

# COMPREHENSIVE INVESTMENT PLAN FLORIDA COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM

*Effective Date: September 24, 2019*

## I. OVERVIEW

The Florida College Savings Program (“Savings Program” or “Program”) is a program created to provide a medium through which families and individuals may save for qualified educational expenses. The Savings Program is intended to be an alternative to the Prepaid Program, though participants in the Savings Program do have the option to enroll a qualified beneficiary in the Savings Program, the Prepaid Program, or both.

## II. GOVERNANCE

The Program is administered by the Florida Prepaid College Board which was created pursuant to Section 1009.981 of the Florida Statutes.

In accordance with Section 1009.973, Florida Statutes, the Board has established this Comprehensive Investment Plan (CIP), subject to approval by the State Board of Administration. This CIP formally documents the investment policy and strategies employed by the Board to meet the projected Program liabilities.

The Board has the necessary powers and duties to carry out the provisions of Section 1009.97, Florida Statutes. The Board may delegate responsibility for administration of this CIP to a committee of the Board or to a person duly chosen by the Board.

The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board as the chief administrative and operational officer of the Board. The Executive Director is responsible for managing and executing the investment and debt responsibilities of the Board. This includes developing and implementing Investment Guidelines, as approved by the Board, which reflect the goals and objectives of this CIP.

## III. CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Executive Director shall manage all external contractual relationships in accordance with the fiduciary responsibilities of the Board.

Pursuant to Section 1009.971, Florida Statutes, the Board solicits proposals and contracts for investment consultant, trustee, and investment management services. There may be more than one provider for each service; their respective responsibilities are summarized below.

### Investment Consultant

The Investment Consultant shall review the performance of the Investment Managers and advise the Board on investment management, performance matters, portfolio design and structure, asset allocation issues, and investment policy, including the contents of this CIP and the Investment Guidelines.

### Trustee

The Trustee is responsible for the safekeeping of Program investment assets. Pursuant to Section 1009.971(5)(c), the Trustee shall agree to meet the obligations of the Board to qualified beneficiaries if moneys in the Fund fail to offset the obligations of the Board as a result of imprudent selection or supervision of investment programs by the Trustee.

## Investment Managers

The Board may hire one or more investment managers for each investment option. Investment managers will be selected as a result of a competitive procurement process as required by Section 287, Florida Statutes. Selection will be based on best value to the Board. Evaluation areas for best value shall include, but not be limited to, experience, strategy, performance and fees. Investment Managers will have investment discretion as to security selection within the requirements expressed in the CIP and Investment Guidelines.

The Investment Managers shall invest Program assets, as specified by the Board, with care, skill, prudence, and diligence. This includes promptly voting all proxies solicited in connection with securities under the investment manager's supervision and maintaining detailed records of the voting of proxies and related actions. The Investment Manager shall evidence superior performance while maintaining strict compliance with all applicable provisions of law and may exercise discretion within the bounds of this CIP and the Investment Guidelines.

Pursuant to Section 1009.971(5)(d), the Investment Manager shall:

- Be limited to authorized insurers as defined in Section 624.09, banks as defined in Section 658.12, associations as defined in Section 665.012, authorized Securities and Exchange Commission investment advisers, and investment companies as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- Have their principal place of business and corporate charter located and registered in the United States.
- Agree to meet the obligations of the Board to qualified beneficiaries if moneys in the Fund fail to offset the obligations of the Board as a result of imprudent investing by the Investment Manager.

## **IV. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The Board, its designees, and any service provider operating on behalf of the Board has a duty and obligation to disclose conflicts of interest. The Board shall require timely and sufficient disclosure of conflicts of interest that may exist between the Board, service providers, potential service providers, investments, potential investments, and other entities or transactions.

The Investment Consultant and the Trustee shall annually certify that no conflicts of interest exist relative to the services provided for the Program.

## **V. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY**

The principal objective of the Program is to enable Account Owners to contribute funds that are combined and invested to pay the subsequent higher education expenses of a Beneficiary.

The investment strategy is for the Board to provide a sufficient range of investment options for Account Owners, with various investment knowledge and risk, return, and cost objectives, to save for future college expenses.

## **VI. COMPREHENSIVE INVESTMENT PLAN**

The Comprehensive Investment Plan (CIP) includes the investment policies utilized by the Board in its administration of the Program. Investment policies included in the CIP provide direction intended to set the framework for the Program's investments. Per Section 1009.973, Florida Statutes, the CIP is subject to the approval of the State Board of Administration.

## VII. INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

Investment Guidelines are intended to set forth the specific investment strategies, limitations and targets necessary to implement the CIP. Investment Guidelines are subject to the approval of the Board.

## VIII. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

### Cash or Cash Equivalent

1. Deposit accounts and certificates of deposit in banks
2. 2a7 (actual or like) money market funds
3. Collateralized repurchase agreements for which the underlying securities are obligations of the United States Treasury or agencies of the United States Government.
4. Commercial paper of prime quality
  - Rated the highest letter and numerical rating provided by at least two nationally recognized rating service.

### Obligations of the United States Treasury or Agencies

1. United States Treasury bonds and notes
2. Interest and principal strips of Treasury securities
3. Treasury Inflation Protection Securities (TIPS)
4. Agencies of the United States Government
  - Not restricted to full-faith and credit obligations

### Municipal securities

1. General Obligation or Revenue bonds
  - Rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
2. Build America Bonds (BABs)
  - Rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher

### Corporate debt obligations

1. Registered Bonds
2. 144(a) securities (with and without registration rights)
3. Convertible and preferred securities
4. Bank Loans

### Residential Mortgage Backed Securities

1. United States Agency Mortgage backed securities
2. Privately Issued Mortgage Backed securities
  - Includes but is not limited to real estate mortgage investment conduits
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher

3. Mortgage To Be Announced (TBA) securities
  - Require a cash equivalent set aside for future settlement of the forward agreement

#### **Other Collateralized Securities**

1. Asset-backed securities
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
2. 144(a) securities (with and without registration rights) are permitted
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
3. Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
4. Collateralized Loan Obligations and Collateralized Mortgage Obligations
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher

#### **Foreign Debt Securities**

1. Supranational Debt Obligations
2. Sovereign Debt Obligations
3. Foreign Debt Obligations

#### **Commingled Investment Funds**

1. Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's) traded on domestic exchanges,
  - Primarily invested in authorized investment vehicles for the Investment Option
  - Compliance and monitoring shall be reviewed relative to the commingled investment funds' prospectus or participation agreement
2. Commingled investment funds and mutual funds
  - Primarily invested in authorized investment vehicles for the Investment Option
  - Compliance and monitoring shall be reviewed relative to the commingled investment funds' prospectus or participation agreement

#### **Common Stock**

1. Domestic Equities
  - Traded on domestic exchanges, including over-the-counter markets and recognized third and fourth markets
2. American Depositary Receipts
  - Traded on domestic exchanges, including over-the-counter markets and recognized third and fourth markets
3. Foreign Equities

- Foreign-domiciled companies traded on domestic or non-U.S. exchanges, including over-the-counter markets

## **Derivatives**

1. The following uses of derivatives are authorized:
  - Substitute for physical securities
  - Duration management
  - Risk control
  - Foreign currency hedging

## **Real Estate**

1. Equity, debt and other interests in real estate assets.

The Program does not engage in short selling of securities.

Debt obligations with expected ratings are permissible as long as the rating is in compliance with the applicable rating requirement.

Securities included in an approved benchmark that are not specifically identified above are authorized with a limit of 2% above the benchmark weighting.

The Board approves the target allocations for the Program. Target allocations and benchmarks are set forth in the Investment Guidelines.

## **IX. COMPLIANCE**

At a minimum, each Investment Manager shall certify compliance with this CIP and the Investment Guidelines at least quarterly. In the event of noncompliance, exceptions shall be reported to the Board with proposed actions to bring the portfolio into compliance.

## **X. NON-COMPLIANT INVESTMENTS**

Any investment that is not in compliance with the CIP and/or Guidelines at the time of purchase must be sold immediately. Any loss on the sale will be the responsibility of the Investment Manager.

Investments that are in compliance with the CIP and/or Guidelines at time of purchase but fall out of compliance due to a rating downgrade are not required to be immediately sold. The Investment Manager must notify the Board of such securities within 10 days of the downgrade. If an Investment Manager believes that it is in the best interest of the Board to hold the security, the Investment Manager can present a recommendation to hold the investment along with justification in writing to the Board. The Board will review each request and approve or deny them. Requests can be subject to further Board review and any point after approval.

If determined to be in the best interest of the Board, downgraded securities can be required to be sold immediately.

## **XI. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

The Investment Consultant shall calculate official performance results for the Board monthly, pursuant to the recommended guidelines of the CFA Institute, currently Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS), where applicable, and in accordance with the Investment Guidelines.

## XII. REPORTING

The Executive Director shall create, or cause to be created, quarterly reports for the Board of investment matters including, but not limited to, investment management, investment performance, asset allocation, and rebalancing.

# INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

## FLORIDA COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM

Effective Date: December 21, 2020

### I. OVERVIEW

The Florida Prepaid College Board (Board) has established the following Investment Guidelines to support implementation of the policy and strategy set forth in the Comprehensive Investment Plan (CIP) for the Florida College Savings Program (Program). The Investment Guidelines are maintained with the CIP but they are managed separately by the Board to allow for timely response to market conditions and environmental factors that may affect the Program.

### II. INVESTMENT OPTIONS, BENCHMARKS, AND FEES

To meet the Board's desire to providing a sufficient range of investment options for participants with various investment knowledge and risk, return, and cost objectives, the Board has approved the following investment options and related benchmarks:

Age-Based Options	Static Options
Age-Based Portfolio (16 Bands)	Multi-Manager Growth Portfolio
	Multi-Manager Blended Portfolio
	Multi-Manager Income Portfolio
	Passive Growth Portfolio
	Passive Blended Portfolio
	Passive Income Portfolio
Individual Options	
Cash	Equity
Money Market	U.S. Large Cap Equity
Fixed Income	U.S. Small/Mid Cap Equity
Core	U.S. Broad All Cap
High Yield	International Developed
Emerging Markets	International Broad All Cap
Bank Loans	Global
Treasury Inflation Protected Securities	Specialty
Core +	ESG
	Real Estate

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### III. SEPARATELY MANAGED ACCOUNTS (SMA) AND BENCHMARKS

The Board has approved the following SMAs and related benchmarks:

Asset Class	Investment Manager	Benchmark
<b>Fixed Income</b>		
Core	Wellington	Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index
Core +	Wellington	Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index

SMA Investment Managers must manage the portfolios in compliance with the investment guideline for the respective asset class.

### IV. COMMINGLED ACCOUNTS AND BENCHMARKS

The Board has approved the following commingled accounts and related benchmarks:

Commingled Account	Investment Manager	Benchmark
<b>Cash</b>		
Money Market Fund	Florida Prime	3-Month Treasury Bill
<b>Fixed Income</b>		
Core	Vanguard	Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index
High-Yield Corporate Fund	Vanguard	95% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. High-Yield Ba/B 2% Issuer Capped Index and 5% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. 1-5 Year Treasury Bond Index.
Emerging Markets Bond Fund	Vanguard	JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified
Floating Rate Fund (Bank Loans)	Eaton Vance	SMP/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index
Treasury Inflation Protected Securities Fund	Vanguard	Barclays U.S. 0-5 year TIPS Index
<b>Equity</b>		
U.S. Large Cap	Vanguard	S&P 500 Index
U.S. Small/Mid Cap	Vanguard	S&P Completion Index
U.S. Broad All Cap	Vanguard	CRSP U.S. Total Market Index
International Developed	Blackrock	MSCI EAFE Index
International Broad All Cap	Vanguard	FTSE Global All Cap ex US Index
Global Equity Fund	DFA	MSCI All Country World Index
<b>Specialty</b>		
ESG	Vanguard	CRSP U.S. Total Market Index
Real Estate	Vanguard	MSCI US Investable Market Real Estate 25/50 Index

Commingled accounts are monitored per the requirements in the Guidelines for Commingled Accounts below.



## V. STATIC OPTION ASSET CLASS ALLOCATION

The Board has established the following asset class allocation ranges and targets for the Static Options.

Static Portfolio Option	Global Equity	Domestic Equity	Int'l Equity	Core Fixed Income	High Yield	Emerging Markets	Bank Loans	TIPS
Multi-Manager Growth	43%	23%	19%	0%	5%	5%	5%	0%
Multi-Manager Blended	28%	15%	13%	35%	3%	3%	3%	0%
Multi-Manager Income	0%	0%	0%	60%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Passive Growth	0%	50%	40%	0%	5%	5%	0%	0%
Passive Blended	0%	31%	25%	38%	3%	3%	0%	0%
Passive Income	0%	0%	0%	70%	10%	10%	0%	10%

In order to maintain the target for each respective option, the asset class allocation shall be monitored monthly and rebalanced to the target when the allocation exceeds +/- 2% of the target (e.g., the range for the global equity allocation of the Multi-Manager Growth Portfolio is 41% to 45%). The portfolio should be brought back into compliance within five business days.

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## VI. AGE-BASED OPTION ASSET CLASS ALLOCATON

The Board has established the following target allocations for the 16 bands utilized in the Age-Based Option. As the age bands move closer to enrollment, the asset class allocation becomes more conservative.

Age Band	Global Equity	Domestic Equity	Int'l Equity	Core Fixed Income	High-Yield	Emerging Markets	Bank Loans	TIPS	Money Market
0 - 4	43%	23%	19%	0%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
5	40%	22%	17%	7%	5%	5%	4%	0%	0%
6	37%	20%	16%	14%	5%	4%	4%	0%	0%
7	34%	18%	15%	21%	4%	4%	4%	0%	0%
8	31%	17%	13%	28%	4%	4%	3%	0%	0%
9	28%	15%	13%	35%	3%	3%	3%	0%	0%
10	25%	14%	11%	42%	3%	3%	2%	0%	0%
11	22%	12%	10%	48%	3%	3%	2%	0%	0%
12	19%	10%	9%	55%	3%	2%	2%	0%	0%
13	16%	9%	7%	62%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%
14	13%	7%	6%	64%	2%	2%	1%	5%	0%
15	10%	5%	4%	66%	2%	2%	1%	10%	0%
16	7%	4%	3%	68%	1%	1%	3%	10%	3%
17	5%	3%	2%	69%	0%	0%	5%	10%	6%
18	5%	3%	2%	64%	0%	0%	7%	10%	9%
19+	5%	3%	2%	62%	0%	0%	8%	10%	10%

Beneficiary account balances are moved to the appropriate age band on the day following their birthday to reflect his/her current age.

In order to maintain the target for each respective age band, the asset class allocation shall be monitored monthly and rebalanced to the target when the allocation exceeds +/- 2% of the target. The portfolio should be brought back into compliance within five business days.

## VII. INVESTMENT OPTION FEES

Each Investment Option fee shall equal the associated investment management fee.

## VIII. EXCESS RETURN AND TRACKING ERROR TARGETS FOR SMAS

Each SMA Investment Manager has the following established gross excess return and ex-post tracking error targets:

Asset Class	Investment Manager	Excess Return	Tracking Error Target
<i>Domestic Fixed Income</i>			
Core	Wellington	50 bps	150 bps
Core +	Wellington	100 bps	300 bps

## IX. COMMINGLED ACCOUNT GUIDELINES

### Objective

Commingled accounts will be utilized when they are determined to provide the best value to the Board.

### Benchmark

Section IV of these Guidelines provide the approved commingled accounts and related benchmarks.

### Investment Manager

The Board may hire multiple Investment Managers for this mandate. Investment Managers will be selected as a result of a competitive procurement process. Selected Investment Managers' authority is limited to these Guidelines and the specific commingled account prospectus.

### Performance

Investment Manager performance will be evaluated using the following metrics:

1. **Passive Commingled Funds:** Performance, net of fees, shall meet the benchmark for the rolling 3- and 5-year periods
2. **Active Commingled Funds:** Performance, net of fees, shall exceed the benchmark for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods

Other factors the Board may consider in evaluating an Investment Manager include:

1. Significant changes in firm ownership and/or structure
2. Loss of one or more key personnel
3. Significant loss of clients and/or assets under management
4. Shifts in the firm's philosophy or process
5. Significant and persistent lack of responsiveness to client requests

If an Investment Manager fails to meet any of these performance objectives, the Investment Consultant will review the situation and make a recommendation as to any action the Board should take. Investment Managers serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be terminated or have their funds reduced at the Board's discretion due to any qualitative or quantitative factor listed or not listed above.

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## X. CORE FIXED INCOME GUIDELINES

### **Objective**

Provide participants with a low risk, low volatility option for saving for college expenses. It is expected that fixed income will be used by those participants with a short horizon to matriculation or with little appetite for short-term investment volatility.

### **Benchmark**

Section III of these Guidelines provide the benchmarks for fixed income portfolios.

### **Investment Manager**

The Board may hire multiple Investment Managers, which will be selected as a result of a competitive procurement process. Selected Investment Managers' authority is limited to these Guidelines. All references to portfolio in these guidelines refer to the market value of funds provided to each Investment Manager.

### **Allocation**

The portfolio is expected to be fully invested at all times, relying on the Investment Manager's ability to generate return primarily through security selection, sector rotation and/or curve positioning, not timing of market movements. However, cash holdings may represent an integral part of an Investment Manager's desired portfolio structure. Therefore, for these purposes the Investment Manager shall be allowed to maintain a maximum cash position of 5% of the portfolio, excluding amounts held as collateral for mortgage to be announced securities.

The portfolio is expected to be invested in securities within the benchmark. However, active management strategies are allowed to invest in out-of-benchmark authorized investment vehicles, as limited below.

The use of margin is prohibited except as may be required in the use of approved Derivatives.

Asset allocation shall be determined based on the average position over any three month time period and shall operate within the following constraints set forth herein.

### **Authorized investment vehicles for the portfolio:**

**Cash or Cash Equivalent** – Maximum allocation 5% of the portfolio

1. Deposit accounts and certificates of deposit in banks
2. 2a7 (actual or like) money market funds
3. Collateralized repurchase agreements for which the underlying securities are obligations of the United States Treasury or agencies of the United States Government.
4. Commercial paper of prime quality
  - Must be rated the highest letter and numerical rating provided by at least two nationally recognized rating service

**Obligations of the United States Treasury or Agencies** – Maximum allocation 100% of the portfolio

1. United States Treasury bonds and notes
2. Interest and principal strips of Treasury securities

3. Treasury Inflation Protection Securities (TIPS)
4. Agencies of the United States Government
  - Not restricted to full-faith and credit obligations

**Municipal securities** – Maximum allocation of 20% of the portfolio

1. General Obligation or Revenue bonds
  - Must be rated by at least two nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher. If rated by only one nationally recognized rating service, then the rating must be A-/A3 or higher
2. Build America Bonds (BABs) are permitted, but limited to 10% of the portfolio
  - Must be rated by at least two nationally recognized rating services A-/A3 or higher. If rated by only one nationally recognized rating service, then the rating must be AA-/Aa3 or higher

**Corporate debt obligations** – Maximum allocation of 70% of the portfolio

1. Registered Bonds
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
2. 144(a) securities (with and without registration rights) are permitted
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher

**Residential Mortgage Backed Securities**

1. United States Agency Mortgage backed securities, limited to 50% of the portfolio
2. Privately Issued Mortgage Backed securities, limited to 15% of the portfolio
  - Includes but is not limited to real estate mortgage investment conduits
  - Must be rated AAA/Aaa by at least one nationally recognized rating service
  - Sub-prime mortgage backed securities are not permitted
  - Alt-A mortgage backed securities are not permitted
3. Mortgage To Be Announced (TBA) securities
  - Require a cash equivalent set aside for future settlement of the forward agreement.

**Other Collateralized Securities** – Maximum allocation of 20% of the portfolio

1. Asset-backed and commercial mortgage backed securities
  - Must be rated AA/Aa2 by at least one nationally recognized rating service
2. 144(a) securities (with and without registration rights) are permitted
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services AA/Aa2 or higher

3. Collateralized Loan Obligations

- Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services AAA/Aaa or higher
- Limited to 10% of portfolio

**Foreign Debt Securities** – Maximum allocation of 10% of the portfolio

1. Supranational Debt Obligations, Sovereign Debt Obligations and Foreign Debt Obligations

- Must be U.S. dollar-denominated
- Must be rated by at least one U.S. nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher

**Commingled Investment Funds** – Maximum allocation of 100% of the portfolio

1. Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's), commingled investment funds and mutual funds

- Traded on domestic exchanges
- Primarily invested in authorized investment vehicles provided in this Guideline
- Compliance and monitoring shall be reviewed relative to the commingled investment funds' prospectus or participation agreement
- Before a Commingled Investment Fund is used by an Investment Manager, approval must be obtained by the Board

**Derivatives**

1. Derivatives shall only be used to substitute for physical securities, duration management or risk control

2. Derivative strategies must demonstrate one or more of the following benefits:

- Increase liquidity
- Stabilize and enhance portfolio returns
- Lower transaction costs, including market impact costs
- Reduction in the time required to change the mix of the portfolio

3. Before a Derivative strategy is used by an Investment Manager, approval must be obtained from the Board

**Other Restrictions**

Maximum investment in the securities of any issuer, except Obligations of the United States Treasury or Agencies, is 2% of the portfolio.

Active and Passive management is permitted. Passive strategies shall replicate the returns of the benchmark.

### Passive Management

1. Only securities eligible for inclusion in the benchmark indices are permitted.
2. Sector allocation shall be made consistent with the benchmark sector weights.
3. Total duration, as calculated by the manager's preferred pricing source, shall not differ from benchmark duration, plus or minus, by more than one-tenth of one year (0.10 years).
4. Tracking error to the benchmark shall be less than 10 basis points.
5. Average credit quality rating must equal the benchmark.

### Active Management

1. Total duration, as calculated by the manager's preferred pricing source, shall not differ from benchmark duration, plus or minus, by more than 20% of the benchmark duration.
2. Tracking Error to the benchmark shall be less than 300 bps.
3. Credit quality rating cannot be more than one letter rating below the benchmark.

### **Performance**

The Board may elect to employ multiple investment managers with complementary investment skills and/or styles. As part of this structure, managers are hired for their expected contribution to the overall portfolio performance over the various market cycles based on their style, stated strategy and asset mix. As a result, non-performance information is also considered in the evaluation process.

Investment manager performance will be evaluated using the following metrics by investment strategy.

### Passive Management

Passive investment strategies will be assessed on a gross of fee basis.

1. Rolling gross performance shall meet the benchmark for the 3 and 5 year periods.
2. Tracking error shall not exceed 10 bps for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.

### Active Management

Active investment strategies will be assessed on a gross and net of fee basis. Further, while 3 and 5 year periods are used to assess performance, the Board may consider longer time periods as part of the assessment.

1. Rolling net performance shall exceed the benchmark for the 3 and 5 year periods.
2. Performance shall rank at or above the median when compared to a universe of peers managing similar portfolios for the 3 and 5 year periods.
3. Excess return targets shall be set for each Investment Manager. Investment Managers shall meet or exceed their excess return target for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.
4. Rolling Alpha, calculated in accordance to the Jensen methodology, shall be positive for the 3 and 5 year periods.

5. Tracking error targets shall be set for each Investment Manager. Investment Managers shall not exceed their tracking error target for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.
6. Tracking error shall not exceed 300 bps for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.

In addition to the objectives listed above, other quantitative criteria should be considered with a focus on the interpretation of results. These criteria include risk metrics (e.g. standard deviation, downside risk, beta) and risk-adjusted performance metrics (e.g. Sharpe ratio, Treynor ratio, information ratio, excess return ratio).

Several non-performance factors may prompt the Board to re-evaluate a manager's retention. Any of the following may warrant immediate termination or further review:

- Significant changes in firm ownership and/or structure
- Loss of one or more key personnel
- Significant loss of clients and/or assets under management
- Shifts in the firm's philosophy or process
- Significant and persistent lack of responsiveness to client requests

If an Investment Manager fails to meet any of these performance objectives, the Investment Consultant will review the situation and make a recommendation to the board as to any action the Board should take. Investment Managers serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be terminated or have their funds reduced at the Board's discretion due to any qualitative or quantitative factor listed or not listed above.

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## **XI. CORE + FIXED INCOME GUIDELINES**

### **Objective**

Provide participants with the opportunity for additional growth (with additional risk) over the Core Fixed Income Option by utilizing non-investment grade credit and emerging market debt.

### **Benchmark**

Section III of these Guidelines provide the benchmarks for Core+ fixed income portfolios.

### **Investment Manager**

The Board may hire multiple Investment Managers, which will be selected as a result of a competitive procurement process. Selected Investment Managers' authority is limited to these Guidelines. All references to portfolio in these guidelines refer to the market value of funds provided to each Investment Manager.

### **Allocation**

The portfolio is expected to be fully invested at all times, relying on the Investment Manager's ability to generate return primarily through security selection, sector rotation and/or curve positioning, not timing of market movements. However, cash holdings may represent an integral part of an Investment Manager's desired portfolio structure. Therefore, for these purposes the Investment Manager shall be allowed to maintain a maximum cash position of 5% of the portfolio, excluding amounts held as collateral for mortgage to be announced securities.

The portfolio is generally expected to be invested in securities within the benchmark. However, Core + Fixed Income management strategies are allowed to invest in out-of-benchmark authorized investment vehicles, as limited below.

The use of margin is prohibited except as may be required in the use of approved Derivatives.

Asset allocation shall be determined based on the average position over any three month time period and shall operate within the following constraints set forth herein.

### **Authorized investment vehicles for the portfolio:**

#### **Cash or Cash Equivalent**

1. Deposit accounts and certificates of deposit in banks
2. 2a7 (actual or like) money market funds
3. Collateralized repurchase agreements for which the underlying securities are obligations of the United States Treasury or agencies of the United States Government.
4. Commercial paper of prime quality
  - Must be rated the highest letter and numerical rating provided by at least two nationally recognized rating service

#### **Obligations of the United States Treasury or Agencies**

1. United States Treasury bonds and notes
2. Interest and principal strips of Treasury securities

3. Treasury Inflation Protection Securities (TIPS)
4. Agencies of the United States Government
  - Not restricted to full-faith and credit obligations

#### **Municipal securities**

1. General Obligation or Revenue bonds
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
2. Build America Bonds (BABs)
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher.

#### **Corporate debt obligations**

1. Registered Bonds
2. 144(a) securities (with and without registration rights) are permitted

#### **Residential Mortgage Backed Securities**

1. United States Agency Mortgage backed securities
2. Privately Issued Mortgage Backed securities
  - Includes but is not limited to real estate mortgage investment conduits
  - Must be rated BBB-/Baa3 by at least one nationally recognized rating service
  - Sub-prime mortgage backed securities are not permitted
  - Alt-A mortgage backed securities are not permitted
3. Mortgage To Be Announced (TBA) securities
  - Require a cash equivalent set aside for future settlement of the forward agreement.

#### **Other Collateralized Securities**

1. Asset-backed and commercial mortgage backed securities
  - Must be rated BBB-/Baa3 by at least one nationally recognized rating service
2. 144(a) securities (with and without registration rights) are permitted
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher
3. Collateralized Loan Obligations
  - Must be rated by at least one nationally recognized rating services BBB-/Baa3 or higher

#### **Foreign Debt Securities**

1. Supranational Debt Obligations, Sovereign Debt Obligations and Foreign Debt Obligations

## **Commingled Investment Funds**

1. Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's), commingled investment funds and mutual funds
  - Traded on domestic exchanges
  - Primarily invested in authorized investment vehicles provided in this Guideline
  - Compliance and monitoring shall be reviewed relative to the commingled investment funds' prospectus or participation agreement
  - Before a Commingled Investment Fund is used by an Investment Manager, approval must be obtained by the Board

## **Derivatives**

1. Derivatives shall only be used to substitute for physical securities, duration management or risk control
2. Derivative strategies must demonstrate one or more of the following benefits:
  - Increase liquidity
  - Stabilize and enhance portfolio returns
  - Lower transaction costs, including market impact costs
  - Reduction in the time required to change the mix of the portfolio
  - Currency risk management
3. Before a Derivative strategy is used by an Investment Manager, approval must be obtained from the Board

## **Other Restrictions**

1. Maximum investment in the securities of any issuer, except Obligations of the United States Treasury or Agencies, is 2% of the portfolio.
2. Maximum investment in unrated securities is 5%.
3. Maximum investment in securities rated less than BBB-/Baa3 is 20% of the portfolio.
4. Total duration, as calculated by the manager's preferred pricing source, shall not differ from benchmark duration, plus or minus, by more than 20% of the benchmark duration.
5. Tracking Error to the benchmark shall be less than 300 bps.

## **Performance**

The Board may elect to employ multiple investment managers with complementary investment skills and/or styles. As part of this structure, managers are hired for their expected contribution to the overall portfolio performance over the various market cycles based on their style, stated strategy and asset mix. As a result, non-performance information is also considered in the evaluation process.

Active investment strategies will be assessed on a gross and net of fee basis. Further, while 3 and 5 year periods are used to assess performance, the Board may consider longer time periods as part of the assessment.

Investment Manager performance will be evaluated using the following:

1. Rolling net performance shall exceed the benchmark for the 3 and 5 year periods.
2. Performance shall rank at or above the median when compared to a universe of peers managing similar portfolios for the 3 and 5 year periods.
3. Excess return targets shall be set for each Investment Manager. Investment Managers shall meet or exceed their excess return target for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.
4. Rolling Alpha, calculated in accordance to the Jensen methodology, shall be positive for the 3 and 5 year periods.
5. Tracking error targets shall be set for each Investment Manager. Investment Managers shall not exceed their tracking error target for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.
6. Tracking error shall not exceed 300 bps for the rolling 3 and 5 year periods.

In addition to the objectives listed above, other quantitative criteria should be considered with a focus on the interpretation of results. These criteria include risk metrics (e.g. standard deviation, downside risk, beta) and risk-adjusted performance metrics (e.g. Sharpe ratio, Treynor ratio, information ratio, excess return ratio).

Several non-performance factors may prompt the Board to re-evaluate a manager's retention. Any of the following may warrant immediate termination or further review:

- Significant changes in firm ownership and/or structure
- Loss of one or more key personnel
- Significant loss of clients and/or assets under management
- Shifts in the firm's philosophy or process
- Significant and persistent lack of responsiveness to client requests

If an Investment Manager fails to meet any of these performance objectives, the Investment Consultant will review the situation and make a recommendation to the board as to any action the Board should take. Investment Managers serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be terminated or have their funds reduced at the Board's discretion due to any qualitative or quantitative factor listed or not listed above.

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