

Cencora Inc. (COR)

Strategic Portfolio Addition

ESSEC Club of Economics

February 4, 2026

Recommendation: **BUY** Target: 16.3% Upside: +29% (DCF)

Current Portfolio: High Vulnerability

Sector Allocation

Technology	26.5%
Financials	12.5%
Commodities	12.1%
Healthcare	9.5%
Other	39.4%

Risk Metrics

Volatility	15.82%
Sharpe Ratio	0.788
VaR (95%)	-20.7%
Max Drawdown	-26.4%

Geographic Exposure

- US: 60% EU: 35% Other: 5%

Key Issues

- Tech concentration: 26.5%
- Healthcare underweight
- High correlation in top holdings

"We need a structural hedge, not a speculative bet."

Why Healthcare? The Structural Diversifier

1. Low Correlation with Tech

- Correlation: **0.45** (vs 0.7+ for others)
- Stability during tech corrections

2. Defensive Characteristics

- Sector Beta: 0.6–0.7
- Demographics-driven demand

3. Portfolio Gap

- Current: 9.5% / Optimal: 12–15%
- **Underweight: 3–5%**

Structural Tailwinds

Demographics

Aging population, chronic diseases

Infrastructure

Pharma distribution, supply chain

2026 Macro

Rates favor quality, defensive rotation

4. 2026 Context

- Rising rates pressure growth stocks
- Geopolitical uncertainty

Cencora Inc.: The Distribution Powerhouse

BUY

Allocation	16.3%
Price	\$359 → \$464
Upside	+29% (DCF)
Dividend	0.7%

Market Cap	\$68B
2026E Rev	\$340B
Op. Margin	1.5%
Beta	0.36

Why COR?

1. Pharma Distribution Leader

- Top 3 US distributor (90% market)
- Essential healthcare infrastructure

2. Stable Cash Flow

- Revenue: \$321B+ (FY25)
- 5–7% growth guidance (FY26)
- Investment grade credit

3. 2026 Catalysts

- Specialty pharma expansion
- Biosimilar distribution growth

Methodology: Portfolio Reconstruction

Challenge: Only Top 10 holdings (36%) → Need 100% for analysis

Solution: ETF Proxy Approach

Sector	ETF Proxy	Gap
Healthcare	IXJ (Global Healthcare)	9.5%
Commodities	MXI (Global Materials)	12.1%
Real Estate	REET (Global REIT)	8.7%
Communications	IXP (Global Telecom)	6.5%
Industrials	EXI (Global Industrials)	5.5%
Consumer Staples	KXI (Global Staples)	5.0%
Consumer Disc.	RXI (Global Discretionary)	5.0%
Other (Energy, Fin, Util)	IXC, IXG, JXI	9.2%

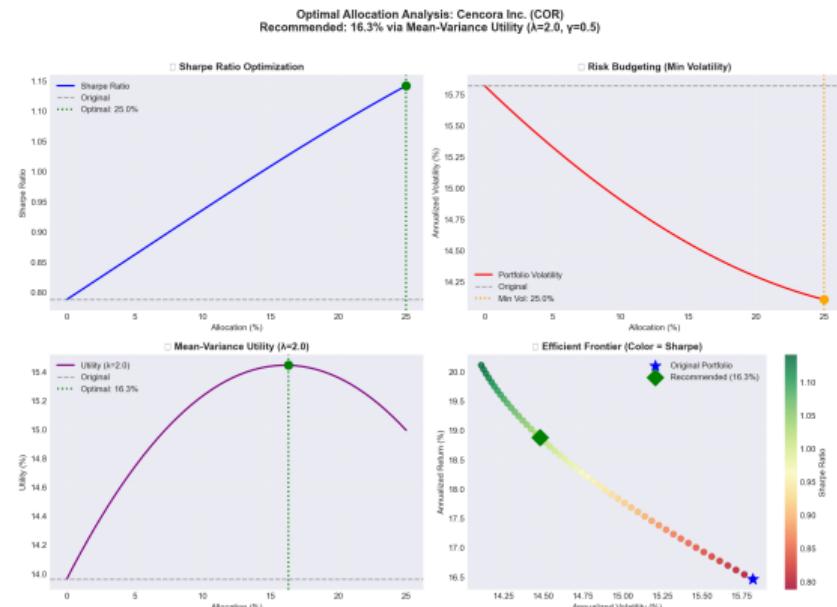
Result: Top 10 (36%) + ETF Proxies (64%) = **100% Portfolio**

Methodology: Screening & Allocation

Screening Criteria:

- **Sector:** Healthcare
(Pharma, MedTech, Services)
- **Market Cap:** > \$20B
Large caps ensure liquidity
- **Beta:** < 0.8
Low volatility / defensive
- **Revenue Growth (5y):** > 5%
Avoid declining businesses
- **ROIC:** > 10%
Quality capital allocation
- **FCF:** Positive
Cash generation capability

Portfolio Allocation:



Portfolio Impact: Growth With Stability



Before vs After (+16.3% COR)

Metric	Before	After
Return	16.47%	18.88%
Volatility	15.82%	14.48%
Sharpe	0.788	1.027
Max DD	-26.4%	-21.8%

+2.4% return AND 1.3% vol reduction

New Weights: (assuming proportional reduction of original positions)

- Tech: 26.5% → 22.2%
- Health: 9.5% → **23.3%**

Valuation: DCF Base Case (Conservative)

Current Price: \$359 → Fair Value: \$464 → Upside: +29%

1. Conservative Assumptions

- **WACC (7.46%)**: Reflects defensive profile (Beta 0.67) and stable cash flows.
- **Growth (8.6%)**: Capped below historical 3Y CAGR (10.4%).
- **FCF Margin (1.0%)**: Maintained flat despite scaling benefits.

2. Value Breakdown

Component	Value	% EV
PV of FCFs (10y)	\$31.9B	34%
PV of Terminal	\$61.6B	66%
Enterprise Value	\$93.5B	100%
(-) Net Debt	-\$3.3B	
Equity Value	\$90.2B	

3. Sensitivity Analysis *Impact of WACC and Terminal Growth on Fair Value*

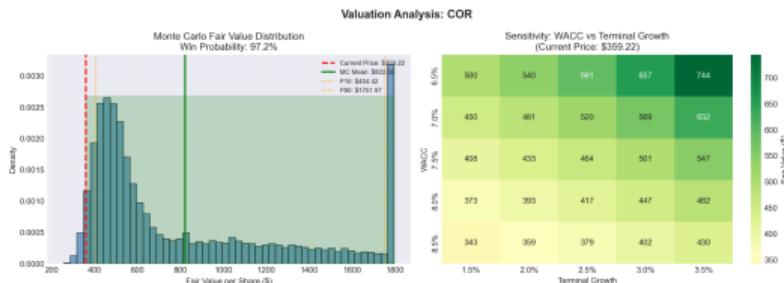
WACC	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%
7.0%	\$505	\$542	\$588
7.5%	\$428	\$464	\$499
8.0%	\$376	\$405	\$436

Conclusion:

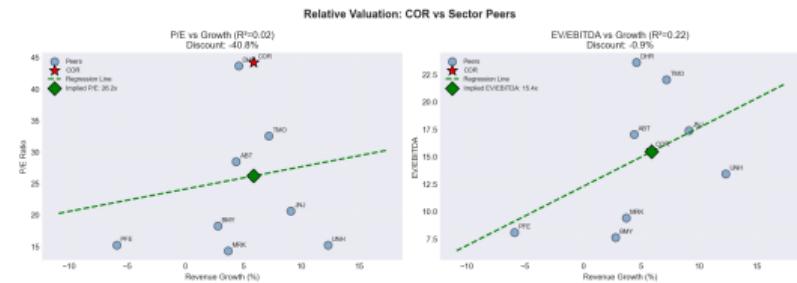
- Base case offers strong margin of safety
- Even in stress case (WACC 8%), price > \$376 (Positive Upside)

Valuation: Robustness (Monte Carlo & Relative)

1. Monte Carlo (Upside Case)



2. Relative Valuation (Market Check)



- **Method:** 10,000 randomized scenarios
- **Mean Fair Value:** **\$822.50** (+129%)
- **Win Prob:** 97.2%
- *Captures significant tail upside*

- **Method:** Regression (P/E vs Growth)
- **Insight:** COR trades **below** trend
- **Peers:** MCK, CAH,...
- *Confirms structural undervaluation*

Risk Assessment

Risk	Prob.	Impact	Mitigation
Drug Pricing	Med-Hi	Revenue	Diversified customer base. Essential service.
Opioid Liability	Low	Legal	Major state settlements complete.
Competition	Med	Margins	Oligopoly structure. High barriers.
M&A Risk	Low	Delays	Strong integration history.
Margin Pressure	Med	Earnings	Specialty pharma growth offsets.

“Essential infrastructure, oligopoly protection, stable cash flows.”

Recommendation: Build Resilience for 2026

Problem

- Tech overweight: 26.5%
- VaR too high: -20.7%

Solution

- COR at 16.3%
- Sharpe: +30%
- Volatility: -1.34%

BUY COR

Allocation	16.3%
Entry	\$359
DCF Target	\$464 (+29%)
MC Mean	\$823 (+129%)
Horizon	12–24 months

Result

- Downside protection
- 18.9% annualized return

	Before	After
Return	16.5%	18.9%
Volatility	15.8%	14.5%
Sharpe	0.788	1.027
Tech	26.5%	22.2%
Health	9.5%	23.3%

Thank You

Questions?

All metrics, backtests, and visualizations were generated using my custom engine:

<https://github.com/joshsssn/ECE-Portfolio-Analysis-Engine>

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