Marriage

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 – I am are here to help you make those life decisions while keeping your big financial picture in view.

Defining Characteristics

- Paying for the wedding
- Buying a home
- Making other large purchases
- Establishing a career
- Thinking about a family

"Being open & honest about your finances is an important first step for soon-to-be married couples."

–Heather Osborn CFP®, CLU, AAMS

Baird Financial Planning Manager

Opportunities

- ☐ **Balancing dual incomes and perspectives**
  - ☐ Defining common expectations and goals regarding spending, debt and savings
  - ☐ Know each other's assets and debt
  - ☐ Decide how to set up your accounts and tax implications (All joint, combination, separate)
- ☐ **Keeping spending under control for larger purchases**
  - ☐ Create a joint budget
- ☐ **Evaluating the home purchase decision**
- ☐ **Making joint decisions (bank accounts, health insurance)**
- ☐ **Increasing 401(k) deferrals and IRA/Roth contributions**
- ☐ **Learning about investments**
- ☐ **Buying life insurance**
  - ☐ As you start to take on big debt (home) as a couple, life insurance will help pay for these things should something happen to one of you
- ☐ **Updated fiduciary appointments**
  - ☐ Power of Attorney
  - ☐ Beneficiary designations
  - ☐ Wills

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

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