For many of us, consistently setting and sticking to our financial goals can be a real challenge. The good news is that goal setting doesn’t have to be confusing. This six-step financial goal setting process will help you get clear on what you want to accomplish AND give you a plan to get there!

Review the goal setting process on this page, then work through the exercises on the following pages to develop an action plan for your own financial goals.

**Step 1. Brainstorm your goals**
Get all your short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals in one place.

**Step 2. Prioritize your goals**
Choose the most important goals to focus on and put the rest in a “parking lot” for later.

**Step 3. Make them S.M.A.R.T.**
Rephrase your goals so that they are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely.

**Step 4. Make an action plan**
Calculate monthly savings amounts needed, or figure out what success looks like for your goal.

**Step 5. Follow through**
Use tools such as calendar alerts and productivity apps to stay on track.

**Step 6. Reflect and review**
Figure out what went well and what didn’t, then revise your goals as needed.
Get started with your financial goal setting process by checking off any of the following goals that might be relevant to you, as well as adding any others you might have. Be sure to specify whether each goal is short-term (0-2 years), medium-term (3-10 years), or long-term (10+ years away). Once you’re done, circle 2-3 goals you want to prioritize.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Short-Term</th>
<th>Medium-Term</th>
<th>Long-Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1000 in an emergency fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Car repair/maintenance fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cushion to prevent overdrafts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday gifts</td>
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<td>Travel/vacation:</td>
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<td>Travel/vacation:</td>
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<td>Paying off debt:</td>
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<td>Paying off debt:</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 month emergency fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starting a business</td>
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<td>Down payment on a car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Down payment on a house</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home repairs and renovations</td>
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<td>Wedding/other celebration</td>
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<td>Planning for a child</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giving a charitable gift or donation</td>
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<td>Retirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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</table>
Take your financial goal setting to the next level by turning your top financial goals into Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant, and Timely goals. In addition, this worksheet will let you prioritize goals, anticipate obstacles, and choose a strategy to overcome those obstacles. You may want to print out one page of this worksheet for each of your main goals.

**My S.M.A.R.T. Goal is to:**
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
This goal is (circle one): Short-term          Medium-term          Long-term
How important is this goal (circle one)? 1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9     10
Start date: __________ End date: ___________ # Months to complete: __________
$ required: _______ $ already saved _______ $/month to reach goal: _______

The following obstacles are likely to get in the way of my success:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
I will overcome these obstacles with the following tactics (check all that apply):

___ Put the goal money in a separate account/location
___ Set up automatic transfers
___ Get an accountability buddy
___ Cut expenses
___ Get a side hustle/increase income
___ Set aside __% of my income as soon as my paycheck hits
___ Publicize my goal
___ Write myself a letter to read when I feel myself slipping
___ Pull time and money from less important goals
___ Other: ________________________________
Take your financial goal setting to the next level by turning your long-term qualitative goal into a set of achievable shorter-term milestones.

Today’s Date: ________________ Goal Deadline: ________________

My qualitative S.M.A.R.T. goal is to:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

In five years, I will...

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

In six months, I will...

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

In one month, I will...

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

In one week, I will...

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Today, I will...

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________