

Shape your future with mutual funds and variable annuities

Mutual funds and variable annuities are common investment types that are typically available within employer-sponsored retirement plans.¹

Check out the chart below to learn more about each investment type, then talk to your financial professional. They can help you decide which one is right for you based on your unique situation and personal financial strategy.

Product features

Common questions	Mutual funds ^{1,2}	Variable annuities ^{1,2,3}
What are the key features?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual investors buy a portion of a basket of underlying securities, such as stocks and bonds⁴ Potential growth from market appreciation Tax-deferred growth within a retirement plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retirement product that contains both an investment and insurance component The insurer invests in a portfolio of underlying funds⁴ Potential growth from market participation Tax-deferred growth within a retirement plan
Are the products subject to expenses, fees and charges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fund's net performance reflects the automatic subtraction of its expenses (such as management fees) during the year Are generally lower cost investment options than variable annuities Subject to custodial fees⁵ No maintenance fees No separate account charges⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fund's net performance reflects the automatic subtraction of its expenses (such as management fees) during the year No custodial fees⁵ Subject to maintenance fees Could be subject to contractual charges such as separate account charges, mortality and expense fee⁶
Do I have access to broadly diversified investment choices?	Access to a broad range of professionally managed investment choices with an array of investment objectives	Offers a range of highly differentiated variable investment options

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Is my money protected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assurance that the objective of any fund will be achieved and investment values will fluctuate. Mutual fund shares are redeemable at the then-current net asset value, which may be more or less than their original cost Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of your contribution (principal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment value will fluctuate with the returns on the underlying investments; your total contributions and earnings, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of your contribution (principal)
Do I have access to my money?	Within a retirement account, access is limited by plan design and account holder's age	Many allow a percentage of the annuity value to be withdrawn annually without penalty ⁷
When do I pay taxes on the money?	Taxes are due upon withdrawal, usually at retirement; withdrawals are treated as ordinary income ⁸	Taxes are due upon withdrawal, usually at retirement; withdrawals are treated as ordinary income ⁸
What are my distribution/ withdrawal options at retirement?	For specific income payment options available in your employer's plan, speak with your financial professional	Generally, a variety of income payment options are available, including retirement income payments guaranteed for life ⁹ For specific income payment options available in your employer's plan, speak with your financial professional
Is there a beneficiary benefit?¹⁰	Account balance is available for distribution to your beneficiary should you pass away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally have a guaranteed beneficiary benefit, avoiding the costs and delays of probate^{2,11} Withdrawals will reduce the benefit

The information in this chart is general in nature. For information specific to your employer's retirement plan, refer to your plan documents.

¹ Current tax law permits the use of a variety of investment types within tax-qualified retirement plans.

² Note that if you decided to transfer an account from a variable annuity to a mutual fund investment choice, you forfeit the death benefits and other guaranteed features. Your financial professional can help you determine if transferring from one investment choice to another is appropriate for your situation.

³ Retirement plans and accounts that satisfy relevant qualification rules, such as 403(b)s, IRAs, 401(k)s, etc., can be tax deferred regardless of whether or not they are funded with an annuity. If you are considering funding a tax-qualified retirement plan or account with an annuity, you should know that an annuity does not provide any additional tax-deferred treatment of earnings beyond the tax deferral of the tax-qualified retirement plan or account itself. However, annuities do provide other features and benefits.

⁴ Underlying investments. The investments in a mutual fund and a variable annuity's separate account are considered the fund's underlying investments. Stocks represent the asset category for growth. Generally, higher potential returns involve greater risk and short-term volatility. Bonds represent the asset category for income. They are generally less volatile than stocks but offer more modest returns. Note that certain types of bonds, such as high-yield or junk bonds, offer high returns similar to stocks, which means they also carry higher risk.

⁵ A fee charged by an institution that holds securities in safekeeping for an investor.

⁶ Separate accounts are funds held by life insurance companies that are maintained separately from the insurer's general assets.

⁷ Subject to plan rules as well as tax rules related to tax-qualified accounts.

⁸ Taxable withdrawals are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals taken prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal early withdrawal tax penalty. Contractual withdrawal charges may also apply for annuities.

⁹ Income payment options are available via annuitization, which is the process of converting part or all of the money in an annuity contract into a stream of regular income payments, either for your lifetime or the lifetimes of you and your joint annuitant.

¹⁰ Beneficiary is the person you designate to receive any remaining account balance or income payments should you pass away.

¹¹ Probate is the legal process for reviewing the assets of a deceased person and determining inheritors.

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Investment performance, fees and other information can be found at

Go online or meet with your financial professional to make changes to your investments.

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, fees, charges and expenses before investing. Read the fund prospectuses carefully before investing. The fund prospectuses contain important information, which can be obtained from your financial professional at or by calling 1.800.428.2542 and following the prompts.

1.800.448.2542

We're here to help you take **action**

You can reach out directly to your financial professional.

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