

Straight Talk from a Financial Planner About The GRIS™ Process for Making Your Financial Dreams Come True.

When I talk with people about their financial goals, “how” questions always come up. I hear questions like “How do I know how much I’ll need? How do I divide my investments in a way that’s right for me? How do I save enough for my daughter’s college?” My approach is to follow a path that I call the **GRIS™ method**. **GRIS** stands for:

Goals – Risks – Invest – Save.

I start by asking you to describe your **Goals**. I want to know what you’re trying to achieve in terms that are meaningful to you. I want to know your hopes and fears, dreams and desires. A key part of goal setting is the time in which you have to reach your goals – a longer time frame means saving less and a shorter time frame may mean taking more risk.

Risk means different things to different people. Many people think of risk as only the chance they’ll lose their investment. Yet, for someone saving for a college for their son, risk means not having enough saved by the time the child starts school. For a retiree, risk means the chance they will outlive their money. All are valid definitions and I consider carefully what risk means to you because it drives the next part of the GRIS™ method – investing your assets.

When you **Invest**, you control only two things – the amount you save and the buckets into which you put your money. The return you get and the risk you take are set by the financial markets. Yet, many people focus on the things they don’t control. I prefer to help you understand the risks and rewards for each investment vehicle and then help you divide your holdings into the simplest investments that fit your needs. That leaves the last part of the GRIS™ method on which to focus – saving.

No matter how you look at it, you have to **Save** if you’re going to reach a financial goal. Even if your long-lost uncle leaves you an inheritance, you have to save that inheritance to make it work for you because money has only two uses – save or spend. If you’re not saving, you’re spending. One of the first things I’ll ask you is if you know how much you spend every month. Few people know and those who guess are usually off by 25% or more. Yet a key to reaching a financial goal is saving and if you don’t know how much you’re spending, you won’t know how much you can save and you’re less likely to reach your financial goals.

*My mission is helping people make sound
financial decisions one hour at a time.*

Steve Juetten, RFP

Juetten Personal Financial Planning, LLC
Bellevue, Washington
425-373-9393
steve@finpath.com