

2009 Tax-Deferred Savings Enrollment Information

Each year, the University offers you an opportunity to enroll in or change your contribution amount(s) in the optional 403(b) and 457(b) tax-deferred savings plans for the upcoming calendar year. These optional plans are a great way to save for retirement. The plans work like this:

1. You decide how much money you want to invest, up to the maximum amounts allowed.
2. The funds are deducted from your paychecks before any federal, state, or city (if applicable) taxes are charged.
3. The funds are invested in a retirement account. You can choose from investment options offered by TIAA-CREF and Fidelity. **Please note that Vanguard is no longer a participating vendor effective 01/01/2009.**
4. You do not pay any income taxes on your contributions or their earnings until you actually receive the funds as income.
5. If you wish to enroll in the TIAA-CREF 457(b) and/or Fidelity Investments 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plans, you must first be deferring the maximum amount allowed under your 403 (b) plan(s).

If you are currently enrolled in one of the 403(b) plans and wish to continue your current contributions (percentage or flat dollar amount) you do not need to complete a new Salary Reduction Agreement. Your current plan will continue into 2009. Your contributions will not automatically increase due to an increase in your maximum contribution limit. **Please note that if your plan(s) contribution(s) were stopped because you reached your maximum limit in 2008, you will need to sign a new Salary Reduction Agreement for calendar year 2009.**

To Enroll or Change Your Contribution Amount

1. Determine the amount you wish to contribute in 2009; it can be any amount up to the maximum shown:

Your limits to each plan will vary depending on your age. If you are under age 50, your 403 (b) and 457 (b) maximum will be \$16,500. If you are age 50 during calendar year 2009, your 403 (b) & 457 (b) maximum will be \$22,000. If you have 15 or more years of University service, you may be eligible for an additional catch-up contribution. Contact me at (269) 387-3580 or via email address: richard.schaper@wmich.edu to see if you qualify.

Please note the 15 or more years of service does not apply to the 457 (b) maximum limit.

2. If you are enrolling for the first time, you must also complete vendor account application forms to designate how your funds are to be invested. I strongly encourage you to meet with Jane Brady-Ertz, MCRS, of Sledrunner Advisory Services before making that designation. If you prefer not to meet with Jane, please contact Sledrunner at (269) 552-9233, ext. 3 or 4 to obtain the necessary forms or find out how to enroll online.
3. Download the 2009 Salary Reduction Agreement from www.Sledrunner.com. Return the completed form directly to Jane Brady-Ertz, MCRS, Sledrunner Advisory Services, 244 N. Rose Street, Suite 150, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3824 or fax it to 388-4848. If you wish to have contributions deducted from your first paycheck of calendar year 2009, the completed Salary Reduction Agreement must be in Sledrunner's office by Thursday, December 18, 2008

To Meet With an Investment Advisor

Whether you are enrolling for the first time, are considering enrolling, or are a current participant, Jane Brady-Ertz is available to meet with you to objectively discuss your retirement savings and investment options. Visit www.sledrunner.com to view the appointment schedule.

Retiring in 2009?

If you are considering retiring in 2009, please contact me for assistance before completing a Salary Reduction Agreement. You may reach me by phone at (269) 387-3580 or by e-mail <richard.schaper@wmich.edu>.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Schaper
Manager, Retirement Services