

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Course Description

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS: WHAT? WHEN? HOW?

Social Security is one of the most valuable and least understood benefits available to retirees today. Advance planning is essential, and the decisions you make now can have a tremendous impact on the total amount of benefits you stand to receive over your lifetime. This educational workshop will provide you with much needed information to help you understand the system, coordinate spousal and survivor benefits, minimize taxes, and maximize your personal benefits.

Whether you´re single, married, divorced, or widowed, there may be ways to maximize the lifetime Social Security benefits you receive. It´s important to have a good understanding of these issues:

- How married couples can coordinate benefits to help enhance spousal and survivor benefits
- Claiming a spousal benefit while earning delayed retirement credits
- How the “file and suspend,” “do over,” and “start, stop, restart” strategies work
- How working could affect your benefits, and the taxability of Social Security benefits
- How claiming worker benefits early could lower your spousal benefit at your full retirement age
- The effect of remarriage on survivor benefits for widowed and divorced spouses

One of the most important decisions you need to make before you retire is when and how to claim Social Security benefits. About half of retirees apply for Social Security as soon as they become eligible at age 62, but by doing so, they may significantly and permanently impact their income and benefits for the rest of their lives. The difference between the best and worst possible decision of when to start Social Security can be well over \$100,000!

Learn important rules that affect the amount of retirement benefits you collect, as well as strategies for coordinating Social Security with other sources of retirement income!

- When your benefits may begin, and how the age at which you apply will affect the amount you receive
- How to maximize Social Security benefits and how to minimize taxes on them
- Strategies to consider before deciding to apply for benefits
- How your current employment will affect benefits
- What to do if you have other income from pensions or IRAs, too
- What is the future of Social Security and what it means to you
- When it makes sense to delay benefits – and when it does not
- How the wrong Social Security decision can cost you money
- How two little known strategies could increase your family income and survivor benefits
- Can you fix your Social Security election if you made a mistake?
- How cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) impact benefits

Course Instructors

Course instructors come from the financial services industry. They bring many years of experience to the classroom and enhance the course with “real world” examples of many of the principles being taught. This course is interactive and your participation is encouraged, but not required.

Communications with Instructor

The instructor is open for questions and inquiries about the material covered by the course and may be reached by telephone or email.