

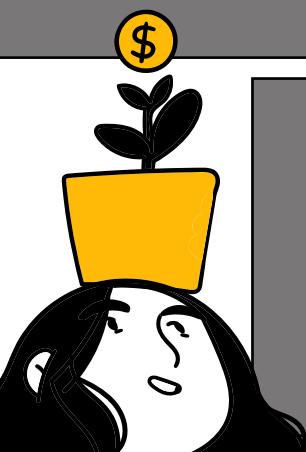
SMART FINANCIAL PLANNING



Financial Planning is the process of developing and implementing a coordinated series of financial plans. By planning your personal finances, you seek to manage your income and wealth, so you attain your financial goals throughout your lifetime.

VALUES DEFINE FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Provide underlying support and rationale for financial and lifestyle goals. Fundamental beliefs about what is important, desirable, and worthwhile. Values are what we believe in. They motivate and shape us. Personal financial goals grow out of these values because we consider some things more important than others. We express values by the way we spend, save, invest, and donate our money.



FINANCIAL GOALS FOLLOW VALUES

Successful financial planning evolves from your financial goals. Financial goals are the specific long, intermediate, and short-term objectives attained through financial planning and management. Financial goals should be consistent with your values. Setting goals helps visualize the gap between your current financial status and where you want to be in the future.

WEALTH-BUILDING PRINCIPLES FOR LIFE

- Clearly set short, intermediate, and long-term financial goals.
- Save by paying yourself first out of each paycheck.
- Pay credit card balances in full each month.
- Spend less than you earn.
- Participate in TSP.
- Take full advantage of employer's 5% match on retirement savings.
- Buy a home for the tax advantages.
- Pay off mortgage before retirement.
- Be patient when investing for the long term.
- Live every day knowing you have control over your financial future.

EXAMPLES OF FINANCIAL GOALS

- Completing a college education
- Paying off credit card debt
- Repaying education loans
- Meeting financial emergencies
- Taking a vacation
- Owning a home
- Owning a business
- Financial independence at retirement

Contact your local
Personal Financial Management Program
or **CFS** to learn more.

