

MY FINANCIAL GOALS

Your Financial Goals ultimately revolve around your lifestyle goals. The lifestyle you live or wish to live relies on the amount of money you have available to sustain a particular lifestyle. To understand our Financial Goals, we must first look at what our Lifestyle Goals are.

Think about what your *ideal* lifestyle looks like. Use the hints below to start forming a concrete picture of what you want in life. Write down an outline in the space provided.

What is my Ideal Lifestyle?

- Who do I want to spend time with
- What fun things do I want to do
- How do I want to feel
- Do I want to continue working
- Do I want to volunteer
- Where do I want to live

My Ideal Lifestyle

Now that we have a better understanding of what we want our lifestyle to look like, we can start to think about how we are going to achieve that goal---and sustain it. For example, if your goal is to be able to travel around the world, what do you need to have in place in order to make that your reality? You will need things such as a flexible schedule that allows travel, good health, a passport, ideas of your destinations, and most importantly, enough money to pay for your travel.

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Make a list of some of the items you might need in order to make your ideal lifestyle a reality:

Now, if you wrote “money” on your list above, imagine your list without it. Would your ideal lifestyle still be possible? For the majority of us, the answer is no. Money is the driving force of our lifestyle goals. How much money do you need to create your perfect lifestyle? _____

The amount of money we need in order to achieve our perfect way of life is one of the most important aspects of financial planning and investments. We need to have a grasp on how much we will need in order to really realize that we need to start our long-term planning *now* rather than hoping that particular amount of money will show up on our doorstep one day in the future.

Imagine yourself 10, 15, or 20 years from now. Do you hope that you would be living your ideal lifestyle by now? What if you don’t have quite enough money to achieve your lifestyle goals? What type of lifestyle are you living then? Are you happy? Or are you just satisfied? Would you still dream of a different lifestyle than the one you are living?

It is hard to visualize yourself in the future but if you can define and imagine your future goals now, you will already be one step ahead of everyone else. The ultimate power behind our ideal lifestyle is the amount of money we have. Remember, every second of our lives is directly related to money—therefore, our future lifestyles will still be affected by the amount of money we have at our discretion. What we choose to do with it is a personal choice. But without money, we have no choices at all.