

Finance Checklist

This checklist can help paint a clear picture of your financial well-being and will show you areas where you can improve. In order to achieve financial independence, you must be honest with yourself. Fill out this checklist as honestly as you can so we can create a plan to get you going on the climb to financial independence.

Emergency Fund	Yes	No	N/A
I have enough cash saved in a separate savings account to get me through six months of living expenses in the event I lost my income			
I am earning the best interest rate possible on this money by having it in a savings account			
I don't use my emergency fund for "non-emergencies"			

Credit Card Debt	Yes	No	N/A
I am not going into new credit card debt. I pay off my new balance in full every month.			
If in debt, I know my interest rate.			
If in debt, I have tried to lower my interest rate either by calling my card issuer or transferring the balance.			
If in debt, I have a plan to pay off this credit card debt before putting money to other goals.			
If not in debt, I take advantage of credit card rewards.			
If not in debt, I understand my card's fee schedule.			

Student Loans	Yes	No	N/A
I understand how much student loan debt I have.			
I know the interest rate, term, payment, and owner of each of my student loans.			
I have my student loans set to automatic payment each month so I don't miss a payment.			

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Saving	Yes	No	N/A
I have goals or expenses that I am saving for.			
I contribute enough to employer's 401(k) or other retirement plan to take advantage of the matching.			
If eligible, I contribute up to \$5,000 to a Roth IRA.			
I transfer or direct deposit money automatically to a savings account each week or pay period.			

Investing	Yes	No	N/A
My money is invested in a mix of stocks and bonds appropriate for my risk tolerance.			
I understand the fees associated with all of my investments and am comfortable with them.			
I am taking advantage of tax-advantaged accounts (IRAs, 529s, etc).			
I do not have idle cash that should be invested.			
I have decided on an investing strategy that I will stick to even when the markets are volatile.			

Credit	Yes	No	N/A
I roughly know my current credit score.			
I have checked my credit reports at least once in the last year.			
I auto-pay or have a system for paying all monthly bills on time.			
I have 2-3 credit cards open for building good credit, even if I don't use them every month.			

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Expenses	Yes	No	N/A
I know what I spend my money on each month and I know how much I spend monthly.			
I don't have a car payment.			
I plan big purchases, wait for sales to buy, and look for coupons to save money.			
I currently have a budget in place.			
I track my expenses.			
I believe my spending habits are good.			

Relationships	Yes	No	N/A
I regularly have open conversations with my partner about my finances.			
My partner and I know each other's net worth and credit scores.			
My partner and I have joint financial goals.			
If I do not currently have a partner, I would feel comfortable sharing my financial information with them.			

Income	Yes	No	N/A
I have a second or multiple streams of income or a plan to diversify my income.			
I save at least 20% of my income.			
I have a planned career path or I have a stable job.			
I keep track of how much I make per month.			

Other	Yes	No	N/A
I keep my financial records organized and in an easily accessible place.			
I have a type of life insurance.			