

Pre-Retirement Planning Course (FERS Participants Only)

Gain essential knowledge to make informed decisions about retirement under the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS).

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: <https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/preretirement-planning-fers-participants-only>



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Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Federal Benefits

- Understand the purpose and scope of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).
- Identify the three tiers of the FERS retirement system: Defined Benefit, Thrift Savings Plan, and Social Security.
- Recognize the importance of early and proactive retirement planning.
- Learn strategies to organize personal and financial records for retirement.

Module 2: Retirement Eligibility

- Determine retirement eligibility based on age, service, and special provisions.
- Use the Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) chart to identify personal MRA.
- Understand voluntary, involuntary, early, and deferred retirement options.
- Evaluate the impact of postponing retirement to reduce annuity reductions.

Module 3: Annuity Computations

- Define creditable service and the “high-three average salary.”
- Apply FERS formulas to calculate annual annuity benefits.
- Incorporate unused sick leave into annuity computations.
- Understand eligibility and calculation for the FERS Special Retirement Supplement.

Module 4: Processing the Retirement Application

- Identify the steps involved in completing and submitting retirement applications.
- Understand required forms and supporting documentation.
- Recognize timelines and agency responsibilities in processing retirement.
- Know where to find post-retirement resources and assistance.

Module 5: Survivor Benefits

- Learn about survivor annuity options for spouses and dependents.

- Understand election requirements and costs for survivor benefits.
- Evaluate scenarios to determine appropriate survivor coverage.

Module 6: Health Benefits (FEHB), Long Term Care Insurance (FLTCIP), and Life Insurance (FGLI)

- Determine eligibility to continue FEHB and FGLI into retirement.
- Understand covera