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Choosing a Financial Professional

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Would having a financial plan help you feel more secure? Should you use a financial professional? What do different titles of financial professionals mean? How are financial professionals paid? And, what should you look for in a financial professional?

“*Choosing a Financial Professional*” lesson and educational materials are designed to answer these types of questions, and help consumers make informed decisions when choosing a financial planner, investment adviser, or other financial professional.

Educational materials from the *Choosing a Financial Professional* series are available free to download from the Consumer and Family Economics website, <http://www.ace.uiuc.edu/cfe/cfp/index.html>.

The educational materials include the following documents:

- *Consumer guide* provides an overview of choosing a financial professional, including when you might want to work with a financial professional, titles used and what they mean, how financial professionals are paid, what to look for when choosing a financial professional, and how to find one.
- *Who is a fiduciary?* explains what a fiduciary is, and which professionals have a fiduciary responsibility to their clients.
- *A guide to financial credentials* describes licenses, registrations, and credentials held by financial professionals. It provides detailed information about each credential: requirements to obtain it; any continuing education requirements; how to verify that the person holds the credential; and where to make a complaint.
- *Interview questions* suggests a method for interviewing and comparing professionals to help consumers with the selection process.

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