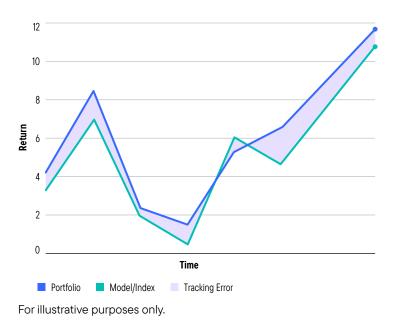


# What is tracking error?

Tracking error quantifies how much a portfolio's return may differ from the underlying model it tracks. With Canvas, this model can be a market index or a custom model.



### **Custom Indexing background**

Traditional index investing attempts to track the performance of an index via mutual funds or ETFs. Custom Indexing seeks to replicate performance by directly owning the index or strategy's component securities. This empowers investors to:



Fully utilize tax loss harvesting to potentially improve after-tax returns

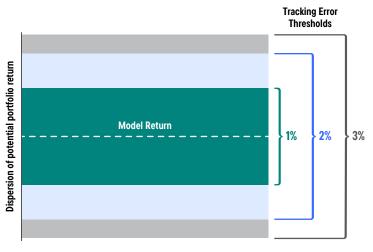
Personalize portfolios

## Tax loss harvesting and tracking error

Understanding the interplay between tax loss harvesting and tracking error is essential. Realizing losses generates cash to reinvest in the portfolio. By rule, the replacement securities must be different than the security(ies) sold. As a result, the new portfolio will be different than the model it tracks. In essence, tax loss harvesting requires accepting some deviation from the model—the question is how much.

## **Tracking example**

Tracking error roughly follows a normal distribution. If the index returns 10% for the year, and the portfolio has a 1% tracking error, we'd expect portfolio return to be within 8% and 12%, 95% of the *time*. With a 3% tracking error, we'd expect performance to be within 4% and 16%, 95% of the time. Increasing tracking error introduces a broader set of outcomes.



For illustrative purposes only.

### In summary

As great of a solution as Custom Indexing can be, it's important to remember that portfolios are investments and allowing tracking error to ride too high, can put undue risk on them. There may be reasons to do so, and we certainly have had clients who've benefited from it, but it's important to understand the trade-offs.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS? All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

CANVAS<sup>®</sup> is an interactive web-based investment tool developed by O'Shaughnessy Asset Management, L.L.C. ("OSAM") that permits an investment professional to select a desired investment strategy for the professional's client. At all times, the investment professional, and not OSAM, is responsible for determining the initial and ongoing suitability of any investment strategy for the investment professional's underlying client. The professional's client shall not rely on OSAM for any such initial or subsequent review or determination. Rather, to the contrary, at all times the professional shall remain exclusively responsible for same.

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