

Find a suitable investment strategy

Your investing strategy should reflect the kind of investor you are—your personal investor profile. This quiz will help you determine your profile and then match it to an investment strategy that's designed for investors like you.

The quiz measures two key factors:

YOUR TIME HORIZON

When will you begin withdrawing money from your account and at what rate? If it's many years away, there may be more time to weather the market's inevitable ups and downs and you may be comfortable with a portfolio that has a greater potential for appreciation and a higher level of risk.

YOUR RISK TOLERANCE

How do you feel about risk? Some investments fluctuate more dramatically in value than others but may have the potential for higher returns. It's important to select investments that fit within your level of tolerance for this risk

How to make your choice



TIME HORIZON

Circle the number of points for each of your answers and note the total for each section.



1. I plan to begin withdrawing money from my investments in:		2. Once I begin withdrawing funds from my investments, I plan to spend all of the funds in:	
Less than 3 years	1	Less than 2 years	0
3–5 years	3	2–5 years	1
6–10 years	7	6–10 years	4
11 years or more	10	11 years or more	8

Enter the total points from questions 1 and 2. **Time Horizon Score:**

If your Time Horizon Score is less than 3, stop here. If your score is 3 or more, please continue to Risk Tolerance.

A score of less than 3 indicates a very short investment time horizon. For such a short time horizon, a relatively low-risk portfolio of 40% short-term (average maturity of five years or less) bonds or bond funds and 60% cash investments is suggested, as stock investments may be significantly more volatile in the short term.

RISK TOLERANCE

3. I would describe my knowledge of

investments as:	
None	1
Limited	3
Good	7
Extensive	10

4. What amount of financial risk are you willing

to take when you invest?

Take lower than average risks expecting to earn	0
lower than average returns	
Take average risks expecting to earn average	4
returns	
Take above average risks expecting to earn	8
above average returns	

5. Select the investments you currently own or have owned:

Bonds and/or bond funds	З
Stocks and/or stock funds	6
International securities and/	8
or international funds	
Example: You now own stock funds. In the past,	
you've purchased international securities. Your	
point score would be 8.	

6. Consider this scenario:



Imagine that in the past three months, the overall stock market lost 25% of its value. An individual stock investment you own also lost 25% of its value. What would you do?

Sell all of my shares	0
Sell some of my shares	2
Do nothing	5
Buy more shares	8

7. Review the chart below.

We've outlined the most likely best-case and worst-case annual returns of five hypothetical investment plans. Which range of possible outcomes is most acceptable to you?

The figures are hypothetical and do not represent the performance of any particular investment.

Plan	Average annual return	Best-case	Worst-case	Points
А	2.6%	10.8%	-5.1%	0
В	4.1%	19.2%	-10.6%	3
С	5.6%	27.6%	-16.4%	6
D	6.1%	36.0%	-21.7%	8
Е	7.2%	42.5%	-25.8%	10

Enter the total points from questions 3 through 7. **Risk Tolerance Score:**



To determine your Investor Profile, find your Time Horizon Score along the left side and your Risk Tolerance Score across the top. Locate their intersection point, situated in the area that corresponds to your Investor Profile. On the next page, select the investment strategy that corresponds to your Investor Profile.

Risk tolerance score



SELECT AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

These investment strategies show how investors might allocate their money among investments in various categories. Please note that these examples are not based on market forecasts, but simply reflect an established approach to investing—allocating dollars among different investment categories. Keep in mind that it's important to periodically review your investment strategy to make sure it continues to be consistent with your goals.

If one of the investment strategies below matches your Investor Profile, you can use this information to help you create an asset allocation plan.

Conservative allocation	Moderately conservative	Moderate allocation	Moderately aggressive	Aggressive allocation
Average annual return:7.4%Best year:22.8%Worst year:-4.6%	Average annual return:8.7%Best year:27.0%Worst year:-12.5%	Average annual return:9.5%Best year:30.9%Worst year:-20.9%	Average annual return: 10.0%Best year:34.4%Worst year:-29.5%	Average annual return:10.3% Best year: 39.9% Worst year: -36.0%
For investors who seek current income and stability and are less concerned about growth.	For investors who seek current income and stability, with modest potential for increase in the value of their investments.	For long-term investors who don't need current income and want some growth potential. Likely to entail some fluctuations in value, but presents less volatility than the overall equity market.	For long-term investors who want good growth potential and don't need current income. Entails a fair amount of volatility, but not as much as a portfolio invested exclusively in equities.	For long-term investors who want high growth potential and don't need current income. May entail substantial year-to-year volatility in value in exchange for potentially high long-term returns.
30% 5% 5% 5%	10% 25% 50% 50% 10%	35% 15% 10%	15% 20% 15%	5% 25% 50%
Large-Cap Equity	■ Small-Cap Equity	International Equity	Fixed Income	Cash Investments

Brokerage Products: Not FDIC-Insured = No Bank Guarantee = May Lose Value

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data provided by Morningstar, Inc. For illustrative purposes only. The return figures are the average, the maximum, and the minimum annual returns of hypothetical asset allocation plans. The asset allocation plans are weighted averages of the performance of the indices used to represent each asset class in the plans and are rebalanced annually. Returns include reinvestment of dividends and interest. The indices representing each asset class are S&P 500® Index (large-cap stocks), Russell 2000® Index (small-cap stocks), MSCI EAFE® Index-Net of Taxes (international stocks), Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (fixed income), and FTSE U.S. 3-month Treasury Bill Index (cash investments). CRSP 6-8 was used for smallcap stocks prior to 1979, Ibbotson Intermediate-Term Government Bond Index was used for fixed income prior to 1976, and Ibbotson U.S. 30-day Treasury Bill Index was used for cash investments prior to 1978. Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees or expenses, and cannot be invested in directly. For additional information, please see Schwab.com/IndexDefinitions. Past performance is no indication of future results.

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