

Planning for a Secure Retirement: Program Outline

Audience: Anyone with a computer and Internet access can participate. The course is particularly targeted toward workers aged 25-55 (a) who receive little retirement planning education at work or (b) those without a retirement plan such as farmers, other self-employed workers, and employees who are not covered by a plan.

Program Objectives:

The overall objective of this web course is to help participants plan for retirement.

Upon completion of this course, each participant will be able to:

- Identify personality traits related to the way in which they manage their money
- Estimate how long they will live using a life expectancy calculator
- Determine their level of risk tolerance
- Consider their desired retirement lifestyle
- Explain how living expenses could change during retirement
- Obtain an estimate of Social Security Retirement benefits
- Explain the sources of income for current retirees
- Consider possible sources of future retirement income
- Determine Medicare eligibility
- Compare Medicare options
- Compare Medigap policies
- Estimate Medicare amounts
- Understand the types of retirement plans
- Explain the retirement plan options for a self-employed or small business owner
- Explain IRAs
- Determine eligibility for a tax deductible IRA
- Explain how to start an IRA
- Explain lump sum distributions
- Identify other topics to consider when planning retirement

Course Modules:

1. Will you be ready to retire?
2. Would you like to estimate your expenses in retirement?
3. When will you be eligible for Social Security?
4. Would you like an estimate of income needs in retirement?
5. Are you eligible for Medicare and other health benefits?
6. Do you have a retirement plan that your employer funds?
7. Are you self-employed and responsible for your own retirement?
8. Do you have an Individual Retirement Account?
9. What is a lump sum retirement distribution and what should you do with it?

10. Do you have other retirement concerns?

Participants will be able to complete as many modules as they want. They can begin with any module and do the modules in any order. If users wish to receive a certificate after completion of the course, they must complete five of the 10 modules and a course evaluation. Participants who want a certificate will provide their email address to receive the certificate.

Course URL: <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/retirement>

Programming Ideas

- You may want to hold a “Getting Started” session where you introduce the course, give some general guidelines, and encourage participants. This could be a one-hour session. You could also plan a group meeting several weeks later as a celebration of completion.
- You may want to conduct a retirement planning session for a local employer or other group and use that session to introduce the course.
- You could plan a session for a computer lab where you show participants how to access the course on the Internet. After getting the participants enrolled, the participants could complete the lessons at their own pace.

Marketing

You will want to advertise *Planning for a Secure Retirement* through various sources in your community.

- Newsletters
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Television
- Personal Contacts
- Meeting Announcements
- Extension Websites
- E-mail Announcements
- Flyers
- Other: _____

Target Audience Checklist

- Employers: _____
- Churches: _____
- Libraries: _____
- Civic Groups: _____
- Industry: _____

- Hospitals: _____
- Farm Bureau: _____
- Extension Homemakers: _____
- WFIP Participants: _____
- PTO or PTA groups: _____
- Banks: _____
- Others: _____

Sample Media Releases

PLANNING FOR A SECURE RETIREMENT

Are you looking forward to the day you retire? Or, do you dread the thought? When the time comes to stop working, will you have enough income to continue the lifestyle you want?

A new distance learning course, Planning for a Secure Retirement, is now available to help you gather the information you need to plan for retirement. The course is available on the Internet at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/retirement> . The course consists of 10 modules or lessons. The modules focus on topics such as Are You Ready to Retire?, When Can You Collect Social Security?, and other topics such as employer plans, self-employment, and Individual Retirement Accounts. The distance education course is informative and free. You can complete the modules at your convenience.

The course was developed at Purdue University. For more information contact (*fill in your name and address*)

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THINKING ABOUT PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Have you started thinking about how your expenses might change in retirement? Or which expenses might increase and which might decrease? If you want more information

about these questions, visit Module 2 of the free course, Planning for a Secure Retirement. You can find the course on the Internet at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/retirement>. The course consists of 10 modules or lessons that you can complete at your convenience. Each module addresses a topic related to retirement planning.