



Sample Investment Review Questions

The annual review is an ideal time to evaluate performance and make necessary adjustments to help you reach your retirement goals. Pick up the phone and schedule a meeting with your advisor today. Below are sample questions you can ask to make sure that your retirement planning stays on track. When you meet with your advisor, keep in mind how you feel about risk, how long you have to invest, and your retirement goals.

1. **How did my investments perform?** It is difficult to gauge performance by returns alone. If your stock mutual fund drops 20 percent, is that bad? Similar funds may have dropped 40 percent. What does that mean and how does it affect your long-term and short-term saving goals. The advisor can explain how the investments work and whether or not you should be concerned.

2. **Is my investment mix still appropriate?** Your investment mix will vary based on your age, risk tolerance, goals, and need for income. Changes in your circumstances and investment returns may require you to change or rebalance your accounts to get them back in line.

3. **Is the amount of risk I'm taking still appropriate?** Investing too aggressively can result in significant losses to your portfolio. Investing too conservatively can mean your investments don't keep pace with inflation and taxes. Either outcome will lower the purchasing power of your money in retirement.

4. **Am I saving enough?** With each new year, you have new information regarding investment returns, savings rates, social security, and taxes. It's important to evaluate that new information and ask your advisor "Based on these new realities, am I still on track to reach my retirement goals?" If the answer is no, changes may be necessary. The advisor has planning tools to help you get an idea of how prepared you are to meet your goals. You may also utilize the IPERS calculators at <http://www.ipers.org/members/calculators/calculators.html>.

5. **What fees am I paying?** Ask how to determine the fees you pay in RIC. If you are ever offered an IRA or other retirement plan as an alternative to your RIC accounts, you will want to be able to compare fees.

6. **Is my personal and beneficiary information correct?** To avoid delays and inaccurate processing/reporting, confirm that your address, your name, social security number and beneficiaries are up to date.

7. **Do you recommend any other changes?** A good advisor should be able to look at your total financial picture (including outside investments and other financial needs) and offer comprehensive information. Take advantage of that knowledge and experience and ask what, if any, changes are necessary.
