

Checklist for Finding and Evaluating Financial Advisors

1. Identify Your Financial Needs:

- Are you looking for investment management, retirement planning, or debt reduction?

2. Research Financial Advisors:

- Use directories like CFP Board or NAPFA to find certified advisors.

3. Verify Credentials:

- Ensure they hold certifications like CFP, CFA, or CPA.

4. Understand Fee Structures:

- Do they charge a flat fee, hourly rate, or a percentage of assets?

5. Check Reviews and Testimonials:

- Look at online reviews or ask for references from past clients.

6. Schedule Initial Consultations:

- Ask about their investment philosophy, experience, and approach.

7. Ask Key Questions:

- Are they fiduciaries? How do they tailor plans to client needs?

8. Review Communication Style:

- Do they provide regular updates and accessibility?

9. Assess Conflicts of Interest:

- Ensure they prioritize your best interests over commissions.

10. Compare Options:

- Evaluate 2-3 advisors before making your final decision.