

TROUTWOOD APP

for *teachers*



Own your financial future.

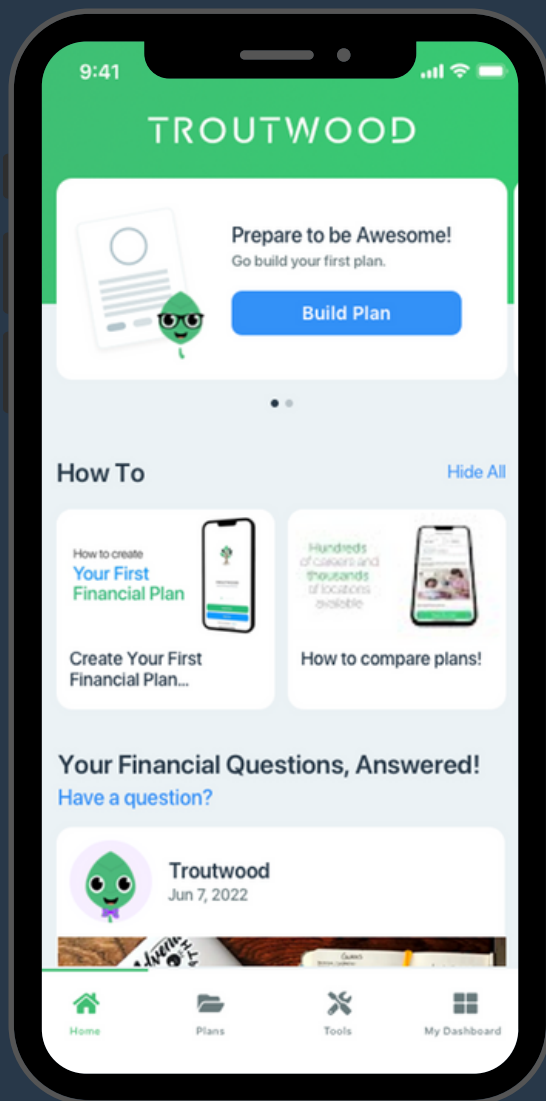


GUIDE OVERVIEW



HOW TO USE THE TROUTWOOD APP

This guide offers step-by-step instructions for how to build a financial plan using the Troutwood App. Use the discussion prompts to dive deeper as a group!



Mission:

Troutwood was designed to help students explore their potential. By creating a simple, yet realistic, financial plan that models various decisions based on each student's dreams and aspirations, the app allows users to create multiple plans based on various life paths.

With Troutwood, students will see what their future retirement and beyond could look like based on smart financial decisions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

BUILDING A FINANCIAL PLAN

1. Understanding financial terms: Students should aim to learn basic financial terms such as budgeting, investing, opportunity cost, interest, debt, and more.
2. Setting financial goals: Students should learn how to set realistic financial goals such as saving a certain amount of money each month, creating an emergency fund, or paying off debt.
3. Budgeting: Students should understand how to create a budget, which includes tracking their income and expenses, and allocating money for different categories such as housing, transportation, food, and of course - taxes!
4. Saving and investing: Students should learn the importance of saving money regularly and investing it in low-risk options such as mutual funds.
5. Evaluating financial decisions: Students should learn how to evaluate financial decisions based on their financial goals, budget, and long-term financial plans.

BONUS Objectives (using the Troutwood App's Tools):

1. Understanding credit: Students should learn the basics of credit, such as what it is, how it works, and how it can impact their financial lives. This includes understanding the importance of making payments on time and how credit can affect their ability to get loans or credit in the future.
2. Managing debt: Students should learn how to manage their debt by paying bills on time, avoiding unnecessary debt, and developing a plan to pay off existing debt.
3. Creating an emergency fund: Students should learn how to create an emergency fund to be used in case of unexpected expenses or emergencies.

NAVIGATION

THE TROUTWOOD APP IS BROKEN DOWN INTO 4 MAIN COMPONENTS: [HOME](#), [PLANS](#), [TOOLS](#), [MY DASHBOARD](#)



HOME

The home screen offers shortcuts for the most popular tools, How-To videos for extra guidance, and links to blog posts about personal finance.



PLANS

The Plans tab is a playground for building, saving, and editing plans. The path to start building a plan starts here!



TOOLS

The Tools tab was built to encourage independent exploration and decision-making. There is a suite of financial calculators for things like buying a car or making student loan payments, as well as independent learning modules, a dictionary of finance terms, and more!



MY DASHBOARD

The Dashboard is the financial center for personalizing and implementing a financial plan.

*Account required



WELLNESS BADGES

BONUS: Part of the Dashboard, the wellness badges are the key to a healthy financial plan. Keep your 5 badges green. Achieve your financial goals.

*Account required



BUILD A PLAN

BUILD A PERSONALIZED FINANCIAL PLAN IN 3 EASY STEPS

Build Plan



Follow the blue "Build Plan" buttons to create your first financial plan.



Step 1. Profile

Fill out your profile

Enter profile data including age, years to invest, and location.



Step 2. Career

Choose a career path

There are over 900 careers to explore!



Step 3. Goal

Set your financial goal

Choose from a list of pre-defined investor profiles or input a custom goal.

PROFILE

ENTER PROFILE DATA



Have students enter their personal data, or build a sample plan together using all the same hypothetical data. Students may want to input future circumstances rather than current ones - that's OK!

A screenshot of a mobile application interface for entering profile data. The screen has a green header with a back arrow and four icons labeled 'Profile', 'Career', 'Goal', and 'Review'. The 'Profile' section is active. It contains input fields for 'Age' (22), 'Years you want to save or invest' (42), and 'City, State' (New York, NY). Below these is a blue informational box with a tip about location. At the bottom, there is a toggle switch for 'Do you have or plan to have student loans?' which is currently turned off. A green 'Save' button is at the very bottom.

Age

Enter the current age OR the age at which this plan would begin.

Ex. A 16-year-old student may wait until they graduate college to begin following a financial plan.

Years to Invest

Identify the number of years to invest. This is a long-term commitment!

Location

Enter the current location or the location this plan will take place.

Student Loans

Enter current or anticipated student loans. Not sure of the total? Use the national average toggle.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

BUILDING A PROFILE



When is the right time to start saving/investing?

How long should someone plan to invest?

How long is the average career cycle?

Income is typically relative to the cost of living*.

Why is this important?

Student loans are a legal obligation -

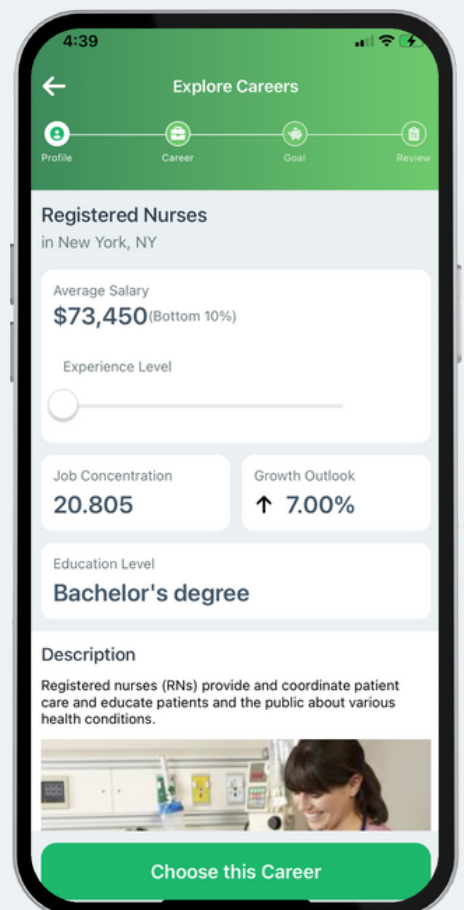
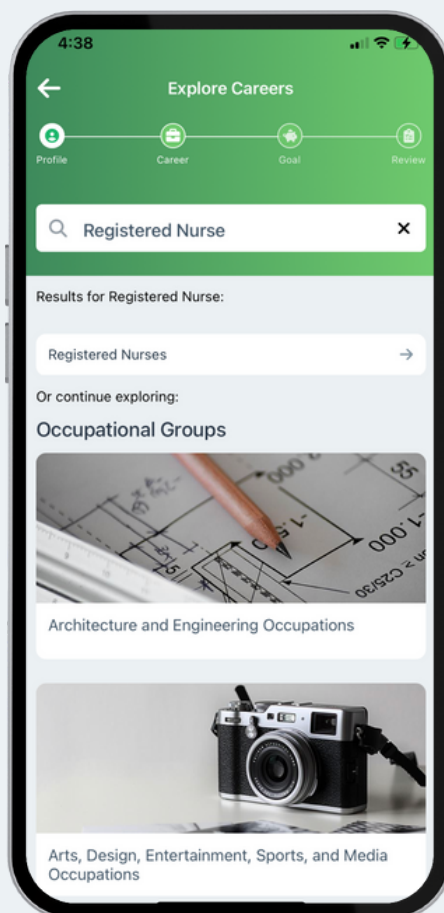
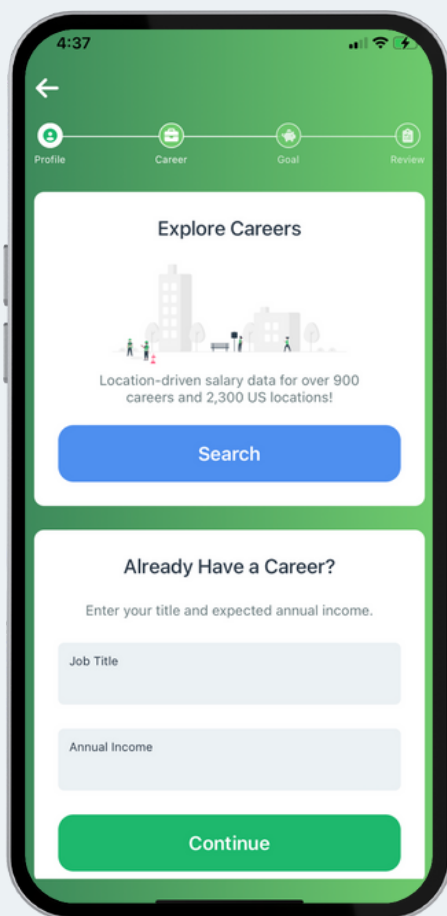
what does that mean?

*The cost of living is the amount of money needed to cover basic necessities, such as housing, healthcare, utilities, transportation, food, taxes, etc.

CAREER

ENTER A CUSTOM JOB TITLE AND ANNUAL INCOME, OR
BROWSE OVER 900 CAREERS.

**With over 13.5 million unique data points,
there are near-infinite career/location combinations.**



All of the career and income data (900 careers in 2,700+ locations) is sourced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is not hypothetical; it is actual gross wage income reported in federal tax filings for the various careers.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

CHOOSE A CAREER PATH



**How does an employee's experience level
affect salary?**

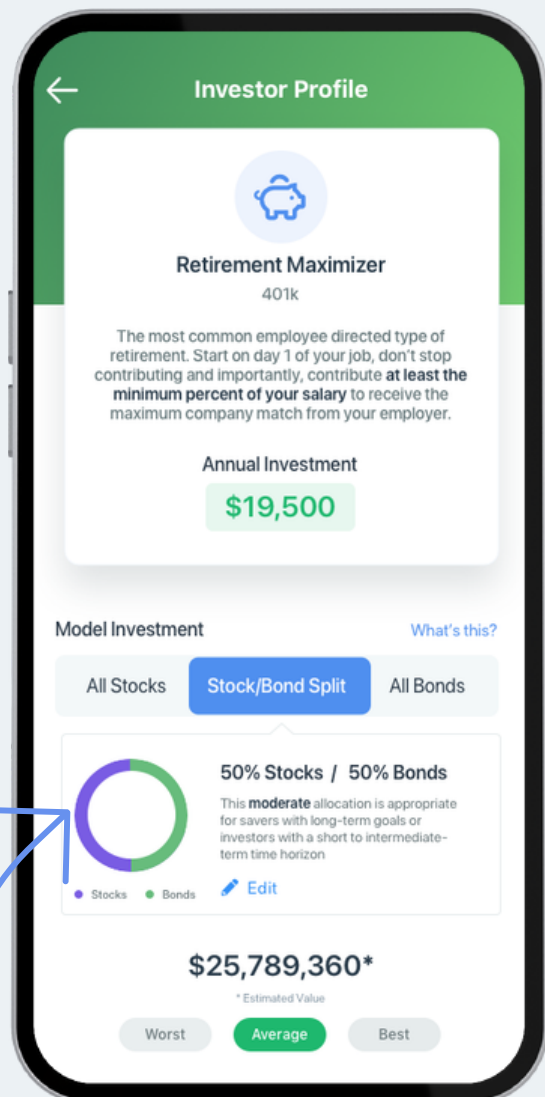
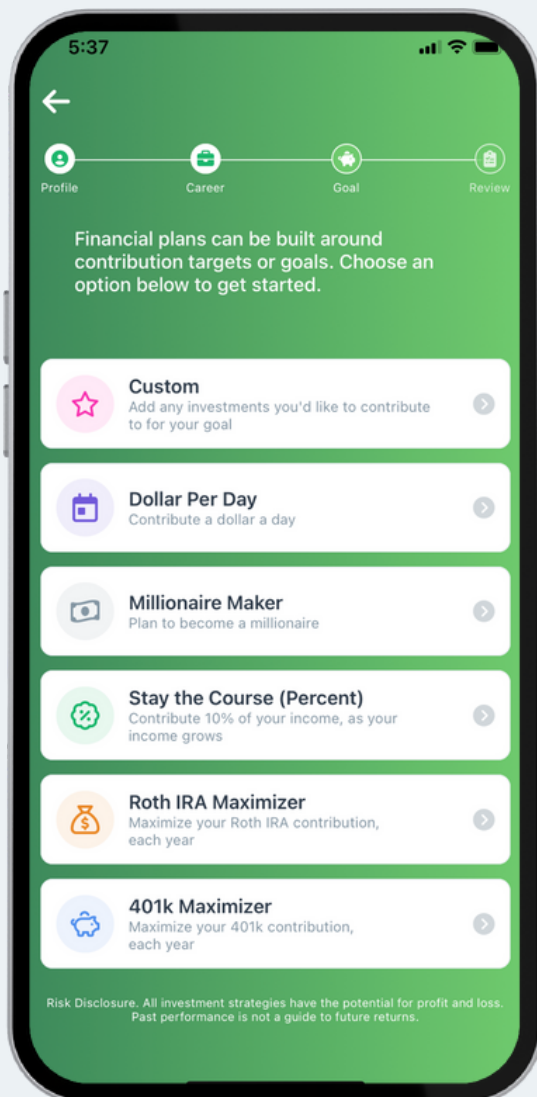
What is job concentration?

Why is a career's growth outlook important?

GOAL

CHOOSE FROM A LIST OF PRE-DEFINED INVESTOR PROFILES OR INPUT A CUSTOM GOAL.

A Roth IRA is well suited for young investors with earned income and a low tax rate. It's also appropriate for investors that dislike uncertainty. The money in a Roth IRA is made with after-tax dollars, which means as it grows, it's your money - all of it!



Model different investment allocations and discover how risk and reward affect long term goals.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

SETTING A FINANCIAL GOAL



**Explain the differences between these investments:
Stocks, Bonds, Mixed Portfolio.**

**How do different contribution targets affect long term
goals?**

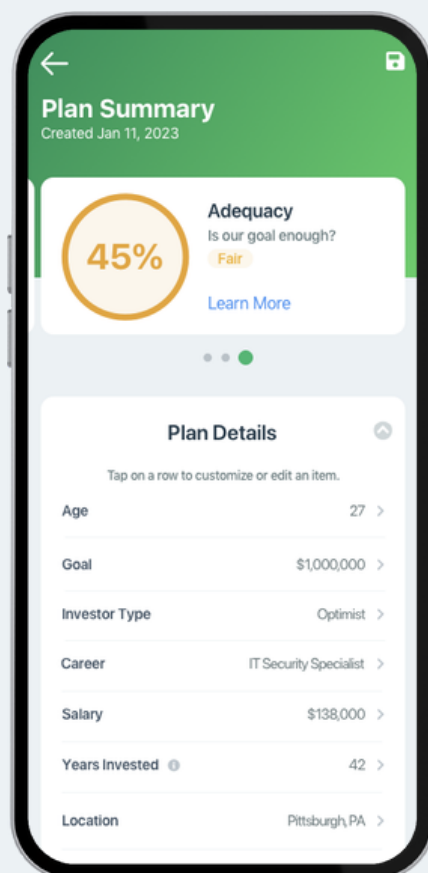
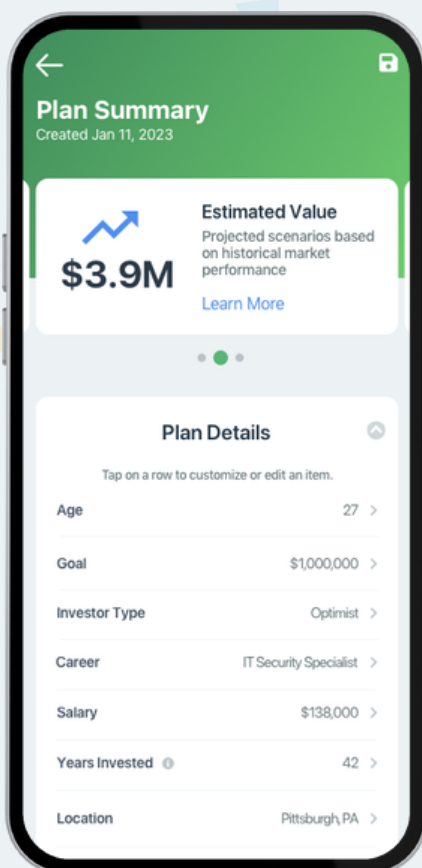
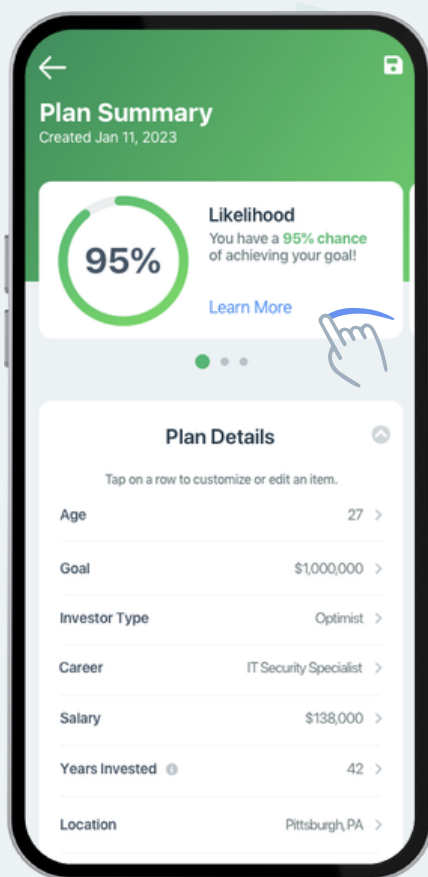
**What is the maximum annual contribution allowed for a
401k? A Roth IRA?**

PLAN SUMMARY

CONGRATULATIONS! A FINANCIAL PLAN IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE.

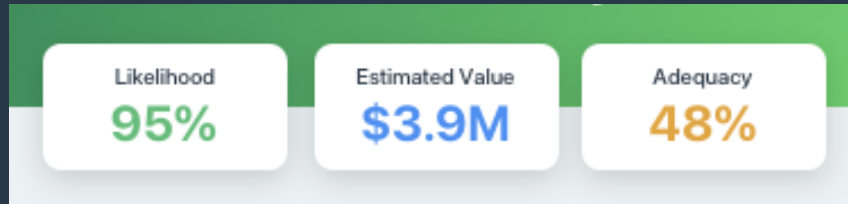


**Swipe to view key metrics:
Likelihood, Estimate Value, and Adequacy.**



PLAN SUMMARY

KEY METRICS BREAKDOWN



LIKELIHOOD

Answers the question: **Can I reach my goal?**

The likelihood of achieving this goal reflects the statistical probability of earning market returns based on the selected investment mix that meets or exceeds the level necessary to achieve your stated financial goal by the end of the plan horizon, given your 'My Save First Goal' savings amount.

ESTIMATED VALUE

Answers the question: **What is my goal?**

The estimated future value of your investments is based on your contributions and number of years you chose to invest.

ADEQUACY

Answers the question: **Is my goal enough?**

If you stick to your plan and hit your goal, this is how much of your income can be replaced after installing a spending policy*. The higher your score, the more of your income will be replaced.

*A spending policy helps guide your spending and the continued growth of your saving and investment dollars. By implementing a spending policy, you are taking an important step towards ensuring your savings last as long as needed.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

POST CLASS DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES



1. How do early decisions impact the future?

Reminder: Compound interest is an important concept to understand when building a financial plan. Through the power of compound interest, money that is invested can grow over time.

2. Can you find a career that does not require a college education that could potentially earn more than a job that requires a bachelor's degree?

3. Do you know anyone who is using or has used a "Life Hack" to give themselves a financial advantage?

4. How can student loans impact a financial plan?

STUDENT CHALLENGES

CREATE A PLAN WITH AN ESTIMATED VALUE > \$5 MILLION.



Create a plan with an estimated value of > \$5 Million.
Now, try changing the “years to invest”.

- What happens if you enter a time period of 30 years?
- What if you enter a longer time period such as 40 years?
- If you keep your goal the same, how much will you have to contribute and invest each year to get to the same place?



What is the biggest goal you can model with >50% likelihood of success? How were you able to do it?



If your plan has a 0% Likelihood of achieving your Goal, because your budget does not have a surplus: can you use the Life Hacks options to improve your chances?



If you are looking to purchase a home “in 5-years,” what is the worst case scenario for an investment portfolio, and is the stock market appropriate for this kind of short-term goal?



Try using different amounts, interest rates, and terms in the Student Loan section of the app.

THINK AND APPLY . . .

The current interest rate on Undergraduate Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans = 4.99%.

The current interest rate on private student loans ranges = 4% to 15%

What is the monthly cost of \$25,000 in student loan debt at 4.99% for 15 years?
What is the monthly cost of \$25,000 in student loan debt at 15% for 15 years?