

Keeping the big financial picture in mind can be a challenge when you're just beginning to make a life for yourself. The list below is a great way to start. Check off the items that apply to you, and take some time to think about how you can start to tackle them. If this feels like a lot to handle, that's okay – we are here to help you make those life decisions while keeping your big financial picture in view.

Opportunities

- Review estate plan**
 - Work with a licensed attorney to draw up/update a will
 - Name guardians
 - Discuss if a trust is necessary
- Assess income situation and prioritize education, retirement, and other savings goals**
 - Use credit wisely
 - Continue to save for joint goals
 - Home (bigger home)
 - Vehicle
 - Vacations
- Discuss and understand tax benefits of having children**
- Discuss and consider starting a 529 savings plan or other education fund**
 - Set up automatic transfers
 - Estimate college costs
- Maximize employee benefits; comparing your benefits and employee offerings against your partners**
 - Retirement
 - Flex spending accounts
 - Daycare spending accounts
- Evaluate life insurance needs**
- Provide for family healthcare and long-term care**
 - For new children, add your baby to your health insurance plan
 - Ask about other employee benefits
- Ensure adequate disability, property and liability insurance**

Defining Characteristics

- Having and raising children
- Arranging for child care
- Moving into a home (or bigger home)
- Greater income need
- Career advancement

“Give your children the best chance at success – and that starts with having your own finances in order.”

–Tim Steffen, CFP®, CPWA®

Director of Advanced Planning

The future you want for yourself doesn't just happen – you have to make it happen with smart financial choices. We can help you get started or clarify the overwhelming.

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