

Overview for organizations

FUTURE Scholar 
529 College Savings Plan



Special pricing available through Group Plans

The Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan offers a Group Plan option, which allows financial advisors to offer the plan without an initial sales charge or annual account fee to clients who are affiliates of an organization. The organization may be an employer, educational institution, union or other form of membership organization where individuals are affiliated by employment, enrollment or membership.

The Future Scholar plan makes it easier for affiliates of the organization to save for college by allowing the earnings on their accounts to grow exempt from federal income taxes. This means that when they withdraw money to pay for qualified higher education expenses, they won't pay federal taxes on their withdrawals.

Getting started

An authorized representative of your organization will need to complete a Group Plan Authorization form with a financial advisor. This form will capture all of the information needed to establish a Group Plan for your organization and will stay on file at Columbia Management.

What's next

After the Group Plan agreement is on file, your financial advisor will work individually with the affiliates of your organization who want to participate in the plan. Participants will need to complete a Future Scholar Pricing Alternative E account application with the financial advisor to establish their 529 plan account.

Your financial advisor will continue to work with you and your affiliates to answer any questions you may have regarding how the Group Plan works.

When your organization enters into a group pricing arrangement with your financial advisor for the Future Scholar Plan, all affiliates of your organization (employees, enrollees or members of the organization) can purchase Pricing Alternative E without an initial sales charge or annual account fees. All other 529 plan provisions, including plan minimums, fees, expenses, requirements, features and benefits, apply.

Not FDIC insured	May lose value
No bank, state or federal guarantee	

ColumbiaManagement 



Summary points

Opening an account

Affiliates complete a Future Scholar Pricing Alternative E account application with the financial advisor and include a check for the initial investment. The advisor's firm may require additional paperwork, which is submitted directly to the advisor's firm. The plan application and check are submitted to the plan.

Account access

Once an account is established, the account owner may call 888.244.5674 to get information through an automated voice system or from a plan service representative. The account owner may also get account access online by going to futurescholar.com. Under the Account Access section there is guidance for establishing an ID and PIN for online access.

Plan contributions

All contributions are after-tax dollars. Initial contributions are made by check, and subsequent contributions can be made by check or by electronic funds transfer from a bank account. Payroll deduction is available through direct ACH payments. Your financial advisor can provide direction on how to establish this option.

Organization role

Unlike a qualified retirement plan, your affiliates are free to choose any college savings vehicle they wish to use, including the Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan. By signing the Group Plan Authorization form, you are giving your affiliates the opportunity to work with a financial advisor who can offer a 529 plan without an initial sales charge or annual account fee.

Talk to your financial advisor today about establishing a Group Plan for your organization.

Please remind your affiliates there is always the potential of losing money when they invest in securities.

Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Contact your financial advisor or visit columbiamanagement.com for a Program Description, which contains this and other important information about the Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan. Read it carefully before investing. You should also consider, before investing, whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program.

The Advisor Plan is sold exclusively through financial advisors. Certain investors may also be eligible to participate in the Direct Plan, which is sold directly by the Program. The Direct Plan offers a more limited selection of investment choices than the Advisor Plan, and the fees and expenses are lower. Please refer to the Program Description for more information.

Columbia Management Investment Distributors, Inc., member FINRA, is the distributor and underwriter for 529 plans available through Columbia Management. The Office of State Treasurer of South Carolina (the State Treasurer) administers the Program, and has selected Columbia Management Investment Distributors, Inc. (CMID) as Program Manager. CMID and its affiliates, including Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC, are responsible for providing certain administrative, recordkeeping and investment services, and for the marketing of the Program. Columbia Management is not affiliated with the State Treasurer.