



# Investing Made Easy

When making your investment selections, it is important to understand that all investments have risk, which is the chance of some type of loss in value. Your job, as an investor, is to take the appropriate amount of risk for your personal circumstances.

A good way to help manage risk is to diversify your investment mix by spreading your investment dollars across different types of investments.<sup>1</sup> Because every investor is different, The Standard provides you with three ways to make your investment selections:

### Do It Yourself

Create your own mix of investments by skipping directly to the investing form in your enrollment booklet or go online to make your investment choices.

#### Get Some Assistance

If you would like some investment guidance, but then want to create your own investment mix, complete steps one and two on the following pages before completing your investing form.

## Choose a Ready-Made Fund Mix

To simplify the investment selection process, The Standard has designed pre-mixed portfolios that provide you with a diversification strategy using multiple investment categories and fund managers.<sup>2</sup> Simply follow the three steps below and choose one of the portfolios The Standard has designed.

### Three Simple Steps to Building Your Profile

- 1 Complete the asset allocator quiz.
- 2 Based on your score from the quiz, identify the corresponding asset allocator portfolio.
- Choose one of the asset allocator portfolios or create your own investment mix on the investing form.
- 1 Diversification does not ensure against loss.
- 2 Your plan may be funded within a trust or a group annuity contract. Both are suitable for long-term investing, including saving for retirement. While annuities generally provide tax-deferred treatment of earnings, the group annuity contract does not provide any additional tax-deferred treatment beyond the treatment provided by your retirement plan.

# Step One: Asset Allocator Quiz

After each question, circle the letter that best describes you. Then add up the points and match the total with the investor profile on the next page. Please note that this profiling tool is only a guide. For advice specific to your situation, you will want to consider other factors, such as your retirement savings, tax considerations and investing time frame. You should contact your investment professional and/or tax advisor for personalized advice.

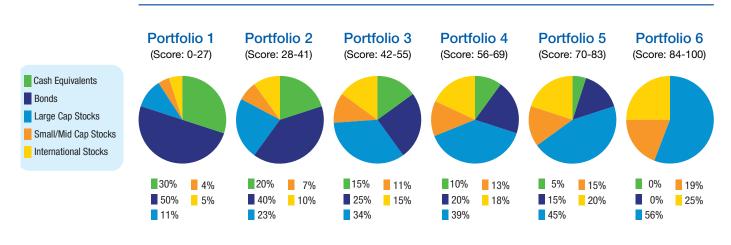
When do you expect to tap into your retirement account?			How willing are you to increase your investment return?	Points	
a.	Less than 5 years	0	a. I am willing to take <b>a lot</b> of risk with <b>all</b> of	15	
b.	Between 5 and 10 years	20	my retirement account.		
c.	Between 10 and 15 years	30	b. I am willing to take <b>a lot</b> of risk with <b>some</b> of my retirement account.	12	
d.	More than 15 years	40	C. I am willing to take a <b>little</b> risk with <b>all</b> of my retirement account.	8	
Score:			d. I am willing to take a <b>little</b> risk with <b>some</b> of my retirement account.	4	
What do you expect to happen to your pay (salary) in the next five years?		Points _	e. I am <b>unwilling</b> to take on more risk.	0	
			Score:		
a.	I expect my pay to increase much faster than inflation (due to promotions, new job, etc.).	12			
).	I expect my pay to increase slightly faster than inflation.	10	If the stock market went down 15 percent, what would you do?	Points	
).	I expect my pay to just keep up with inflation.	5	Sell all of my stock funds immediately and		
ł.	I expect my pay to decrease (due to retirement,	0	a. put the money in something more stable.	0	
_	part-time work, depressed industry, etc.).		b. <b>Transfer</b> some of my stock funds into less aggressive investments.	2	
	Score:		c. <b>Do nothing</b> and wait for it to come back.	4	
How do you feel about investing for retirement?		Points	d. <b>Buy more:</b> Increase my stock investments while prices are low.	8	
			Score:		
ì.	I am seeking maximum stability, even if returns are low.	0			
).	I can tolerate a small amount of fluctuation in my investment account and I am seeking consistent returns.	4	If you received several statements in a row with negative returns and realized that your account had lost 20 percent,	Points	
	I am middle-of-the-road and prefer both growth potential and consistency of returns. I can tolerate a fair amount of market movement in exchange for more attractive long-term returns.	8	what would you do?		
C.			a. <b>Sell</b> all of my stock funds immediately and put the money in something more stable.	0	
			b. <b>Transfer</b> some of my stock funds into less aggressive investments.	3	
d.	I am willing to assume a relatively high level of volatility for potentially greater returns.	12	c. <b>Do nothing</b> and wait for it to come back.	6	
).	I am seeking maximum long-term growth, even if it means wide swings in my account	15	d. <b>Buy more:</b> Increase my holdings in stock funds while prices are low.	10	
	value.  Score:		Score:		

Total Score: \_\_

# Step Two: Select an Asset Allocator Portfolio

Your asset allocation is an important part of your investing strategy. Circle the pie that matches your profile. If you feel you need more information, you may wish to contact a personal financial advisor.

### **Asset Allocator Portfolios**



Less Risk/Less Potential Return

Higher Risk/Higher Potential Return

Small-company (small cap) investing involves specific risks not necessarily encountered in large-company investing, such as increased volatility. Funds that invest in bonds are subject to certain risks, including interest-rate risk, credit risk and inflation risk. As interest rates rise, the prices of bonds fall. International investing involves certain risks, such as currency fluctuations, economic instability and political developments. These risks may be accentuated in emerging markets.

Your plan may be funded by a mutual fund trust, collective trust or a group annuity contract. All are suitable for long-term investing, including saving for retirement. While annuities generally provide tax-deferred treatment of earnings, the group annuity contract does not provide any additional tax-deferred treatment beyond the treatment provided by your retirement plan.

# Step Three: Turn Guidance Into Action

Once you identify which portfolio is right for you, simply select it on the investing form and return it to your employer. You can also select your portfolio online through Personal Savings Center, which is accessible 24 hours a day at <a href="https://www.standard.com/retirement">www.standard.com/retirement</a>.



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www.standard.com/retirement

Employers and plan participants should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the investment options offered under the retirement plan before investing. The prospectuses for the individual mutual funds in the group annuity contain this and other important information. Prospectuses may be obtained by calling 877.805.1127. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. Investments are subject to market risk and fluctuate in value.

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