

When considering a retirement plan, it's crucial for an investor to thoroughly vet any financial advisor to ensure the investment aligns with their financial goals and the plan is both cost-effective and flexible. Here are **10 questions** an investor should consider asking a financial advisor before investing.

1. **What are the total fees associated with the plan?**
 - Fund expense ratios
 - Advisory/management fees
 - Administrative or custodial fees
 - Any hidden costs or transaction fees
2. **What types of investment options are available in this plan?**
 - Mutual funds
 - Index funds
 - Target-date funds
 - Annuities or other insurance products
3. **Are there surrender charges or penalties for early withdrawal or transfer?**
 - Duration of surrender period
 - Percentage of surrender fees
 - Conditions for waiving surrender fees
4. **How are you compensated, and are you a fiduciary?**
 - Fee-only
 - Commission-based
 - Fiduciary duty acknowledged in writing?
5. **How often will my portfolio be reviewed or rebalanced?**
 - Quarterly/annually review schedule
 - Is automatic rebalancing available?
6. **Can I set up systematic withdrawals or Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) at retirement?**
 - Options for monthly/quarterly income
 - RMD handling and planning
 - Support for withdrawal strategies
7. **Are there restrictions or penalties on rolling over my 403(b) in the future?**
 - Rollover eligibility rules
 - Waiting periods or fees
 - Process for initiating a rollover
8. **What kind of ongoing service and support will I receive?**
 - Frequency of check-ins or reviews
 - Access to advisor or support team
 - Service model: transactional vs. ongoing advisory
9. **What happens to my account if I change employers or retire?**
 - Portability
 - Rollovers to IRA or new employer plan
 - Exit strategy options
10. **Do you offer additional retirement planning services?**
 - Social Security claiming strategies
 - Tax-efficient withdrawal planning
 - Income projections or retirement modeling