



Member owned. Not-for-profit.

Steps for Setting Realistic Goals

1. **Decide on What You Want** – select a goal that is specific, realistic and measurable.
2. **Make a Commitment in Writing** – people who write down their goals achieve them more often than those who do not.
3. **Consider the Cost** – consider the cost in time, effort, money and affect on your relationships. Be realistic and honest. What will you or others give up to reach your goal? What do you or others expect to gain when you reach it?
4. **Prioritize** – identify the priority of this goal compared to other goals, needs, and wants. Prioritize this goal in numerical order in relation to your overall financial plan.
5. **Communicate** – discuss goals with spouse, family or friends. Request feedback and comments from those who may help you achieve this goal.
6. **Compare** – evaluate this goal in relation to your other financial goals compatibility. Does it complement your other goals? Does this goal conflict with goals of your spouse or other family members?
7. **Compromise** – make changes to this goal, if necessary, and make it compatible with other goals in your overall financial plan. Negotiate in good faith with family members (or yourself) when goals need adjusting.
8. **Reach an Agreement** – come to an agreement with others who are involved in the appropriateness of this goal. Make sure you review and renew the commitments before you begin.
9. **Set-up a Time Table** – establish a date to start and when you will complete the goal.
10. **Make a Plan** – determine how you will proceed. Make sure to include personal actions you must take and the financial steps required to accomplish the goal successfully.