University of West Georgia Foundation, Inc.  
Endowment Policy

Many of the outstanding programs offered by West Georgia can only be supported by private funding. State funding can make a good University, but it takes private support to make an excellent University. Although there are many ways of supporting the University, there is none as enduring as an endowed fund. Endowments supplement state dollars by providing academic scholarships, faculty development, advanced technology, and enhanced academic programs to develop the leading edge for students in the 21st Century.

Endowment gifts to the Foundation are made with the understanding that the principal of the gift will be invested and a percentage of the adjusted corpus balance will be spent annually for the benefit of the University of West Georgia. The acceptance of the gift by the Foundation establishes an obligation on the part of its Board of Trustees to preserve the original corpus, insuring that the endowment will exist in perpetuity. Each endowment fund bears the name of the donor or some other person specified by the donor. Additional contributions may be made at any time to Endowed Funds.

Endowments are managed by professional investment managers under the supervision of the Foundation Board of Trustees and its Investment Committee in accordance with federal and state guidelines. Individual endowment funds are pooled for investment purposes, but retain their identity on the Foundation’s books and records and share proportionately in the investment earnings of the pooled endowment funds. The earnings from investments will be net of professional investment managers’ fees. Investment objectives have been established with the goal of providing a reasonable level of current income and sufficient growth in the corpus of the endowment to exceed inflationary cost increases.

The endowment may be unrestricted, permitting West Georgia the greatest flexibility in meeting its most pressing needs over the years to come. In recent years, those needs have included support for students and faculty and initiatives designed to enhance the academic programs of West Georgia. The Foundation will also follow any restrictions on the use of the fund, which may be imposed by the donor. It is important to remember that the endowment will exist in perpetuity and to allow sufficient flexibility to preserve the usefulness of the gift as the needs of West Georgia change in the decades ahead. An endowment may be established with a minimum gift of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000). Endowments may be established with an outright gift, a pledge commitment over a specific time period or a deferred gift such as a trust.

The Foundation will apply the following: (1) the original corpus will be preserved; (2) up to 5% of the prior year ending adjusted corpus balance will be applied annually toward the intent of the donor, and (3) an administrative charge (currently 1.3%) will be assessed to the adjusted corpus balance. In managing these funds, the Foundation strives to maintain a balance between the current needs of the institution and the endowment’s long-term value. The guidelines are subject to revision and change by the Board of Trustees, court rulings or administrative decrees; and it is the intent of the Foundation to abide by these regulations as they are continually developed, again taking into consideration, as much as possible, the intent of the donor. The endowment policy will be reviewed annually and revised appropriately.

Revised 1/19/12