

For Tier One/Tier Two members

Benefit estimates: important tool for retirement planning

Retirement is one of life's big decisions. An estimate of your PERS retirement benefit can help you determine when to retire.

This article discusses benefit estimates for a Tier One or Tier Two account. You also have your Individual Account Program (IAP) account that will provide a separate and additional retirement benefit. You can use the [IAP Disbursement Forecaster](#) on the PERS website to estimate your IAP payout.

If you are within [two years of retirement eligibility](#), you can request a written benefit estimate from PERS. Simply [complete the form available online](#) and mail or fax it to PERS.

A written benefit estimate will show waiting time and forfeited service time [purchases](#) you are eligible to make and the cost of those purchases. Making a purchase can increase your monthly benefit amount. The most common purchase is waiting time. A PERS Tier One/Tier Two active or inactive member can purchase the six-month waiting time before contributions began. The purchase must be made within 90 days before your retirement date, and you must have 10 years of service credit at retirement.

Once you get a written benefit estimate, your purchase information will show in any online benefit estimates you create using [PERS' Online Member Services \(OMS\)](#). This service is available 24/7 (except for some maintenance times). OMS uses data supplied by you and your employer(s) to create benefit estimates. You can use different retirement dates and other criteria to create a number of estimates. Because OMS uses data supplied by your employer(s), some data fields will be pre-populated when you log on to OMS.

You will need to select your membership type (General Service/Police & Fire, judge, etc.) and a retirement date. Your birth date will show automatically. Then put in your monthly salary, the percent of annual salary increase you anticipate, beneficiary's name and year of birth (if you choose to have a beneficiary), unused vacation hours (Tier One only), and unused sick leave. Unused vacation hours and unused sick leave hours increase the final average salary (FAS) in a Full Formula benefit calculation for a Tier One member. Unused sick leave hours increase FAS for a Tier Two member, if your employer participates in the sick leave program.

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On-line member survey: we want your feedback!

Does PERS' customer service meet your expectations? How can we improve?

Please take a short survey [posted on the PERS website](#) in the "What's News" section.

The survey will be available through the end of August 2016 and is anonymous. We will provide results in a future issue of *Perspectives*.

Thank you in advance for your input.

PERS office closures in 2016

PERS offices in Tigard, Tualatin, and Salem will be closed on the dates below in 2016:

September 5: Labor Day

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 24 and 25: Thanksgiving

December 26: Observance of Christmas

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Benefit estimates (continued)

A summary page will show.

Benefit Estimate - Step 3

Account Public Employees Retirement System
 Benefit Structure Tier 2
 Account Type Member

[Tell Me More about Benefit Estimate](#)

Reference # 583724 Creation Date 07/07/2016 Status Pending Retirement Date 12/01/2018 Benefit Group General Service / P&F

Summary	
Benefit Structure	Tier 2
Residency	Oregon
Total Service Credit	15 yrs 11 mos
Regular Account Balance	\$ 11,502.04
Variable Account Balance	\$ 0.00
Monthly Final Average Salary	\$ 8,415.16

A subsequent screen will show any purchases you are eligible to make. If you choose to “calculate purchase cost,” the next screen will show the amount you would need to pay to add your wait time to your monthly benefit payment. The “total cost” is your cost.

Wait Time
 None

Calculate Purchase Cost

Purchase Results	
Purchase Type	Wait Time
Service Time	6 mos
Employee Cost	\$ 1,229.70
Employer Cost	\$ 1,944.98
Total Cost	\$ 3,174.68

The final screen shows your benefit estimate. It includes the retirement options available to you based on your earlier selections, including whether you chose a beneficiary or not. Your benefit estimate is shown with and without the purchases you are eligible to make.

Benefit Estimate - Complete

Information Message

- A benefit estimate has been calculated and saved.

Account Public Employees Retirement System
 Benefit Structure Tier 2
 Account Type Member

[Tell Me More about Benefit Estimate](#)

Reference # 583724 Creation Date 07/07/2016 Status Calculated Retirement Date 12/01/2018 Benefit Group General Service / P&F

Payment Options				
	Monthly Amount Without Purchase	Monthly Amount With Purchase	Lump Sum Amount Without Purchase	Lump Sum Amount With Purchase
Benefit Structure	Tier 2	Tier 2		
Single Life Options				
Option 1	\$ 2,241.65	\$ 2,312.44	N/A	N/A
Refund Annuity Option	\$ 2,236.82	\$ 2,307.09	N/A	N/A
15 Year Certain Option	\$ 2,092.58	\$ 2,158.66	N/A	N/A
Lump-Sum Settlement Options				
LSS Option 1	\$ 1,339.41	\$ 1,381.49	\$ 11,502.04	\$ 12,731.74
Total Lump Sum Option	N/A	N/A	\$ 23,004.08	\$ 25,463.48

PERS Resources

Customer Service: 888-320-7377 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

PERS website: www.Oregon.gov/pers

Online Member Services (secure site for retirement benefit estimates and more):

https://orion.pers.state.or.us/SelfService/viewPage?component=/mhome.jsp&dialog_id=DState_44&mode=MBR

Individual Account Program (IAP) login:

http://www.oregon.gov/pers/mem/pages/section/general_information/iap_account_log-on_information.aspx

IAP account distribution forecaster: <http://apps.pers.state.or.us/IAPEstimator/>

Actuarial/Financial information: http://www.oregon.gov/pers/Pages/section/financial_reports/financials.aspx

PERS Board: http://www.oregon.gov/pers/Pages/section/board_information/board_information_index.aspx

Tier One/Tier Two

Written retirement benefit estimates: <http://www.oregon.gov/pers/mem/docs/form/075mw.pdf>

Ready to retire: http://www.oregon.gov/pers/mem/pages/section/form/tier_retire.aspx

A-Z Quick Answers: http://apps.pers.state.or.us/pers238/a-z_project_chapter_238.htm

Education sessions: http://www.oregon.gov/pers/mem/Pages/section/education_sessions/2016index.aspx

Contacting PERS just got easier

You can now contact all PERS departments and businesses – Member Services, Employer Services, the Oregon Savings Growth Plan, PERS Health, and Accounts Receivable – with one phone number: 888.320.7377. Once you call, you can easily navigate to the department you want:

- For all departments except PERS Health – press 1
 - PERS Member Services - press 1
 - Retiree - press 1
 - Withdrawal information - press 2
 - Specialty Qualifications (death/divorce/disability) - press 4
 - PERS Employer Services - press 2
 - For an Employer Services representative - press 1
 - Oregon Savings Growth Plan - press 3
 - Next available agent - or * to leave a voicemail
 - PERS Accounts Receivable - press 4
 - Available agent
- For PERS Health - press 2
 - This will connect you directly with PERS Health
- To use ‘spell by name’ directory - press 3
- If you know your party’s extension - enter it now
- No selection made - you will be transferred to Reception

Education Presentations

PERS offers education sessions for Tier One/Tier Two members who are planning to retire in less than three years (Retirement Readiness) and for those planning to retire in more than three years (Introduction to Retirement). Education sessions are held around the state.

Retirement Readiness

This presentation is ideal for Tier One/Tier Two members who are less than three years from PERS retirement. Topics include a step-by-step review of a PERS estimate of retirement benefits, retirement options, and retirement timelines; guidelines on completing the retirement application; an explanation of working after retirement rules; detailed information regarding the Individual Account Program (IAP); and a list of available resources.

Introduction To Retirement

This presentation is ideal for Tier One/Tier Two members more than three years from PERS retirement. Topics include a look at available resources, information about Online Member Services estimates, a review of retirement timelines, an explanation of working after retirement rules, detailed information regarding the Individual Account Program (IAP), and other information you may find useful as you move toward retirement.

Some education sessions add financial planning information that is supplied by our education partner, VALIC. Additional topics covered at these sessions include: Social Security and Medicare, coordinating PERS benefits with other income sources, and planning for changing income and expense needs.

Registration is required. Register through the PERS website in the [Education Sessions](#) section. All presentations are free, including the financial planning sessions. Space is limited, and the schedule is subject to change. The PERS website has the most current information.

Retirement Application Assistance Sessions (RAAS)

These are one-hour, one-on-one appointments with a PERS staff member to review PERS retirement application forms and are for members who have:

1. Decided on a PERS effective retirement date.
2. Have completed the service retirement application and are ready to have it reviewed. You can call and request a retirement application or you can [download the form\(s\)](#).

PERS will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of your retirement application, forms, and supporting documents for accuracy and completeness;
2. Notarize your retirement application at no cost; and
3. Explain the retirement application process.

Please note that RAAS are not counseling sessions to assist you in making a decision to retire.

As a courtesy to others, please do not schedule more than one RAAS session. One hour is sufficient time for a comprehensive review of your retirement forms.

Perspectives is published by the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System for the benefit of members and employers. Address all correspondence to **PERS, P.O. Box 23700, Tigard, OR 97281-3700**. PERS headquarters is located at **11410 SW 68th Parkway, Tigard, Oregon**.

Phone: 888-320-7377; TTY: 503-603-7766.

Telephone hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. PERS' Internet address is <http://oregon.gov/PERS>.

Email PERS Customer Service at: customer-service.pers@state.or.us

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