



Derek Brainard, AFC®

The Investor



Derek is passionate about educating students on what it takes to become successful long-term investors by sharing his story and lessons learned as a former financial adviser. He is always ready to invest his time and energy in helping others on the road to financial freedom, and has witnessed the positive results that come when students make the decision to invest in themselves through financial education.

About Derek:

Derek is a U.S. Navy Veteran, and has since served in both the private financial services sector and higher education. As an adviser, financial literacy coordinator, speaker, and writer, Derek's message on the importance of financial capability has reached thousands of people across multiple demographics. His writing and commentary have been featured in Thrive Global, Bustle, Refinery 29, Newsday, and U.S. News and World Report.

Master Certificate, Applied Project Management – Villanova University
B.A. Music – Thomas Edison State University
A.A.S. Music – Onondaga Community College

Derek's Financial Tip:

Fixating on your important long-term financial goals such as getting out of debt or accumulating wealth can feel overwhelming – like looking up at a mountain you're about to climb from its base. Focus instead on the manageable daily actions that will get you to the summit, one step and one decision at a time.