

ODs IN THEIR 20's

Recently Started Your Career In Optometry?

“According to recent studies, 71% of millennials feel confident in their ability to reach their personal financial goals. Despite tackling the daunting task of saving for retirement, many millennials remain optimistic towards the future¹”

Time is on your side. Despite any student loan debt and newly acquired living expenses, saving for your retirement is within reach. A few dollars saved now can mean thousands of dollars available to you later, thanks to the power of compounding.

Were you aware that 93% of millennials say that both distrust of markets and lack of investing knowledge make them less confident about investing¹? Additionally, an alarming 72% of millennials do not expect Social Security to be their main source of retirement income². This uncertainty makes saving for retirement even more important. Contributing to a retirement savings account now may help diversify your retirement savings so that you are not limited to living on Social Security benefits in the future.

Currently, over 40 million Americans have at least one outstanding student loan³. You may be primarily focused on making monthly loan payments for the foreseeable future, but with proper budgeting, you may be able to still contribute to a retirement savings account now. Although debt repayment is important, leaving room for retirement savings has the potential of having a positive impact on your financial future. This is because retirement contributions may offer tax breaks, company matches, and future compounding that may be more valuable than the interest saved by accelerated student loan repayment.

Now is the time to explore your options and invest in your future with a retirement plan. Retirement may be far away, but taking small, manageable steps towards saving now may make a significant impact in your future.

Let's consider a hypothetical example. At age 25, Suzanne begins putting aside \$150 per month for retirement. After 10 years she stops contributing, but leaves the money in her account for the next 30 years. Assuming a hypothetical 8 percent average annual rate of return, by age 65, Suzanne would have amassed \$276,138, which cost only \$18,000 in total contributions.

On the other hand, just as Suzanne stops contributing, Henry begins. He puts aside \$150 per month for the next 30 years. At age 65, he has contributed a total of \$54,000, yet his account has \$52,585 less than Suzanne's.⁴

Often, the hardest part of saving for retirement is getting started. It can be difficult to know how much to save and, more importantly, how to save. Entering the world of investing can be intimidating to start, but can pay off significantly in the long run. On this National Retirement Security Week, take the time to strategize and allocate your assets that may allow you to grow your savings for the retirement you want.

To learn more, call AXA at 1-800-523-1125, ext. option 3 to talk to a Retirement Program Specialist, or visit us at www.axa.com/aoa to learn how you can start saving today.

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Sources:

1. Wells Fargo. News Releases. *News Release. Wells Fargo*. Harris Poll, 10 June 2014. Web. 08 June 2015.
2. Collinson, Catherine. "Millennial Workers: An Emerging Generation of Super Savers." www.transamericacenter.org. Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, July 2014. Web. 9 June 2015.
3. Ellis, Blake. "40 Million Americans Now Have Student Loan Debt." *CNN Money*. Cable News Network, 10 Sept. 2014. Web. 08 June 2015.
4. Situations are hypothetical and do not represent performance. The 8% annual rate of return cited in this discussion is not indicative of any particular investment, insurance or financial product, and does not represent actual performance. Your results will vary.

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Withdrawals from a tax-deferred retirement plan are subject to ordinary income tax treatment and if taken prior to age 50 ½ may also be subject to an additional 10% federal income tax penalty.

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