Q1 Review				Q2 Review		Q3 Review		Q4 Review
Governance timeline			Review Annual Considerations and Trends for Nonprofits Report		eep dive on potential topics of interest bersecurity, Fundraising, Alternatives)		an for topics of focus and lucation for next year		



On-going Ad-hoc communications

- Periodic calls with staff and committee members
- Support for donor conversations and events (if applicable)
- One-off education opportunities for committee members
- Invites to attend upcoming webinars focused on investments and nonprofit thought leadership
- Proactive sharing of updated investment and nonprofit research

Services

		Advisory	OCIO
FIDUCIARY PORTFOLIO	Advise on strategic asset allocation		
MANAGEMENT	Implement strategic / dynamic asset allocation strategy		
	Select, hire, monitor and terminate managers		
	Design and implement alternatives portfolios		
	Provide risk management		
	Rebalance portfolios		
	Monitor, invest and report cash flows		
ONGOING MONITORING AND	Provide performance evaluation/risk monitoring/proprietary research		
REPORTING	Provide monthly and quarterly investment reports and market commentary		
	Provide quarterly market environment reports and conference calls		
	Present client education and training		
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE	Develop asset allocation ranges		
	Develop responsible investing strategy, if desired		
	Implement Mercer's best practices for fund governance		
	Develop and review investment policy		
	Perform spending policy analysis		
OPERATIONAL AND	Reconcile monthly returns		
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	Establish and maintain client web portal		
	Manager contracting and oversight		
	Work with auditors and assist with fund documents		
	Establish connectivity with client custodians for assets and trading reconciliation $_$		

OCIO provides extensive operational support

Enhanced Staff Oversight



Robust ongoing execution outsourced to Mercer's team of 83 specialists²

1 Mercer does not provide legal advice.

2 Operation staff includes more than 61 employees in the US and more than 22 employees in Canada. Data provided as of December 31, 2023.

Portfolio

Part I: Portfolio construction

Investment policy statement support

Goal: Write with long-term strategic focus, include actionable information, and revise infrequently.

The Investment Policy Statement should include:

- Statement of purpose
- Investment objectives
- Investment guidelines

- Asset allocation policy ranges
- Committee
 membership and
 responsibility
- Spending/distribution policies

- Risk constraints
- Rebalancing policy
- Portfolio monitoring guidelines and procedures
- Criteria for assessing performance

Client objectives: Core of how we construct portfolios

Investing with Conviction

Active portfolio oversight via segment investment committees & CIO Office

3

Leveraging nonprofit knowledge, investment experience, and a robust global investment platform to seek better long-term returns for Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools

Manager Selection

Equity, Fixed Income, Alternatives, Index

2

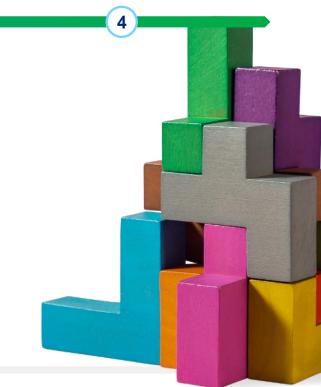
Strategic Asset Allocation

1

Simulation & Optimization Risk Factor Analysis Stress Testing

Risk Management

Occurs at every step of the portfolio design process including manager selection, trading and implementation



For illustrative purposes only.

Aligning the right products and balance to match your objective

The active-passive balance in your portfolio is customized to your unique needs



Supported by the spectrum of passive and active investment strategies





Traditional active

Domestic equity International equity Long credit



Factor tilts

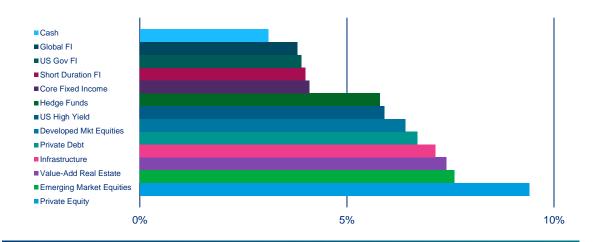
Global minimum volatility Liquidity Momentum Multifactor Quality Value

Mercer's investment process for Not-for-Profits

Begins with understanding our clients



Determine asset class universe



Finalize strategic asset allocation

Asset Class

Aggregate Bonds

Sub-Investment Grade Bonds

Hedge Fund Strategies

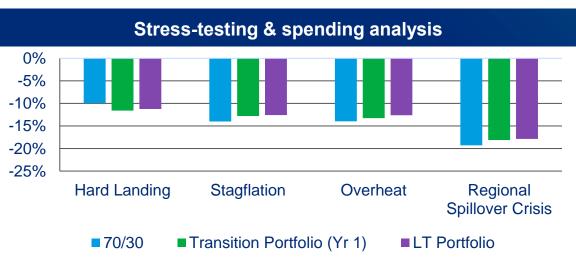
Public Equity

Private Debt

Real-Estate

Infrastructure

Private Equity



For illustrative purposes only.

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Weight

xx%

xx%

xx%

xx%

xx%

xx%

xx%

xx%

Portfolio

Part II: Manager research capabilities

Mercer's global research at a glance

Depth and breadth of our global research resources

There are 215 staff¹ directly involved in the research process, in addition there are multiple investments professionals globally involved in the research process

Specialised Mercer Alternatives group dedicated to private markets manager research, portfolio management, and investment operations

Mercer

The majority (56%) of research specialists have an MBA, CFA[®], actuarial, or master's degree

1 Includes central leadership and support/admin staff. 2 Average years of experience excludes analysts and support/admin staff. All data as of June 30, 2024.

Teams of asset class

specialists operate independently but with a consistent philosophy/framework. We believe this provides all the benefits of a focused boutique, with the resources of a large, global consultancy

Research specialists

with an average of 17 years of experience in the financial services industry²

Research investment beliefs

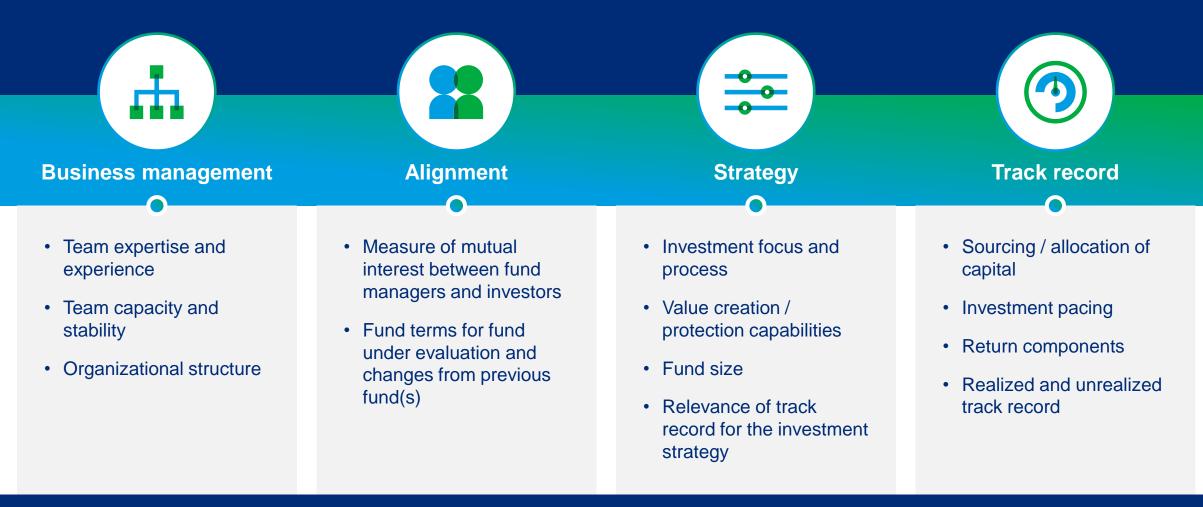
Active management can help generate excess return (although it is rare). Mercer believes the probability of identifying alpha is enhanced by using a manager research process that is:



1 Different factors used for certain asset classes such as private markets, LDI and passive.

Mercer

Investment selection is key for success



Thorough investment selection is a time and resource intensive task

Mercer manager research

Breadth and depth

Representative performance of managers who have been given an A-rating: 1.5% since inception¹

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Idea generation

How strong is the manager's ability to generate value-adding investment ideas?

\$

Implementation

How much of the value-add is given back in the form of transaction costs and opportunity costs?

ē

Portfolio construction

How effectively are these investment ideas translated into weightings within portfolios?

.11

Business management

Well-managed investment firms are more likely to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of their investment strategies over time.

Across Mercer - 215 investment research professionals³

Private markets	Fixed income	Equity	Diversifying alternatives	Wealth management research
62	23	32	36	4

Manager and strategy statistics²



1 Manager and Strategy Statistics as of June 30, 2024, includes sub-advised strategies. This is a hypothetical analysis that's designed to reflect Mercer's manager research capabilities. This analysis is performed across an aggregate of 71 different product categories and is not specific to one asset class/segment. This data and information is not intended to represent Mercer performance. Since inception refers to when we began formal audited ratings in 1995. Our coverage has grown to include additional product categories. The 1.5% figure represents an aggregate of each product group's performance since their inception years. The product categories must have a minimum of three years of running track record performance in order for the Information Ratio to be calculated. Please see following slide for further important information regarding this analysis. Please see the <u>Guide to Mercer's Investment Strategy Ratings</u>.

2 Manager and Strategy statistics as June 30, 2024; includes sub-advised strategies. Investment Professionals exclude Financial Services and are FTE (not count of employees).

3 Investment Research Professionals as of June 30, 2024; excludes 18 central leadership & support staff.

Important Information on Representative Performance of Managers who have been given an A-Rating

As of 6/30/2024. This hypothetical analysis is presented for informational purposes only. The information contained herein is that of third-party managers which Mercer has given an "A-rating" and is not intended to present Mercer performance. While Mercer commits considerable resources to manager research, we do not provide any guarantees as to the future performance of the investment strategies that we recommend to our clients.

Mercer's Investments business has developed and implemented a methodology for the hypothetical analysis of their manager research recommendations. For most investment strategies that we research, we arrive at a rating on a four-tier scale in which the possible ratings are A, B+, B and C. When we formulate short lists of candidates for clients to consider in manager searches, these are generally drawn from the list of strategies rated A within the relevant product category. We first began maintaining formal ratings on this basis in 1995, replacing less formal methods in place, and have extended this to cover all product categories that we actively research, over the period since. Our methodology for measuring the performance of our ratings entails calculating the average performance of the strategies that we rated A within each product category each quarter, based on the ratings as they stood at the end of the previous guarter. Therefore, there is no element of hindsight in the analysis. We then compound these guarterly results together to calculate performance over longer periods. Finally, we subtract the return for an appropriate and widely accepted benchmark index for the product category concerned to calculate illustrative performance of Mercer's A-Rated Managers. We also calculate a risk-adjusted measure of the value added known as the information ratio. A typical client would not invest in all strategies in all of the categories, as some may not be relevant to a particular client for a variety of reasons. Therefore, the actual performance of strategies selected by a client would vary from the results depicted here. Three types of strategy are excluded from the analysis. First, we exclude strategies that are sub-advised by other investment managers, to avoid double-counting. Second, where a manager offers two variants of what is essentially just one strategy, we only include one of these in the analysis (we used to use the one with the longer track record but in 2011 we assigned the decision on which track record to use to the researcher responsible for the strategy), once again to avoid double counting. Third, if a strategy's track record relates to a benchmark that is materially different to the benchmark used in the analysis for the product category concerned, it will be excluded from the analysis to avoid distortions that could arise solely as a result of the non-standard benchmark. Where a manager offers equity strategies in a typical long only format and a variant which includes the ability to short. we only include the long-only version. For some product categories, where the use of custom benchmarks is prevalent, there is no single widely accepted benchmark that can be used as a basis for this analysis. We therefore use a slightly different methodology for these categories. In these cases, we carry out the analysis by first calculating performance each guarter for each track record relative to its custom benchmark, then calculating the average of these figures each guarter, and then compounding the guarterly illustrative figures to calculate performance of Mercer's A - Rated Managers over longer periods. We have carried out these calculations for most of the product categories where we both maintain ratings and for which we have reliable performance data (currently 71 categories), going back in each case to when we first had a reasonable spread of ratings for the product category concerned. Past performance cannot be relied on as a guide to future performance.

All of the figures have been calculated by Mercer but are based upon performance data provided to Mercer by the investment managers concerned. Mercer generally does not independently verify the performance information provided by investment managers. The methodology described above does not allow for transaction costs that an investor would have incurred if it had actually changed its panel of investment managers every quarter in line with changes to the list of products rated A by Mercer within the product category concerned. In practice, the turnover of managers incurred by such an investor would have averaged about 14% per annum. We have not attempted to estimate the transaction costs that would have been incurred as this would require assumptions on a number of factors, including the investor's cash flow position and how the changes had been implemented.

All investment performance data used was reported gross of investment management fees and certain other expenses, such as custody and administration. All the illustrative performance figures are also quoted before deduction of such fees. The figures are however net of all transaction costs that the managers concerned have incurred within their investment portfolios. As described above, the results of the analysis are based on performance data provided to Mercer by the investment managers concerned and other sources. While this information is believed to be reliable, no representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy of information presented, and no responsibility or liability, including for consequential or incidental damages, can be accepted for any error, omission or inaccuracy in this information. We have strived to obtain performance data for all investment products that have ever been rated A by Mercer for inclusion in the analysis, but in some cases this has not been possible. Where data could not be obtained, we have no option but to exclude the product from the analysis. We will continue to strive to obtain missing data for future updates of the analysis. This may result in some changes to the historic figures in future updates of the results.

Risk management process

We do not believe in a "silver bullet" risk system or approach. Instead, we believe in embedding risk management across every step of the investment process – creating layers of accountability and oversight.



Portfolio

Part III: Outlook, allocation, and sample portfolio

Asset class return outlooks

Mercer's Capital Market Assumptions as of September 30, 2024 (10-year)

Equities	Return Projection	Volatility
US All Cap Equity	5.6%	18.7%
US Large Cap Equity	5.5%	18.3%
US Small/Mid Cap Equity	5.9%	21.4%
Global Real Estate - REITS	6.4%	20.7%
AC World ex-US All Cap Equity Unhedged	6.6%	22.2%
Non-US Developed All Cap Equity Unhedged	6.5%	21.5%
Emerging Markets Equity Unhedged	7.0%	26.0%
Fixed Income	Return Projection	Volatility
US Aggregate Fixed Income	4.4%	6.3%
US Government Fixed Income	4.2%	6.4%
US Credit Fixed Income	4.6%	7.1%
US High Yield Fixed Income	5.3%	8.5%
US Inflation Indexed Fixed Income	4.3%	4.9%
US Cash	3.2%	2.1%
Non-US Broad Fixed Income Hedged	4.5%	5.4%
Emerging Markets Fixed Income – Hard Currency	6.3%	10.5%
Inflation	2.2%	2.2%

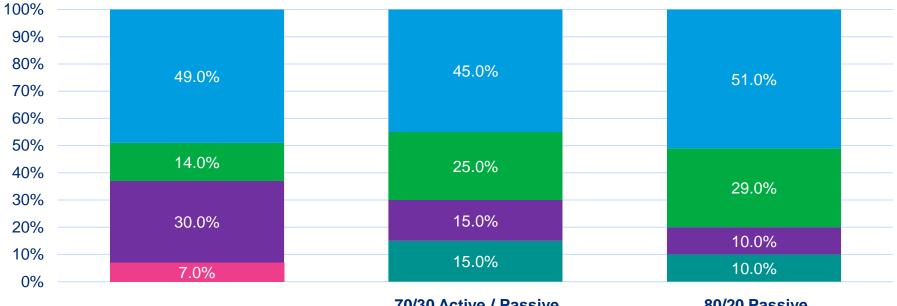
Source: Mercer Capital Market Assumptions, as of 9/30/2024. All expected returns are gross of fees, unless indicated otherwise. There are no guarantees Mercer assumptions are or will be accurate. Actual performance is likely to vary.

Portfolio allocation profiles

10-year outlook



- International Equity
- Domestic Aggregate Fixed Income
- Domestic Credit Fixed Income
- US Real Estate REITS



		70/30 Active / Passive	80/20 Passive	
Forward looking analysis	Current Portfolio	Sample Portfolio	Index Portfolio	
10-year expected nominal return	5.95%	6.23%	6.09%	
Nominal return ranges (25 th to 75 th percentiles)	4.08 – 7.68%	4.27 – 8.08%	3.87 - 8.18%	
Standard deviation	13.43%	14.09%	15.51%	
Max drawdown	-34.24%	-36.41%	-40.68%	

Asset allocations shown are for illustration purposes. Actual asset allocations may vary from those shown. Current portfolio allocations based on data provided by Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools staff. **See <u>following slide</u> for important information and risk disclosures regarding hypothetical expected returns.** Expected net returns are hypothetical average returns of economic asset classes derived using Mercer's 9/30/2024 Market Assumptions ("CMAs"). There can be no assurance that these returns can be achieved. Actual returns are likely to vary. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.

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Hypothetical returns based on Capital Market Assumptions

Expected Return and Risk Statistics

Portfolio expectations are forward looking and reflective of Mercer's Capital Market Assumptions, as defined by asset class and incorporating return, standard deviation, and correlations. Our process for setting asset class expected returns begins with developing an estimate of the long term normal level of economic growth and inflation. From these two key assumptions, we develop an estimate for corporate earnings growth and the natural level of interest rates. From these values, we then estimate the expected long term return of the core asset classes, equity and government bonds. We combine current valuations with our expectations for long term normal valuations and incorporate a reversion to normal valuations over a period of up to five years. Volatility and correlation assumptions are based more directly on historical experience except in cases in which the market environment has clearly changed.

Return expectations are intended to illustrate the hypothetical performance of a recommended asset allocation, based on the expected return (derived as described above) of passive indices considered by Mercer to be representative of each asset class. Return expectations do not incorporate performance impact of active management. The views expressed are provided for discussion purposes and do not provide any assurance or guarantee of future returns.

Expected return is shown net of the proposed Mercer fee, and underlying investment manager fees. It also assumes the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Periods over one year are annualized.

Hypothetical performance results and any related statistics do not represent the results of actual trading using client assets. Actual results may significantly differ from the hypothetical returns being presented. Investors may experience loss. The time periods shown represent a variety of economic and market conditions, including the unpredictability of such conditions and includes periods of market volatility. There are limitations with the data presented below as each client would have its own investment objectives, risk tolerance, goals and benchmarks for its portfolios, and the hypothetical performance shown is intended only to illustrate return expectations for different asset class allocations and does not attempt to account for active management within those allocations. Performance results for individual client portfolios will vary depending on active management decisions, as well as due to possible inclusion of cash and

There are substantial risks associated with investments classified as alternative investments. Investors should have the ability, investing sophistication and experience to bear the risks associated with such investments.

Sample portfolio construction

Investment	Portfolio weight	Investment Style	Fund type	Management type	Underlying manager(s)	Expense ratio ¹
Equity	70.0%					
Vanguard S&P 500 Institutional Index Fund	39.0%	500 Index	Mutual Fund	Passive	Vanguard Equity Investment Group	0.04%
Mercer US Small/Mid Cap Equity Fund	6.0%	Small/Mid Cap Blend	Mutual Fund	Active	LSV Asset Management GW&K Investment Management Westfield Capital Management Loomis, Sayles & Company River Road Asset Management Parametric Portfolio Associates	0.48%
Mercer Non-US Core Equity Fund	18.0%	International Core Equity	Mutual Fund	Active	Arrowstreet Capital LSV Asset Management Massachusetts Financials Services Company American Century Investment Management Parametric Portfolio Associates	0.38%
Ninety One Emerging Markets Equity Fund	4.2%	Emerging Markets	Mutual Fund	Active	Ninety One	0.85%
RBC Emerging Markets Equity Fund	2.8%	Emerging Markets	Mutual Fund	Active	RBC	0.88%
Fixed Income	30.0%					
Mercer Core Fixed Income	15.0%	Intermediate Core-Plus Bond	Mutual Fund	Active	PGIM, Inc Manulife Investment Management LLC Income Research & Management	0.14%
Vanguard Short-Term Investment Grade	6.0%	Active Short-Term Corporate Bond	Mutual Fund	Active	Vanguard Fixed Income Group	0.10%
Vanguard Intermediate-Term Investment Grade	6.0%	Active Intermediate-Term Corporate Bond	Mutual Fund	Active	Vanguard Fixed Income Group	0.10%
Vanguard Long-Term Investment Grade	3.0%	Active Long-Term Corporate Bond	Mutual Fund	Active	Wellington Management Company LLP Vanguard Fixed Income Group	0.11%
Expense ratio is charged in addition to an advisory/OCIO					Portfolio weighted annual expense ratio:	0.21%
Actual portfolio construction may vary. Portfolios are subje 1 Expense ratio as reported in most recent prospectus.	eer to change.				© 2025 Masses (UO) U.C. All rights assessed. OF #02442	

Pricing

Mercer

Fees

Estimated fee breakdown

Approximate all-in fees	0.38 - 0.54%
Investment fees ¹	0.05 - 0.21%
OCIO fees on \$12 million	0.33%

OCIO fee schedule	
First \$25 million ²	0.25%
Next \$75 million	0.15%
Next \$200 million	0.10%

Advisory fee schedule	
First \$100 million ³	0.15%

Data as of December 31, 2024.

1 The exact expense ratio will be determined by the custom portfolio solution provided.

2 Minimum OCIO fee: \$40,000.

3 Minimum Advisory fee - \$90,000.

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Services

Portfolio management services

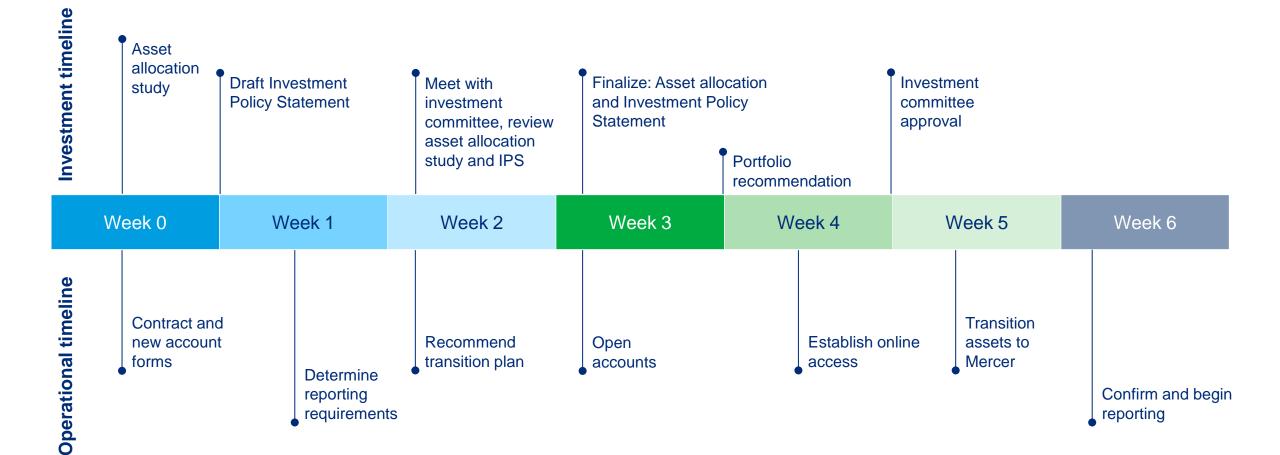
- Fiduciary support and resources
- Investment policy consulting and advice
- Asset allocation analysis with risk
 modeling
- Cash flow and spending policy analysis
 and consulting
- Global asset manager search and evaluation
- Fully customized portfolio construction
- Dedicated operational support
- Daily portfolio oversight, monitoring, and rebalancing

Additional services

- Tailored outreach, audit, and meeting support
- Donor relation support
- Engagement with all stakeholders
- Performance reporting
- Staff, committee, and board investment/fiduciary education
- Nonprofit thought leadership, insights, and regional symposiums
- Views on all asset classes and strategies
- · Global economic and investment research

Annual client conference Monthly and weekly market commentary White papers and intellectual capital

Onboarding process





Differentiated investment ideas

Appendix

How Mercer is best positioned for OCIO

Mercer is transparent and operates with a focus on integrity, striving to distinguish ourselves from many competitors

Our role seeks to provides clients with compelling advice and implementation

We are not:

- A securities manager
- A prime broker
- A transition manager
- An investment bank
- A custodian

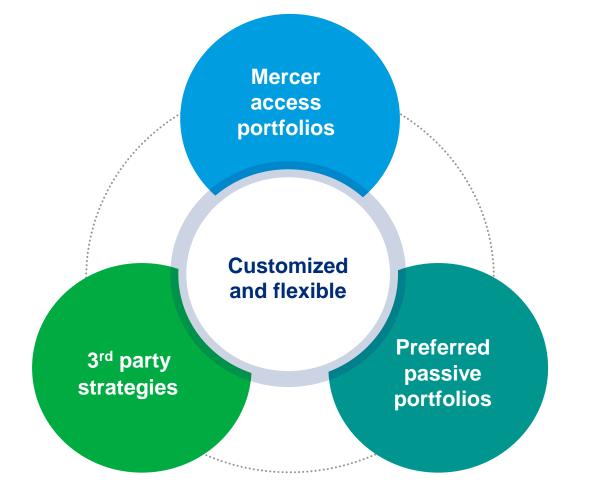
This allows us:

- To act in your best interest and be transparent in the advice and services we provide
- Access and innovation from the asset management community
- To transition to high-conviction, highly rated managers as competitive edge and innovation shifts¹

1 Please see the Guide to Mercer's Investment Strategy Ratings: <u>https://www.mercer.com/assets/us/en_us/shared-assets/local/attachments/pdf-wealth-guide-to-mercers-investment-strategy-research-ratings-mercer-2023.pdf</u>

OCIO implementation via open architecture

Customization and flexibility



Please see the Guide to Mercer's Investment Strategy Ratings: <u>https://www.mercer.com/assets/us/en_us/shared-assets/local/attachments/pdf-wealth-guide-to-mercers-investment-strategy-research-ratings-mercer-2023.pdf</u>
 Mercer cannot guarantee access to opportunities. Access is at the discretion of the investment manager.
 Savings are estimated and cannot be guaranteed.

Mercer access portfolios

- Curated, multi-manager portfolios
- Select active strategies, highly rated managers¹
- Access to preferred/closed strategies²
- Potential cost savings from Mercer's negotiated fees³

3rd party strategies

- Custom solutions
- Niche access
- Sustainability and impact investing
- Mercer research support

Preferred passive portfolios

• Low-cost market exposure

Investment manager fees

Utilizing Mercer's scale for our clients

		Passive			Active	
Asset class	Mercer	Category median	Potential fee savings	Mercer	Category median	Potential fee savings
US large-cap equities	0.01%	0.08%	0.07%	n/m	0.68%	
US small/mid-cap equities	0.02%	0.08%	0.05%	0.55%	0.80%	0.25%
Int'l developed equities	0.04%	0.09%	0.05%	0.38%	0.83%	0.45%
Emerging market equities	0.09%	0.15%	0.07%	0.47%	1.05%	0.58%
Opportunistic fixed income	n/m	n/m		0.43%	0.67%	0.24%
Core fixed income	0.02%	0.05%	0.03%	0.15%	0.39%	0.24%

Potential fee savings across BOTH passive and active strategies

Fee savings are estimated and cannot be guaranteed. "n/m" = not meaningful. These are investment-level fees only. OCIO clients would also be subject to Mercer's OCIO fee. If applicable, rounding occurs at the hundredth decimal place of the percentage. For mutual fund investments and common trust funds, the rates noted are based on Total Expense Ratios (TERs) and any administrative costs would be included in those TERs. Any separate account mandates would include only the investment management fee; no separate account mandates were considered for these examples. Category median fees are based on Mercer's 2024 Global Asset Manager Fee Survey (sourced from Mercer's GIMDTM database as of June 30, 2024). If multiple vehicle options were available for an asset category, the selection was based on the best available and reasonable option. The Active Fee information represents the current Net Total Expense Ratio for mutual funds offered by Mercer Investments in the respective asset categories. To the extent that client portfolios do not engage Mercer mutual fund or commingled fund solutions in a given asset class, the management fees may be higher or lower. Sample size/respondents for each asset category median (and respective vehicle):

US large-cap equities: Passive - 14 (institutional mutual fund); Active – 20 (institutional mutual fund)

US small/mid-cap equities: Passive - 8 (institutional mutual fund); Active - 13 (institutional/retail mutual fund)

Int'l developed equities: Passive - 6 (non-ERISA institutional pooled fund); Active - 15 (institutional mutual fund)

Emerging market equities: Passive – 8 (ERISA institutional pooled fund); Active – 18 (institutional mutual fund)

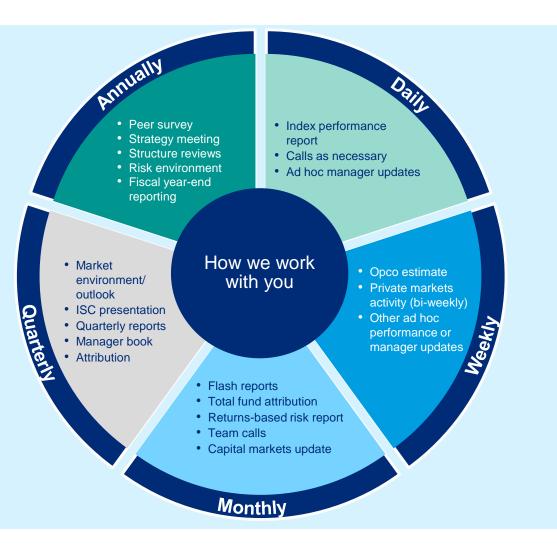
Opportunistic fixed income: Passive – N/A; Active – 19 (institutional mutual fund)

Core fixed income: Passive – 10 (institutional mutual fund); Active – 18 (institutional mutual fund)

Customized performance reporting

We design our materials with the following in mind:

- Customizable
- Clear and concise
- Informative
- Collaborative



Reporting, data and analytics



For illustrative purposes only.

Equity lens reporting

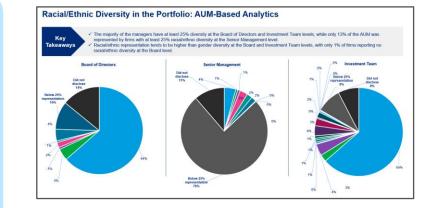
Leveraging fact-based analytics to support manager engagement:

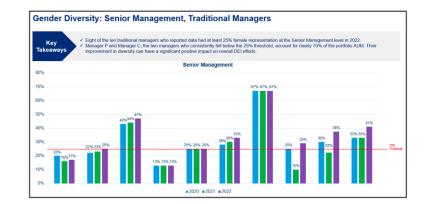
AUM-based analytics:

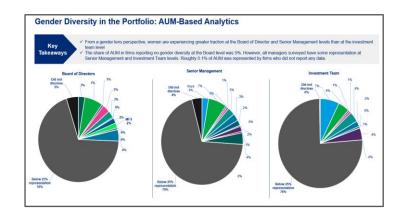
 Portfolio level insights on diversity and equity across board, executive leadership, and investment teams across underlying fund management firms

Asset-class based analytics:

 Transparency on diversity and equity that allows for comparisons within and across asset classes, and peer analytics and trends









Sample images are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Mercer's investment philosophy 2024



Client objectives

- · Investment success is dependent on clearly defined investment goals.
- An investor's true risk is not being able to meet their primary objective.
- · Aligned governance processes drive investment performance.

Strong governance

- · Robust and high-quality governance processes are essential for successful investment outcomes.
- Strong governance is most necessary in times of crisis.
- Establishing clear accountability for results promotes disciplined decision-making and risk-taking.
- · Effective stewardship can improve investment outcomes.

Rewarded risk

- Asset allocation is the most important decision and is the primary driver of risk and return outcomes.
- Risk and return are related, but the relationship can vary over time.
- It is important to understand how risks interact.
- · Investors should focus on the risks that matter most.
- Portfolio resilience can be enhanced by integrating financially material sustainability, transition and socio-economic risks into investment decision-making.

Maximize value

- · Strategic asset allocation is the most significant determinant of value creation.
- Active management can be employed where expected return benefits justify risks and fees.
- Private markets can offer certain advantages over public markets for long-term investors.
- Dynamic asset allocation can add value to investment strategies.
- Investing to solve long-term systemic issues may provide opportunities to improve risk-adjusted returns.

Support through relevant thought leadership

Peer and event resources

- Regional Investment Summits
 - Local events designed for E&F allocators to connect
 - Panel discussions on timely and relevant investment trends and topics
- Global Endowment and Foundation Investment Survey
- Survey to understand organizations' concerns, recent investment allocations and plans for the future is the principal aim of this study

Intellectual capital resources

- Quarterly Market Environment Report Broad overview across markets and asset classes
- Capital Markets Outlook Updated quarterly
- Capital Markets Webcast Open to all clients
- Dynamic Asset Allocation Report —
 Intermediate-term valuation-based signals
- **Specialized white papers** on investment and issues facing endowment and foundation entities

Human capital resources

- Global professionals in each asset class
- Capital markets research team
- Senior E&F and Values-Aligned team members



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Endowment and Foundation research

E&F Clients benefit from research that is developed across our teams

Highlighted

- Top Considerations for Endowments and Foundations 2024
- <u>Weathering any Storm Developing a Spending Policy...</u>
- The Return on Governance
- 2023 Global Endowment and Foundation Investment Survey
- How Endowments and Foundations can manage Inflation
 (Article)
- <u>Navigating the New Normal: E&F Investing in an Evolving</u> <u>Market (Podcast, Episode 68)</u>
- Diversity dressing: The hidden figures
- Mercer Investments' Large Asset Owner Barometer 2024
- <u>Cryptocurrency Why we remain cautious</u>

Traditional Asset Class Research

- <u>Managing climate-transition risk in equity portfolios</u>
- <u>After the Perfect Storm Active Management Recovers</u>
- <u>Credit investing Finding the right fit</u>
- <u>The role of starting yield in short duration credit performance</u>

Alternative Asset Class Research

- <u>Top Investment Considerations for Alternative Investments 2024</u>
- <u>A guide to increasing allocations to private markets</u>
- How to approach a top quartile private market portfolio
- Venture Capital Then & Now
- Should you skip vintages?
- Systematic macro Trending into the new regime
- <u>Managing a hedge fund allocation What is the recipe for</u> <u>success?</u>

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2024 E&F Top Considerations (and client actions)



areas

Action Items:

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 Maintain or build out the size of your private market exposure, depending on your unique illiquidity budget. Lean into private credit.

environment

- Ensure exposure to real assets to help protect against the risk of long-term heightened inflation above consensus expectations
- Assess your mix of fixed income investments to optimize risk/return

Stress testing

short-term instability

 Look under the hood on how the portfolio could react during different inflationary environments and market shocks

Governance

- Evaluate the current spending policy. Is it still appropriate in light of any organizational needs?
- Evaluate if there are areas of further portfolio alignment when it comes to sustainability, DEI and impact investing

Trends

Keep an eye out for opportunities that take advantage of AI and renewable asset tailwinds

Global Not-for-Profit investment survey

Key findings in 2023

115 organizations responded across North America, Asia, Europe, and LatAm		Respondents varied by portfolio size from <\$50 million to over \$1 billion		
Portfolio Risk and Operational Resilience Near-term risks of inflation, recession, the environment, and market volatility are front of mind for E&F investors		Aligning Corporate Citizenship		
54%	deem climate change to be a significant risk	26%	use impact investing to align the portfolio with the organization's broader mission	
52%	anticipate a rise in spending targets over the next three years	46%	have an allocation to impact strategies or projects	
54%	regard delivering a level of return sufficient to meet spending needs as a significant risk	One fifth of respondents have implemented a DEI framework.		
Asset Allocation Trends		Experience in Private Markets		
Private equity and climate change remains a focus for investors				
68%	have increased allocations to private equity over the last three years, although smaller organizations are less likely to participate	79%	believe they have been adequately compensated for taking on illiquidity risk and higher fees compared to traditional assets	
41%	plan on increasing allocations to ESG and sustainable strategies as climate transition is the most cited societal issue that investors believe can be supported through asset allocation	58%	are invested in private market assets or are considering it in the next 12 months (this rises to 90% for asset owners over \$1 billion)	
All responses are sourced from the 2023 Global Endowment and Foundation Investment Survey obtained on November 30, 2023. Responses provided were provided by 115 Endowment & Foundation investors from 24 countries across 7 regions. It is important to note that the participants in this survey did not receive any form of				

compensation. It is also important to recognize that survey results are subject to inherent limitations and uncertainties. The survey results may not capture all relevant factors or market conditions. These results should not be construed as personalized investment advice. The full survey can be accessed here:

https://www.mercer.com/insights/investments/market-outlook-and-trends/endowment-and-foundation-survey-results/

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A curated home page

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Stay up to date



Access industry events, including Mercer's Global Investment Forum

1 As of 31 December 2023. For illustrative and discussion purposes only.

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Putting it all together: Asset allocation process

- Determine Objectives and Risk Tolerances
- Understand and establish portfolio objectives and risk tolerances.
- Objectives/risk tolerances can be quantitative or qualitative in nature.
- Establish Strategic Allocation (long-term)
- Determine the blend of market constituents accessed based on portfolio objectives and constraints.
- Overlay Market Outlook (intermediate-term)
- A review of the macroeconomic environment should advise how the portfolio tilts are implemented.
- Deviations should be compared versus opportunity costs/funding sources. The larger the deviation from market weights the greater tracking error (good and bad) that may arise. Understanding tracking error should allow for a proper evaluation of risk and reward.
- Stress testing should be completed to determine the underlying changes in portfolio risks.
- Implementation (manager selection & weighting)
- Strike a balance between long-term and short-term objectives.
- Select managers representing desired characteristics.
- Monitoring
- Periodically assess each element of the asset allocation lifecycle.



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