Course Overview

For many students this session on personal finance may be their only exposure to personal finance, so as a result, we have been very careful in the selection of topics. Choosing from the vast list of personal finance topics, we have distilled the list into a group of the most important and relevant for the young adult. The discussions will hinge on how best to integrate good personal finance habits into student or young-professional life. The course will be very interactive, using many web-based materials, videos and personal finance tools that will be accessible and useful long after the conclusion of the program. We hope that the information will be presented in a manner which will leave a lasting impression so we plan to open with the ten principles or tenets of personal finance.

Course Objectives

- To examine the wise use of cash.
- How to obtain and wisely use credit, including auto loans and student loans.
- How to protect you and your lifestyle through property insurance, life, and health insurance.
- To begin the process of planning for the future with goal identification and the selection mutual funds as an investment strategy.
- Throughout the course we will include information on taxes, retirement and understanding how all of the financial life events fit together.

Each of the program topics briefly outlined above will be broken into nine easily digestible, 50-minute segments that will each consist of approximately 35 minutes of instruction followed by 15 minutes of reinforcing hands-on experience.

Program Text

Program Topics

Day 1
Introduction: The Personal Financial Planning Process and the ten Principles of Personal Finance
Module 1: Wise use of cash: saving and planning for emergencies
  (Suggested readings: Chapters 1, 5)
Module 2: Wise use of credit: your credit report and score, what to do about student loans
  (Suggested readings: Chapter 6)
Module 3: Wise use of credit: auto loans and mortgages qualifying for and best selection of each
  (Suggested readings: Chapters 7, 8)

Day 2
Module 1: Protecting your assets: property insurance – home, auto and liability
  (Suggested readings: Chapter 10)
Module 2: Protecting yourself: life and health insurance why you can afford not to have it
  (Suggested readings: Chapter 9)
Module 3: Planning for the future: taxes – not paying more than you really owe
  (Suggested readings: Chapters 4)

Day 3
Module 1: Planning for the future: selecting and investing with mutual funds
  (Suggested readings: Chapters 11, 15)
Module 2: Planning for the future: retirement – who saves you or your employer, and how
  (Suggested readings: Chapters 16)
Module 3: Planning for the future: Financial life events and fitting the pieces together
  (Suggested readings: Chapters 2, 18)