

BASIC RETIREMENT PLAN 401(a)

Eligibility

Mandatory Participation

- Employees age 30, who are employed in a regular budgeted position, and who have completed two years of service and possess an employment status equal to one-half full-time equivalency (.5 FTE) or greater are required to participate. Certain positions may be excluded from participation.

Voluntary Participation

- Employees ages 26-29, who are employed in a regular budgeted position, and who have completed two years of service and possess an employment status equal to one-half full-time equivalency (.5 FTE) or greater may participate voluntarily. Certain positions may be excluded from participation.
- Employees declining voluntary participation when initially offered may not participate until the mandatory participation requirements are satisfied.

Employees who satisfy the eligibility requirements for participation except for the two-year service provision may enroll if they can prove qualifying service with a prior employer whose primary purpose or activity provided a formalized program of education.

Effective Date of Participation

Mandatory Participation

- Participation is effective the first of the month coincident with or following satisfaction of the eligibility requirements.

Voluntary Participation

- Participation is effective the first of the month coincident with or following satisfaction of the eligibility requirements.
- Participation for employees who decline voluntary participation is effective the first of the month coincident with or following satisfaction of the mandatory participation eligibility requirements.

Contributions to the Plan

Both the employee and the university contribute to the Basic Retirement Plan based on a percentage of the employee's salary. All employee contributions are withheld on a tax-deferred basis, thus reducing federal and state income tax. The employee may choose between two levels of participation:

	Employee Contribution	University Contribution	Total
Tier 1	3.5%	6.5%	10.0%
Tier 2	5.5%	8.0%	13.5%

Employees initially electing Tier 1 may, at a later date, change to Tier 2 effective each July 1st (election form must be submitted by June 1st). No change will be permitted from Tier 2 to Tier 1.

Vesting

All contributions, including those made by the university, are vested immediately upon participation.

Contribution Allocation

Employees may allocate Basic Retirement Plan contributions among or between TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments in any whole-number percentage, including full allocation to any option. Once participation begins, allocation changes of future premiums may be made at any time by contacting the respective investment company.

Investment Alternatives

Participants may invest Basic Retirement Plan contributions with TIAA-CREF or Fidelity Investments. Both retirement plan investment companies are committed to offering a wide range of investment options while providing the educational resources to help plan for a successful retirement.

Participants may invest retirement plan contributions among the following categories.

- Money Market
- Bonds (Fixed Income)
- Stocks (Equities)
- Guaranteed Annuity

More detailed information is available from the Campus Benefits Office or TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments.

Transfer of Funds

Basic Retirement Plan funds may be transferred among or between TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments at any time. Certain conditions apply when transferring money from TIAA.

Rollover of Funds

Employees may not rollover retirement plan funds from another retirement plan to the university's Basic Retirement Plan.

This includes rollovers from a previous employer's plan, personal IRA, self-employed retirement plan, etc. or any other retirement plan such as a qualified Defined Benefit plan, qualified Defined Contribution plan, 401(a), 403(b), 401(k), SEP, or Governmental 457 pension plan.

Loan Provision

The Basic Retirement Plan does not allow or provide for access to Basic Retirement Plan accumulations (employee and employer contributions) via a loan.

Access to Funds

As required by governing law, employees generally are not permitted to receive a distribution from University of Nebraska retirement plans including the Basic 401(a), SRA 403(b), and Deferred Compensation 457(b) while actively employed by the university in any full-time, part-time, temporary, on-call, etc., position. Employees who have attained normal retirement age (59½) with an employment status of .50 FTE or less (fixed term employment of 90 days or more) may access Basic 401(a) Retirement Plan accumulations. Employees who have attained normal retirement age (59½) may access SRA 403(b) Retirement Plan accumulations. Otherwise, accumulations may be accessed after termination of employment. Unless the distribution is rolled over to an eligible retirement plan, funds received from the retirement plans are taxable. In some cases, a 10% excise tax will be assessed. Participants should seek competent tax advice before receiving a distribution.

The university will only approve retirement plan distributions for those retired and/or separated employees where there is no expectation or pre-planned agreement of future employment by the university. To assure compliance, if a separated employee receives a retirement plan distribution, he or she generally may not be reemployed by the University of Nebraska in any paid position for a period of 12 months from date of separation. This includes any full time, part time, temporary, or on-call employment position.

Qualified Domestic Relations Order

A Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) procedure has been established to accommodate the interests of divorcing parties. Upon receipt of a final properly worded QDRO, a separate retirement plan account will be established and maintained by TIAA-CREF and/or Fidelity on behalf of the non-participant spouse (alternate payee).

Retirement Plan Forms

- [Record of Prior Service for Basic Retirement Plan Participation](#)
- [Retirement Plan Contribution/Allocation Election Form for Basic Contributions](#)
- [Retirement Plan Allocation Change Form for Basic Contributions](#)
- [TIAA-CREF Basic 401\(a\) Retirement Plan Enrollment Form](#)
- [TIAA-CREF Beneficiary Form](#)
- [TIAA-CREF Qualified Domestic Relations Order Template](#)
- [Fidelity Investments Basic 401\(a\) Retirement Plan Application](#)
- [Fidelity Investments Beneficiary Form](#)
- [Fidelity Investments Qualified Domestic Relations Order Template](#)

Retirement Plan Contacts

- TIAA-CREF (800) 842-2776
- Fidelity Investments (800) 343-0860

Visit the [TIAA-CREF](#) Home Page.

Visit the [TIAA-CREF](#) Micro Web Site.

Visit the [Fidelity Investments](#) Home Page.