

WELCOME

# PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

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## The Texas A&M University System Tax-Deferred Account Program

Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a powerful way to save for the future. Learn more about the benefits of your plan, and get the answers to any questions you have.

### How can I contribute to my retirement plan?

#### **You can control your contributions in the following ways:**

- You can contribute up to 100% of your salary to your retirement savings, not to exceed the maximum allowed by the IRS.
- You can increase or decrease your contribution rate monthly.
- You can discontinue contributions to your retirement savings plan at any time. The effective date of the changes occurs as soon as administratively possible.

### When am I fully vested in my retirement plan?

#### **"Fully vested" means you have 100% ownership of the assets in your retirement account (your plan).**

- You always have 100% ownership of any money you contribute to the plan, including any earnings and/or assets consolidated from another retirement plan.

### What are my investment options?

#### **You can choose from a wide variety of investment options to meet your retirement savings goal.**

- **MAKE AN ALL-IN-ONE CHOICE** if you want one diversified portfolio managed for you.
- **MANAGE IT YOURSELF** and select your own portfolio of investments.
- **STILL UNDECIDED?** If you participate in the plan without selecting investment options, your money will be directed to the Default Investment Alternative (DIA) selected by your employer.

### Can I consolidate accounts from my previous retirement plans?

#### **You can consolidate assets from one or more previous retirement or plans. When determining whether consolidation is right for you, consider:**

- Investment options in the old and new plans
- Investment expense within the old and new plans
- Services available to you within the old and new plans

Contact your financial representative for assistance in determining the course of action appropriate to your situation.

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### Can I access balances in my retirement savings account prior to retirement?

Your retirement plan will have the greatest potential to grow if you stay invested for the long term, rather than withdrawing money from it. For that reason, the IRS limits what you can do with your account prior to retirement by imposing certain penalties for early distributions. However, you do have access to your savings—and may avoid penalties—under certain circumstances.

#### Loans

You can take a loan from certain account balances for:

- General purposes
- Purchase a primary residence

Check with your financial professional for information about loan fees, repayment, and the pros and cons of borrowing from your retirement plan.

#### Withdrawals of pretax balances

You may take a distribution from **certain available accounts** upon:

- Severance from employment
- Attainment of age 59 ½
- Financial hardship  
*(Distribution may be subject to the premature 10% distribution penalty if taken prior to age 59 ½.)*
- Disability
- Death
- Attainment of normal retirement age
- RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions)

#### Withdrawals of Roth balances

If you have a Roth account, your distribution will be a qualified distribution (tax-free) if your Roth deferral or Roth rollover account has been in place for five (5) taxable years (from the year the first Roth contribution or the Roth rollover was made to the plan, whichever was first) and the distribution is made after one of the following:

- Attainment of age 59 ½
- Disability
- Death

If the distribution conditions above are not met, the earnings may be taxable and may be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty on the taxable portion of the distribution.

Consult with your tax advisor before withdrawing any money from your account. You may wish to confirm with your plan sponsor the distributions available under your plan.

### How can I access my account?

**You can access and manage your retirement account any time:**

LincolnFinancial.com/Retirement  
800-234-3500

These highlights are a brief overview of the The Texas A&M University System Tax-Deferred Account Program and not a legally binding document. Please read these materials carefully and contact your Human Resources department if you have further questions.

**For any investment option in the plan, including an option that is part of an asset allocation portfolio, you may obtain a prospectus or a similar document by requesting one from your employer, visiting your plan's website, or calling a Lincoln Financial representative at 800-234-3500.**