

5 Steps of Financial Success

Savings & Investments APARC/THRIVE x One Stop Financial Wellness Resource

01

Pay for your necessities.

Before stepping into savings and investments, you need to take care of the now. This includes money for food, shelter, bills, etc. These come first.

[Nerdwallet Free Budget Planner Worksheet](#)

[Nerdwallet Debt Payment Calculator \(Good for Credit Card Debt\).](#)

[Nerdwallet: Should your refinance your private loans?](#)

[Federal Student Aid Loan Simulator](#)

02

Pay off your debt.

We often assume saving is the next thing to do. However, if you have credit card debt, student loan debt, or any other kind of debt, it is best to pay this off first. Paying off debt is important because of the interest involved. The longer a debt is around the more interest is added and the more of your funds will long term go to the monthly debt payment rather than to you.

[YNAB : A budgeting program free to students \(a tool known for helping with paying off debt\).](#)

[Nerdwallet Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#)

03

Emergency Fund

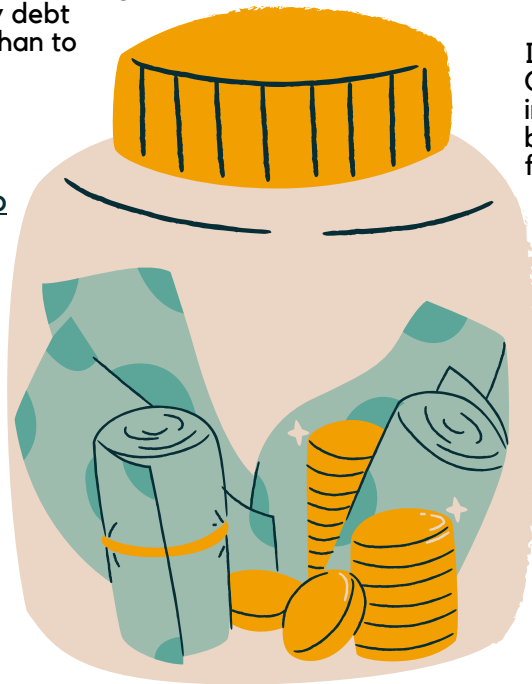
It is time to save! Before reaping in on investments and saving for vacations, it is important to have an emergency fund. It is recommended to save between 3 - 12 months of expenses.

It used to be 3-9, but since COVID-19 more caution has kicked in. An emergency fund is meant to be a liquid (easily accessible) fund for when things go bad.

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[Nerdwallet Savings Calculator](#)

[Napkin Finance's Emergency Funds](#)



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04

Retirement

When you are in your twenties it may seem weird to start saving for retirement already. However, you will get way more in your retirement fund starting sooner rather than later, even when contributing small amounts.

TIP: If your employer has a retirement plan and matches your contributions, this is free money!

[Nerdwallet Retirement Calculator](#)

[Napkin Finance's Paying for Retirement](#)

[Napkin Finance's Roth IRA](#)

[Everything You Need to Know About IRAs](#)

Additional Savings

Do you want a new car? Buy a house and need money for a down payment? Want to travel? New laptop? Time to contribute to saving with a specific goal in mind (if you have one!).

[Napkin Finance's Cash Alternative: Ways to Earn Some Extra Interest](#)

[Types of Savings Accounts: Where to Stow Your Cash](#)

Investing

Investing has a lot of options. It is about finding what you are comfortable with. What are you willing to risk? Are you in a place where you can take losing some

funds? Do you need money now or later? Do you want to be more passive or active?

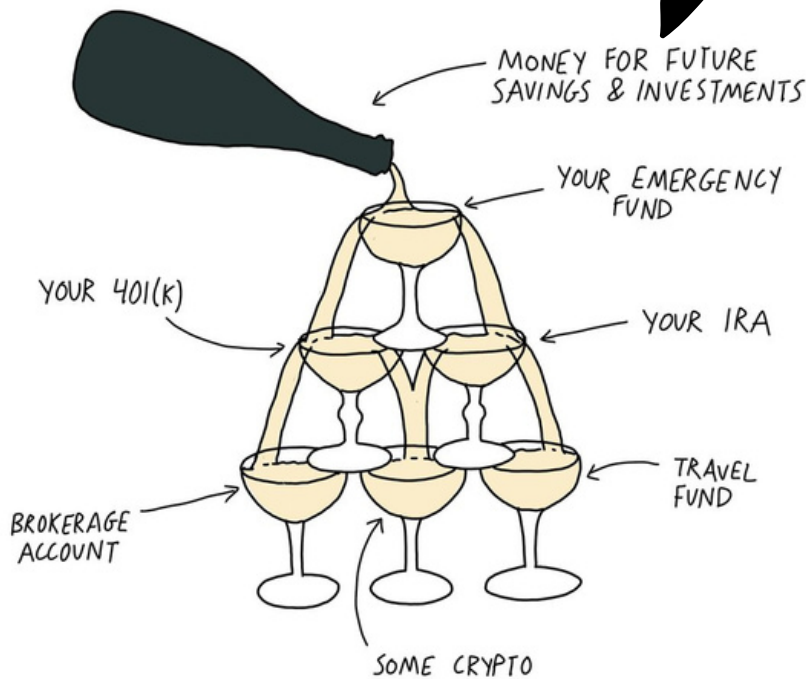
[Saving vs. Investing: When to Choose and How to Do It](#)

05

Additional Savings & Investing

Now, let's have some fun! If you have reached this step we are branching out on actively building wealth and reaching some other life goals.

Check out the article where this image comes from that goes over the order in which to save!
[The Sequence of Savings](#)



[How to Be Awesome At Investing: Lessons From A Decade in Finance](#)

[WTF Are Investments? Part 6: Know The \(Investment\) Types: Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds + Alternatives](#)

[Active vs. Index Investing](#)

[Risk Tolerance: How Much Investing Risk Should You Take On?](#)