



How to Start Planning with a CFP[®] Professional

Financial planning can seem intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Here are some tips to help you make the most of your introductory meeting with a CFP[®] professional.



Set Aside Some Time

No two meetings with a CFP[®] professional are the same, but the first one will take some time. Be prepared for a lengthy discussion about your finances to help your planner get started.



Think About Your Goals

There's no avoiding this question - your planner will ask about your financial goals in detail and likely ask you to prioritize them, too. Take time before your meeting to consider your top short- and long-term goals.



Prepare to Be Open

Your CFP[®] professional needs to have a comprehensive understanding of your financial life, as well as your attitude toward risk and experience with money management. Depending on what services you've asked for, your planner may analyze your assets, liabilities and cash flow, current insurance coverage, investments and/or tax strategies.



Work Through the Details

Once your CFP® professional understands your financial situation, they will outline a process for developing their recommendations. Before you proceed, make sure to discuss fees, potential conflicts of interest and details of your working relationship. And don't be afraid to ask your planner the tough questions.