

**Goals:**  
***Setting Your Priorities***

Values are fundamental beliefs about what is important, desirable, and worthwhile. Your values will serve as the basis for your financial goals. When you are setting goals, you need to determine how much time, energy, and money you will need to reach your goals. Realistically, we can't afford to do everything all at once. That is why it is very important to prioritize and write your goals down. Be specific. If you have your goals written out, your focus is easier to maintain. Place your goals in a place where you can review them daily.

There are six steps in the goal-setting process:

1. Identify the goal as specifically as possible.
2. Set a deadline to reach your goal and put intermediate target dates on long-term goals. (Long-term goals consist of several short-term goals.)
3. List obstacles to achieving the goal and devise strategies for overcoming those obstacles.
4. List your skills and knowledge and list other people in your life who can help you reach your goal.
5. List the benefits you will receive when you reach the goal. You are more likely to achieve a goal when: (1) You are convinced that it really is "your goal;" (2) When you make an emotional commitment to the goal; (3) When short-term goals lead to long-term goals; and (4) When you can visualize yourself receiving benefits from the goal.
6. Establish an automatic savings account deposit plan by using payroll withholding or electronic transfers from checking to savings accounts; or, when you cash your paycheck, make a deposit into savings at that time (*Pay Yourself First!*)

**GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR:**

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**GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH WITHIN THREE YEARS:**

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**GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH WITHIN FIVE YEARS:**

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Review your needs and wants when you are determining your goals. Everyone in the family should be involved when reviewing needs and wants, as individuals and as a family.

Needs: Things you cannot do without. Needs are necessary for survival – necessities.

Wants: Things you can live without. Needs are desires.