



THE  
CAMPANILE  
FOUNDATION

*Supporting San Diego State University*

**FOUNDATION INVESTMENT  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

Investments made on behalf of San Diego State University include liquid assets associated with various operating activities of the university, including education and enterprise activities, such as student housing, parking and continuing education. SDSU stateside investments are centrally managed by the California State University system. SDSU's investments also consist of funds held by auxiliaries, including The Campanile Foundation, which administers philanthropic gifts to the university. Each auxiliary has its own governance structure and board, its own investment policies, and its own fiduciary responsibility for the management of auxiliary investment assets.

At SDSU, we are committed to ensuring that our investment policies align with our institutional values and support the educational goals of our strategic plan. The Campanile Foundation is responsible for investing in compliance with university policies, including conflict of interest policies. University policies exist to prevent individuals from managing investments based on personal beliefs and interests.

Above all, SDSU's investment approach is guided by principles of prudence, sustainability, and alignment with our institutional values as well as CSU system policy and state law.

**Q: Who manages the university's investments?**

**A:** The California State University system's Finance and Treasury Department at the Chancellor's Office centrally manages investments of university funds for all 23 campuses. The investments are overseen by the CSU Investment Advisory Committee and managed by outside professional investment firms. More information is on the [CSU's Investment Advisory Committee page](#).

Each campus also operates multiple auxiliary organizations, which are separate legal entities that operate for the benefit of each university. At SDSU, The Campanile Foundation holds the largest portfolio of investments and also manages most of SDSU Research Foundation funds. Aztec Shops and Associated Students have more modest investments which are invested primarily in fixed income funds such as Local Agency Investment Funds (LAIF).

**Q: Who manages The Campanile Foundation's investments?**

**A:** The Campanile Foundation endowment and other investments are managed by Meketa Investment Group with oversight and direction provided by The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors and its Finance and Investment Committee, which is composed of highly regarded, experienced financial experts and business owners, alumni, donors and community members. Importantly, and per foundation policy, university leadership does not have the authority to singularly dictate policy decisions or investments.



**Q: Does The Campanile Foundation invest in direct stocks and equities in any companies?**

**A:** No. The Campanile Foundation invests in institutional funds, which are managed by investment firms on behalf of their clients. The Campanile Foundation’s Investment Committee is guided by an Investment Policy Statement (housed under “[Miscellaneous Documents](#)”) that includes environmental, social, and governance (ESG) fund investments and is in alignment with the guidelines provided for in the [CSU Investment Policy for Auxiliary Organizations](#). Additional information is also provided on the [Governance Structure of CSU and Auxiliary Investments - FAQ](#) page managed by the CSU.

As part of its fiduciary duty, The Campanile Foundation works to promote strong investment returns on its endowment, as part of good stewardship of donor assets that support student scholarships and academic programs. Overall, the Foundation’s responsibility is to support the university in maintaining access to funds to meet current financial obligations, to preserve and improve the value of the University’s financial assets that then support SDSU’s mission, maximize potential earnings within acceptable levels of risk and ensure compliance with all statutory, legislative, and financial reporting requirements.

**Q: How does the university's investment policy align with California State University system policy and state law?**

**A:** In accordance with the California State University system’s [Investment Policy for Auxiliary Organizations](#), The Campanile Foundation’s Investment Policy Statement (housed under “[Miscellaneous Documents](#)”) includes reference to a 1978 resolution approved by the California State University Board of Trustees, which urged its recognized CSU auxiliary organizations to issue statements of social responsibility and to follow those precepts when examining past and considering future investments. Investment policies are also aligned with Title 5 Sections 42401, 42402, and 42500 as well as Education Code Section 89900.

**Q: Can SDSU leadership dictate the university’s investment policy and actual investment strategy?**

**A:** No. The Campanile Foundation is a non-profit, public benefit corporation that has a separate governing board – with its own bylaws, policies, and standing committees. University leadership, including SDSU’s president, is not permitted to direct policy decisions made by the Foundation Board of Directors. Within the California State University system, however, each university president has oversight authority, in accordance with the Education Code and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and is responsible for the integrity of the financial reporting made by campus auxiliary organizations. This means that university presidents – while they are not able to dictate investments – must ensure the fiscal viability of campus auxiliary organizations, that campus auxiliary organizations’ operations and expenditures comply with policies, and that campus auxiliary organizations submit annual budgets.



**Q: Does the university have a socially responsible investing policy?**

**A:** Yes. At SDSU, we prioritize socially responsible investing, balancing the need for financial returns. SDSU is committed to ensuring that its auxiliary investment policies align with the university’s institutional values of teaching, research, and service and that investments support the overall educational goals of SDSU’s strategic plan. Further, The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors already has an Investment Policy Statement (housed under “[Miscellaneous Documents](#)”) with the goal of limiting investments that do not align with institutional values. The investment policy may be viewed under Miscellaneous Documents [here](#).

**Q: Have there been any recent changes to the university’s investment policies?**

**A:** Yes, in 2021 and 2024 changes were made to the Investment Policy Statement. In 2021, the Campanile Foundation’s Board of Directors introduced a new clause within its Investment Policy Statement (housed under “[Miscellaneous Documents](#)”) indicating that it is the core value of the Foundation to invest assets in a socially responsible way. The policy reads: “As such, the Board of Directors will continually strive to strike an appropriate balance between its social responsibility and its fiduciary duty to create financial returns that will help fund the University.” The Foundation directs its Investment Advisor and investment managers to invest in investment vehicles that are consistent with its social values, while balancing the financial return to the Foundation, advancing its long-term interests, and supporting SDSU’s mission. In 2024, an additional change was made allowing direct investments in strategic initiatives that advance the mission of SDSU.

**Q: Can students, faculty, staff, or alumni dictate the university's investment decisions?**

**A:** No. University community members, including university leaders, do not have the authority to direct or dictate the university’s investment decisions given existing policies and laws. Boards investing on behalf of the university seek investment returns through a professionally managed portfolio, and to achieve its investment objectives, the campus auxiliary organizations retain independent investment consultants which provide ongoing evaluation and performance reviews. Individuals responsible for managing investments are professional managers selected based on their record of success in finance and investing and their alignment with SDSU investment priorities and approach to risk.



**Q: Can donors dictate how the university manages investments?**

**A:** No. The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors, with guidance from the Finance and Investment Committee, develops an investment policy and the policy is implemented by an outsourced CIO, Meketa.

**Q: What measures are taken to avoid conflicts of interest in investment decisions?**

**A:** The Campanile Foundation’s Conflict of Interest Policy Statement is aligned with Title 5 Sections 42401, 42402 and 42500 as well as Education Code Section 89900 and 88906. All directors and officers are barred from engaging in conduct that benefits their personal or private business interests and affairs. Further, no university official, including university administrators, have the authority to change existing state law or policy governing investments – and this is a purposeful limitation that, again, restricts individuals from applying personal or private interests in investing university dollars.

**Q: Does the CSU have a divestment policy?**

**A:** No. State law governs stateside investments. Also, the California State University system released a statement on divestment in April 2024: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/CSU-Statement-on-Divestment.aspx>

**Q: Does the university support investment transparency and reporting? Where can I learn more about the university’s investments and investment policies?**

**A:** Yes. The Campanile Foundation maintains a [public website](#) with information about its policies, governance requirements, fiscal reports, financial statements and other information.