



A Guide To The Deferred Retirement Process

Deferred Retirement

You may be eligible for a Deferred Retirement if you worked for an OCERS-covered employer, terminated employment from the agency before you were eligible for retirement and kept your money on deposit with OCERS (See eligibility requirements below).

You may decide at any time to withdraw your member contributions, (unless you entered a reciprocal system* within six months of termination) but you will no longer be eligible for a Deferred Retirement Allowance.

Eligibility For A Deferred Retirement Allowance For Plans A-T and W

If you had five or more years of service credit when you deferred, or you have sufficient reciprocal service* you will be eligible to begin receiving your Deferred Retirement Allowance when you are:

- Age 50 or over and would have had 10 or more years of Service Credit had you remained a full-time employee; or
- Any age and would have had 30 or more years of Service Credit (20 or more years of Service Credit for Safety Members) had you remained a full-time employee; or
- A part-time employee age 55 or older and would have had 5 years or more of Service Credit and at least 10 years of active employment with an employer covered by OCERS; or
- Age 70 or over, regardless of your years of Service Credit

Eligibility For A Deferred Retirement Allowance For Plan U PEPR

If you had five or more years of service credit when you deferred, or you have sufficient reciprocal service* you will be eligible to begin receiving your Deferred Retirement Allowance when you are age 52 or over.

If you had less than five years of service when you deferred, you can wait until age 70 to receive a deferred retirement allowance.

Eligibility For A Deferred Retirement Allowance For Plan V PEPRA

If you had five or more years of service credit when you deferred, or you have sufficient reciprocal service* you will be eligible to begin receiving your Deferred Retirement Allowance when you are age 50 or over.

If you had less than five years of service when you deferred, you can wait until age 70 to receive a deferred retirement allowance.

Calculating Your Deferred Retirement Allowance

The monthly allowance you will receive is based on four items:

- Plan Type
- Years of Service Credit at termination
- Final Average Salary
- A factor based on your age at retirement

Visit www.ocers.org and use our online Benefits Calculator to get a fast estimate of your retirement allowance based on your Plan Type, Years of Service Credit, Final Average Salary, and Age Factor.

In addition, Deferred Members visiting OCERS' website can go to myOCERS, which allows members to gain access to their OCERS account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The myOCERS portal is secure and easy to use, allowing you to find tailored information that is relevant to you in just seconds, including the use of an interactive Benefit Estimator to calculate your retirement allowance using real payroll data.

If you had less than five years of service credit when you deferred and you don't have sufficient reciprocal service, you can either wait until age 70 to receive a deferred retirement allowance or receive a lump sum payment consisting of your accumulated member contributions plus interest.

Retirement Checklist

At the time you apply to retire, you must provide an original or certified copy of your birth certificate. The Retirement Program Specialist can certify the original document and return it to you. If you do not have a copy of your birth certificate, one of the following may be acceptable, depending on your situation:

- Valid Passport

- Census Bureau Registration of Birth
- School or Marriage Records
- Hospital birth record or certificate
- Physician or Midwife birth record
- Life insurance policy

If you are married or registered as a Qualified Domestic Partner, you must also supply an original or certified copy of your spouse's or Qualified Domestic Partner's birth certificate (or one of the documents listed above), your marriage certificate or Qualified Domestic Partnership registration, and your spouse's or Qualified Domestic Partner's Social Security number.

Failure to provide the required documents in a timely manner will delay payment of your benefits.

Please note that you cannot file your application any earlier than 60 days before your retirement date. The application is void if older than 60 days.

Remember that payments under a Deferred Retirement Allowance are not automatic, nor will you be guaranteed negotiated benefit enhancements. You must apply for benefits before monthly payments can begin. For more information, call OCERS at (714) 558-6200.

Please inform us about any changes to your name, address or beneficiaries. Necessary forms are available on our website at www.ocers.org.

This brochure is intended to provide you with general information. This brochure does not constitute legal advice, and OCERS cannot provide legal advice to members. If there are any discrepancies between the information in this brochure and the law, the law will prevail. Should you have legal questions, you are advised to consult an attorney.

***For more information on reciprocal service see the "Reciprocity" brochure.**

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