New Grad | New to the Workforce

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

- Single
- Living on their own
- Recent college grad
- First full-time job
- Paying down debt (student loan, car, credit card)

Opportunities

- ☐ **Create a budget**
  - ☐ Track expenses
    - ☐ Know your income and income taxes
    - ☐ Know your expenses and spending (Rent, utilities, insurance, groceries, cell phone bill, etc.)
- ☐ **Manage debt and understanding credit score**
  - ☐ Make regular credit card and student loan payments
- ☐ **Identify saving goals and ways to save (per budget)**
- ☐ **Weigh tradeoff between leasing and purchasing a vehicle**
- ☐ **Establish an emergency fund**
  - ☐ Systematically deposit some of each paycheck into savings
- ☐ **Evaluate and understand employer benefits provided to you in order to best utilize them to meet your current and future needs**
  - ☐ Profit sharing, tuition reimbursement, life insurance, flexible spending accounts, health insurance, disability insurance, paid time off, etc.
- ☐ **Start saving for retirement**
  - ☐ Take advantage of 401(k) and other plans at work
    - ☐ Know the match and contribution options (If you can afford it, hit at least the match amounts)
  - ☐ Choose between a Traditional and a Roth IRA
- ☐ **Designate beneficiaries on your financial accounts**

"Debt that is acquired for the right reason and properly managed can be a powerful financial planning tool."

–Audrey Blanke, CFP®

Baird Financial Planner

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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