How To Apply Online For Retirement Benefits

It's so easy! Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline

Welcome to the Social Security Benefit Application

- Start your application by selecting "Apply for Benefits;" or
- Continue completing an application you already started.

Questions About You

- Name;
- Social Security number;
- Gender; and
- Date of birth.

Application Number

When you have successfully started your application, you will get an application number that you can use to:
- Continue your application later if you need a break; and
- Check the status of your completed application.

Social Security
The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

Benefit Application

Identification | General | Other Benefits | Remarks | Review & Submit | Next Steps

Total Earnings for John Public

Total Earnings for 2011

Show the total of all wages and tips earned in 2011. More Info
Estimate if necessary.
$ _____
(XXXXXX)

Did you earn more than $3140 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2011? More Info
○ Yes ○ No

Did you work outside the United States for salary, wages, or self-employment in 2011?
○ Yes ○ No

Total Earnings for 2012

Show the total of all wages and tips that will be earned in 2012. More Info
Estimate if necessary.
$ _____
(XXXXXX)

Will you earn more than $3240 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2012? More Info
○ Yes ○ No

Are you working outside the United States for salary, wages, or self-employment in 2012?
○ Yes ○ No

In this section...
Family Details
Military Details
Earnings Details
Employer Details
Self Employment
Supplemental Information
Total Earnings
Other Pensions/Annuities
When to Start Benefits

Questions About Your Work

- Employment;
- Self-employment;
- Military service;
- Work for a government agency; and
- Work history.

Questions About Your Benefits

- When you want your Social Security benefits to start; and
- Other benefits you may receive.

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When to Start Retirement Benefits for John Public

It's your choice when to start retirement benefits. The earlier the date you start your benefits, the smaller your benefit. The later the date you start to receive benefits, the larger your benefit. This is an important decision, with several factors to consider before you choose the month your benefits should start.
More Info

If you have applied for, or are currently receiving, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you must select the earliest possible month that you are eligible for benefits. An SSI recipient is required to pursue all other benefits when first eligible.

We have an estimator that can show you what your benefit amount will be under various scenarios. You may wish to end this session and go there now. You will be able to return and continue where you left off. The information you have already entered will be saved.

[Go to Estimator]

We need to know when you want to start benefits.

Do you want benefits to start in 09/2012?
○ Yes ○ No (Your other available options are 10/2012 to 02/2013.)

If you are eligible for both retirement benefits and spouse's benefit, do you want to delay receipt of retirement benefit? More Info
If you are full retirement age and we determine that you are eligible to receive both a retirement benefit and a spouse's benefit, you may choose to delay receiving your own retirement benefit and receive only the spouse's benefit for now.
○ Yes ○ No

In this section...
Family Details
Military Details
Earnings Details
When to Start Benefits
When to Start Retirement Benefits
Direct Deposit Details

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Electronic Signature & Submission for John Public

Congratulations, you're just about ready to complete your application for retirement benefits.

Please read and accept the following statement to finish the application. If you are helping someone to complete the application, then that person needs to read and accept the statements.

I agree to notify the Social Security Administration promptly if I (or any person for whom I receive benefits) become employed or self-employed while outside the United States, change citizenship, or go (for 30 days or more) to any country other than the residence address I have entered in this application.

I agree to return any payments which are not due.

I understand and agree that my application will be signed electronically when I select the check box below. I also understand that my electronic signature means that I intend to apply for benefits and have provided the Social Security Administration with accurate information. I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined all the information on this application and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that anyone who knowingly gives a false or misleading statement about a material fact in this electronic application, or causes someone else to do so, commits a crime and may be sent to prison or may face other penalties, or both.

When you select **"Submit Now"** below, you will be sending your completed information electronically to the Social Security Administration. You will no longer be able to change your information.

☐ I agree with the Electronic Signature & Submission Agreement above. I wish to submit my application electronically now.

[Submit Now] [Previous] [Save & Exit] [Return to Summary]

In this section...
Overall Summary
Send this Application

Finishing Your Application

- Sign your application by selecting the "Submit Now" button;
- Get a receipt for your application;
- Get information on what to do next; and
- Receive a list of documents you may need to show us.

♲ Printed on recycled paper