

# MANAGING COLUMBIA'S ENDOWMENT HOW IS IT DONE?

Columbia manages almost 100 percent of its endowment assets through one commingled pool. This pool is governed by investment policies approved by the Board of the Columbia Investment Management Company (see “Columbia Investment Management Company” opposite). Some 5,200 individual Columbia endowment funds (except those required by law or donor restriction to be maintained separately) are invested by unit and shared in one aggregated body of funds. This enables the University to take advantage of different investment styles and vehicles to provide a higher total return over time while maintaining an acceptable level of risk. In sum, pooling these funds together spreads the benefits of asset diversification among all appropriate endowment funds.

The income distributed for programmatic spending from an endowment fund is determined by multiplying a lagged market value by the annual spending rate established by the Trustees of the University. In Fiscal Year 2016, the actual distributions from the endowment for ongoing operations were \$453.9 million, effectively 5.1% of Fiscal Year 2016’s beginning market value.

For more information relating to the University’s spending policies, please contact the Office of Strategic Donor Relations and Stewardship at [donorrelations@columbia.edu](mailto:donorrelations@columbia.edu).

