

## WHERE DO I BEGIN?

Each investor has unique investment objectives that are affected by short- and long-term requirements. Whatever your reasons for seeking professional advice, communicating them to your adviser is an important first step.

Begin by asking yourself the following:

- What are my investment objectives?
- What level of growth in my savings do I need to achieve these objectives?
- How do I define risk, and how much risk am I willing to take?
- When will I need to draw money out?
- Are there other circumstances that affect my investments, such as wealth transfer or tax situations?

These are important questions. Reflect on your risk tolerance, which is a very personal characteristic that can be difficult to determine and may change over time. Your objective ability to bear risk, your age, your wealth, and your financial needs all affect how much risk you can assume, as do your life experiences and personal psychology. The time horizon for your investment plan is also a crucial consideration, as it will affect how much liquidity you should maintain in your portfolio.

Next, get all of your financial information together. Consider preparing a personal financial inventory so you have a clear picture of what your assets are currently worth and how they are invested. Your investment objectives should take into consideration not only the assets your adviser will manage but also those you hold outside your portfolio.

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**For more information, please consult <http://www.cfainstitute.org/about/investor/>**

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