

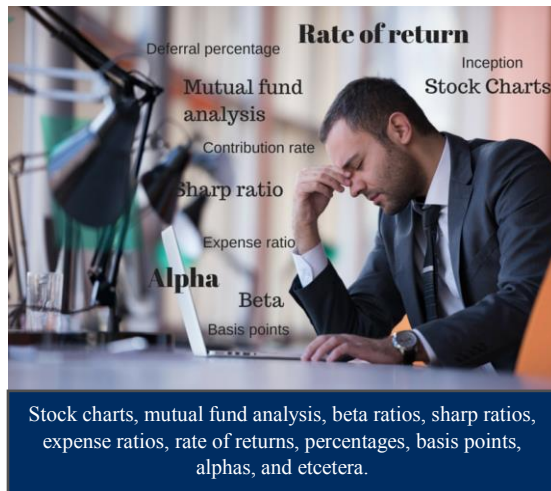
## Do you really need MATH!?!?!? Is it really necessary for retirement planning?

Think back to your high school days, in your algebra classroom, with the teacher writing some alien language on the chalkboard,  $x+y^2=45$  solve for x and y. Sweat drips down your forehead, your palms start to sweat, and your heartbeat quickens. Does this sound familiar? If so, you're like millions of other Americans who struggled their way through math class. With modern technology, computers, and phones that do practically everything, do we still need math?

The short answer is – no.

According to Michael Handel, a researcher at Northeastern University, less than a quarter of U.S. workers report using math any more complicated than basic fractions and percentages during the course of their jobs.<sup>1</sup>

So, if most people hate math and most careers do not require advanced math skills, why is retirement planning all math? People hate math so much that there is even a US Department of Labor database, called [O\\*NET Data](#), that compiles detailed information on hundreds of occupations and also ranks the usages of math skills (or lack of math skills).



It's no wonder that 9 out of 10 people are short on retirement savings,<sup>2</sup> it's all math!

Now, how do we change the conversation with employees in order to get them on-track with retirement savings, without using math?

It's simple: SAVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

There's an old saying: out of sight, out of mind. Thankfully, retirement accounts are similar. As a participant of a company sponsored retirement plan, your contribution is automatically deducted, so, in a sense, it's not there. Out of sight – out of mind.

<sup>1</sup> Weissmann, Jordan. "Here's How Little Math Americans Actually Use at Work." The Atlantic. Atlantic Media Company, 24 Apr. 2013. Web. 02 Mar. 2015.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/04/heres-how-little-math-americans-actually-use-at-work/275260>

<sup>2</sup> The Retirement Savings Crisis: Is It Worse Than We Think? National Institute on Retirement Security.  
<http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=768>

## Retirement Planning (without math)

Think about your lifestyle today. Now, think about your lifestyle in retirement. Most of the time, they are similar. As you envision your retirement future, what is important to you?

To get you started on the path to retirement and get you thinking about your future, we've developed a simplified guide:

The infographic is titled "Retirement Calculator (No Math Required)" and is divided into three main sections: "Before retirement", "Saving for retirement", and "During retirement".

- Before retirement:** Features three icons: a family of four (Family), a house with a person (Income), and a dollar sign in a circle (Career).
- Saving for retirement:** Features three blue boxes with icons above them: "HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT MONEY" (with a pie chart and dollar sign), "DRAFT A PLAN" (with a map), and "ALLOW FOR TIME" (with a calendar). Below these boxes are icons of potted plants and a sun.
- During retirement:** Features three icons: two people talking (Family + Friends), a burger and drink (Food), and a calendar (Time).

At the bottom, there is a row of dots and the text: "Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC."

Also, for some minimal math calculators that use slide charts and retirement goals, check out:

[Nationwide Retirement Calculator](#)

[Transamerica Retirement Calculator](#)

[Fidelity Retirement Calculator](#)

We hope you enjoyed this post. For more information on retirement readiness or for more top tips, please contact us to schedule a meeting.

Additional Sources:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/high-paying-jobs-for-people-who-hate-math-2014-11?op=1#ixzz3TGBl0wH>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/high-paying-jobs-for-people-who-hate-math-2014-11>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/opinion/sunday/is-algebra-necessary.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=1&\\_r=1&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/opinion/sunday/is-algebra-necessary.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&_r=1&_r=1)