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The information in this index has been included to provide employers with information and instructions on how TRSL-covered employees can obtain retirement benefit estimates prior to applying for retirement/DROP.

TRSL provides its members with two options for obtaining a retirement benefit estimate:

- Use our [Online Benefit Estimate Calculator](#) through Member Access **or**
- Submit a [benefit estimate request](#) to TRSL

Online benefit estimates via Member Access

Members who have registered for [Member Access](#) will have access to the Benefit Estimate Calculator. This online calculator preload's an employee's personal information that is on file with TRSL to calculate a **projection** of his or her retirement benefit.

The online calculator is provided as a service for our membership to create a **self-generated estimate**. It will not include current fiscal year salary or credit for eligible sick or annual leave, which would be added after retirement (if applicable).



Estimates created with the Online Benefit Calculator provide a useful tool when planning for retirement. However, some TRSL members should not use (or do not have access to) the online calculator.

Because of the complexities of the calculations, the online calculator should not be used for the following members:

- School food service Plan A (System 2) members
- Members considering [Disability Retirement](#)
- Members considering an Annual COLA Option (ACO)
- Members with transfer or reciprocal service credit from (or with) another Louisiana public retirement system
- Members contemplating a purchase of service credit and would like estimates to see the effects of purchasing varied amounts of service credit

EXAMPLE: difference in retirement benefits and/or earliest retirement eligibility between purchasing 1 year vs. 1.50 years of service

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The online calculator is not available for the following members:

- Members with part-time service at any time during their career
- Members with LSU service credit before January 1, 1979
- Members who have participated in DROP
- Members with less than five (5) years of service credit

Members who desire an estimate but do not have access to (see above) or should not use (see previous page) the online calculator should be instructed to request a benefit estimate by submitting a [Benefit Estimate Request \(Form 10\)](#).

Online benefit estimate procedures – for employers

Employers can assist their employees with online benefit estimates by utilizing the Member Access view.

1. Log into EMIS.
2. Under *Members* tab, choose Member Summary.
3. Enter the employee's Social Security Number (SSN) on the left side of the screen. Click Select to open the Member Summary screen for the selected member account.
4. Click on the member's SSN near the top of the Member Summary screen. This action opens the *Member Access* view.
5. Select "Estimate Your Retirement Benefit" under the *My Estimates* menu.
6. Click "Continue" to proceed to the Benefit Estimate Calculator screen.
7. Enter the following data where prompted:
 - a. Estimated retirement date section:** Enter desired retirement date and select Months of Contract from the drop-down field.
 - b. Monthly average compensation section:** Choose between using figures on file or enter the final monthly average compensation.

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c. Beneficiary section: select one of the following options:

- To compute an estimate for the various retirement [benefit options](#):
 - Select the first option and *enter one beneficiary's date of birth*.
 - Enter a specified dollar amount for the beneficiary if the member is also interested in Options 4 and 4A.
- Choose *Maximum Option only* if no beneficiaries desired.
- Select *Option 1 only* if the employee has multiple beneficiaries.

| Your beneficiary(ies) | Details |
|--|---------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> I plan to provide for a beneficiary. My beneficiary's birth date is <input type="text" value="08/30/1985"/> (mm/dd/yyyy). I would like my beneficiary to receive \$ <input type="text" value="200"/> ,00 per month under Option 4 or 4A (Pop Up). | |
| <input type="radio"/> I do not plan to provide for a beneficiary. (Maximum Option only) | |
| <input type="radio"/> I plan to provide for multiple beneficiaries. (Option 1 only) | |

8. Click "Create Estimate."
9. Benefit Estimate screen will appear for Regular Retirement options available based on eligibility and beneficiary option provided.
10. An additional section will also appear if the employee is eligible for DROP/ILSB based on the estimated retirement date selected.

a. Deferred Retirement Option (DROP) Section – Click "Show Option Amounts" to view DROP estimate.

b. Initial Lump Sum Benefit (ILSB) Section – Click "Show Option Amounts" to view ILSB information and estimate.

- Option amounts will automatically calculate based on maximum lump-sum amount available (36 months x Maximum Option from Regular Retirement estimate section).
- To select a different lump-sum amount, enter desired amount in field provided. Click "Calculate" for a revised ILSB estimate.

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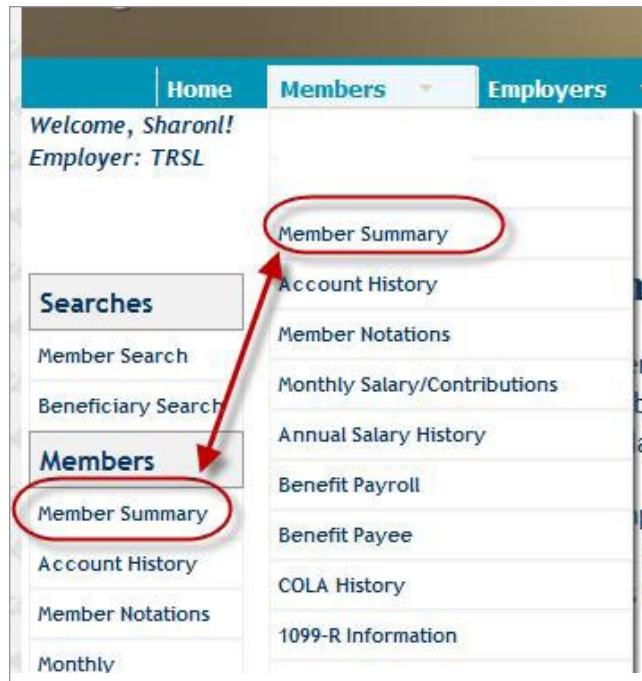
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Member Summary

SSN: 123456789
 Name: [REDACTED]
 Gender: Female
 Birth Date: 7 Age: 39
 Folder Imaged Date: 06/13/2002
 e-mail: @yahoo.com

Click on Member's SSN to open Member Access view

Status Information

| Sys | Seq | Status | Code | Date | DROP Record |
|-----|-----|--------|------|------------|-------------|
| 4 | | ACTIVE | (A) | 06/10/2002 | |

TRSL Regular Plan Information

Date of Service Accrual: 06/10/2002 Average Comp: \$5,044.70
 Switch-Over Date:
 Social Security Eligibility Date:
 Original Retirement Plan

| Service Credit for Benefit Computation | | Member Contributions | |
|--|-------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Regular Service | 14.06 | Tax-Sheltered Regular Savings | 49,003.97 |
| Estimate as of 06/30/2016 | 14.06 | Regular Salary Report as of 03/2017 | 3,973.20 |
| | | Total Contributions | 52,977.17 |

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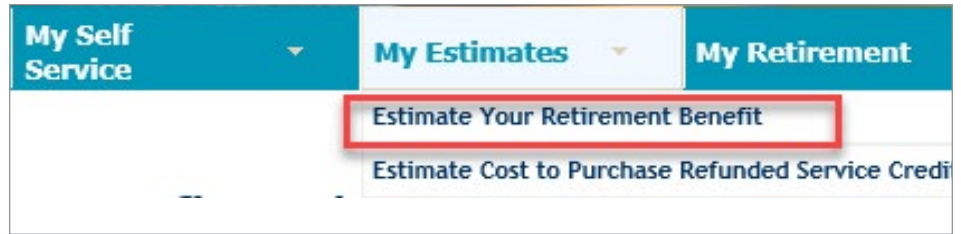
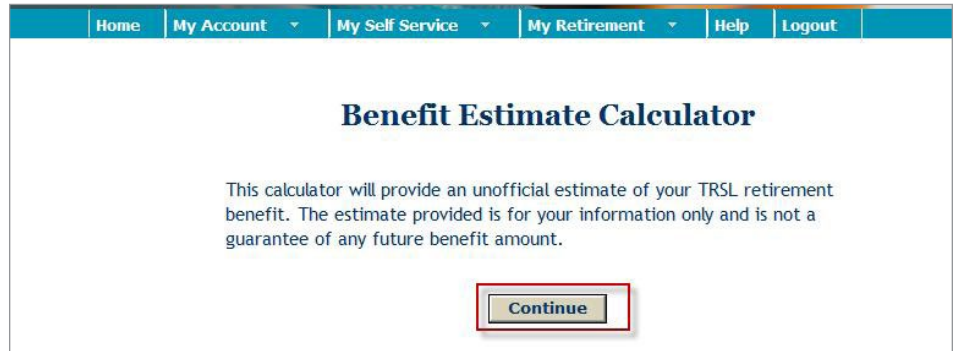
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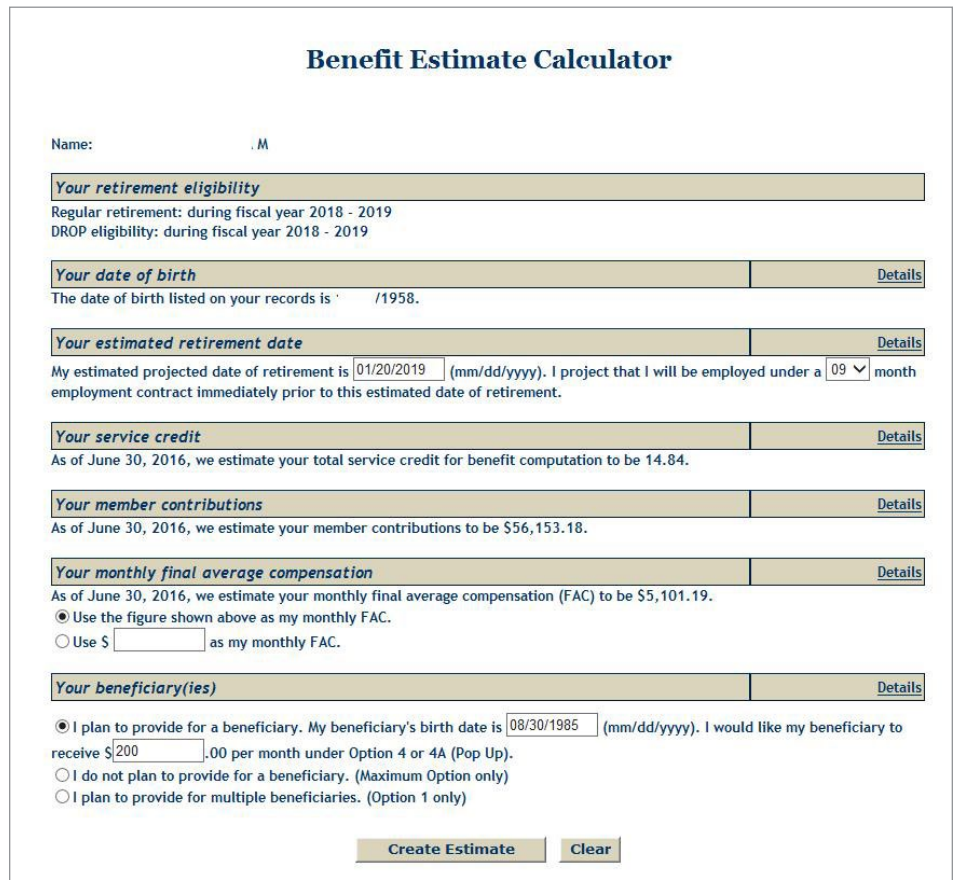
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EXAMPLE: Online benefit estimate calculator - input screen



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EXAMPLE: Online benefit estimate calculator – regular retirement option calculations

Benefit Estimate

Name: M Estimate created on 05/11/2017.

Information used for estimate

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Your birth date | 12/07/1958 |
| Projected retirement date | 01/20/2019 |
| Projected age | Age 60 |
| Projected total service credit | 17.42 years |
| Member contributions | \$56,153.18 |
| Projected monthly FAC | \$5,101.19 |
| Your beneficiary's birth date | 08/30/1985 |

Regular Retirement Hide Option Amounts

Regular Retirement is available if you choose not to participate in DROP or ILSB. You will receive a monthly benefit for life.

Retirement option amounts for regular retirement

| RETIREMENT OPTION | MEMBER BENEFIT | | BENEFICIARY BENEFIT Upon death of Member |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | Monthly benefit for your life | Monthly benefit upon death of your named beneficiary | |
| Maximum | 2,222.00 | No Beneficiary | No Beneficiary |
| Option 1 | 2,203.00 | 2,203.00 | Remaining unpaid member contributions (if any) |
| Option 2 | 1,822.00 | 1,822.00 | 1,822.00 |
| Option 2A (Pop Up) | 1,819.00 | 2,222.00 | 1,819.00 |
| Option 3 | 2,002.00 | 2,002.00 | 1,001.00 |
| Option 3A (Pop Up) | 2,000.00 | 2,222.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Option 4 | 2,178.00 | 2,178.00 | 200.00 |
| Option 4A (Pop Up) | 2,177.00 | 2,222.00 | 200.00 |

Retirement benefit calculation: years of service credit x final average compensation x 2.5%

Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) Show Option Amounts

DROP is an optional program that allows you, once you meet eligibility requirements, to freeze your regular monthly retirement benefit and have it deposited into a separate account, while still working and drawing a salary from a TRSL-reporting agency or school.

Initial Lump-Sum Benefit (ILSB) Show Option Amounts

ILSB allows you to take a portion of your retirement benefit in a one-time, lump-sum payment of up to 36 months of the Maximum Option, and still receive a monthly benefit for life at a reduced amount. ILSB is available to members who have not participated in DROP.

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EXAMPLE: Online benefit estimate calculator – DROP calculations

| Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) | | | Hide Option Amounts |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>DROP is an optional program that allows you, once you meet eligibility requirements, to freeze your regular monthly retirement benefit and have it deposited into a separate account, while still working and drawing a salary from a TRSL-reporting agency or school.</p> | | | |
| Retirement option amounts for DROP | | | |
| RETIREMENT OPTION | MEMBER BENEFIT | | BENEFICIARY BENEFIT Upon death of Member |
| | Monthly benefit for your life | Monthly benefit upon death of your named beneficiary | |
| Maximum | 1,777.00 | No Beneficiary | No Beneficiary |
| Option 1 | 1,759.00 | 1,759.00 | Remaining unpaid member contributions (if any) |
| Option 2 | 1,458.00 | 1,458.00 | 1,458.00 |
| Option 2A (Pop Up) | 1,455.00 | 1,777.00 | 1,455.00 |
| Option 3 | 1,602.00 | 1,602.00 | 801.00 |
| Option 3A (Pop Up) | 1,600.00 | 1,777.00 | 800.00 |
| Option 4 | 1,733.00 | 1,733.00 | 200.00 |
| Option 4A (Pop Up) | 1,733.00 | 1,777.00 | 200.00 |

Retirement benefit calculation: years of service credit x final average compensation x 2.0%

EXAMPLE: Online benefit estimate calculator – ILSB

| Initial Lump-Sum Benefit (ILSB) | | | Hide Option Amounts |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>ILSB allows you to take a portion of your retirement benefit in a one-time, lump-sum payment of up to 36 months of the <u>Maximum Option</u>, and still receive a monthly benefit for life at a reduced amount. ILSB is available to members who have not participated in DROP.</p> | | | |
| <p>The estimated option amounts calculated below are based on you receiving the maximum lump-sum distribution allowed of \$79,992.00.</p> | | | |
| <p>If you would like estimated option amounts based on a different lump-sum distribution, enter that amount below.</p> | | | |
| <p>I wish to receive a lump-sum distribution of \$ <input type="text" value=""/> .00</p> | | | <p>Calculate</p> |
| Retirement option amounts for ILSB | | | |
| RETIREMENT OPTION | MEMBER BENEFIT | | BENEFICIARY BENEFIT Upon death of Member |
| | Monthly benefit for your life | Monthly benefit upon death of your named beneficiary | |
| Maximum | 1,614.00 | No Beneficiary | No Beneficiary |
| Option 2 | 1,324.00 | 1,324.00 | 1,324.00 |
| Option 2A (Pop Up) | 1,322.00 | 1,614.00 | 1,322.00 |
| Option 3 | 1,455.00 | 1,455.00 | 728.00 |
| Option 3A (Pop Up) | 1,453.00 | 1,614.00 | 727.00 |
| Option 4 | 1,570.00 | 1,570.00 | 200.00 |
| Option 4A (Pop Up) | 1,570.00 | 1,614.00 | 200.00 |

Retirement benefit calculation: years of service credit x final average compensation x 2.5%

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Benefit estimate requests

TRSL members are encouraged to obtain an estimate prior to submitting an application for retirement or DROP.

- Benefit estimates will not include credit for eligible sick or annual leave, which would be added after retirement (if applicable).
- These estimates also will not include current year salary.
- If the member is requesting a benefit estimate due to a possible/pending purchase of service, [contact TRSL](#).

Benefit estimates

- TRSL recommends members request a benefit estimate approximately one to three years before retirement or DROP
- A letter will be mailed to the member acknowledging receipt of their estimate request. *Allow two to three weeks for TRSL processing.*

Benefit estimate request procedures – for employers

1. Instruct member to submit a completed [Benefit Estimate Request \(Form 10\)](#) and include the following information:
 - a. **Projected retirement date** – Estimate cannot be computed without this date. Member can enter “When 1st Eligible” if retirement date is unknown.
 - b. **Type of Estimate desired** (Service, Initial Lump-Sum Benefit, Disability Retirement, Entering DROP, or Retirement after DROP)
 - c. **Current and complete mailing address** for the member
 - d. **Beneficiary date of birth** – Required to compute retirement options 2, 2A, 3, 3A
 - e. **For Disability Retirement estimates** – Note any minor children and provide the youngest child’s date of birth (if applicable).
 - f. **ACO** – If member is interested in receiving an estimate with the [annual COLA option](#), check the appropriate box.
2. **Certify all of the member’s questionable years** online through EMIS, TRSL’s secure employer database, so that the estimate can be calculated with the member’s accurate service credit amount. Refer

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to the Questionable Years Outstanding Report or view employee's Account History screen in EMIS to identify questionable years. (See *Index 6.0 for information on certifying questionable years.*)

Disability estimates

Employees who are interested in a disability retirement estimate must submit a completed [Benefit Estimate Request](#) (Form 10) since the online benefit estimate calculator does not compute disability estimates.

Employers should follow the [procedures for a benefit estimate request](#), including certifying all of the employee's questionable years.

A Disability Estimate is **not** an application for Disability Retirement. Employees who wish to apply for a disability retirement must submit a completed [Application for Disability Retirement](#) (Form 12). Refer to *Index 12.0 for more information on Disability Retirement.*

Frequently asked questions

- 1. One of our employees wants to use the online calculator to create an estimate. Where is the calculator located?**

The online calculator is only available through Member Access. Employees who are currently enrolled and active in TRSL can sign up for Member Access at any time. See our publication, [How to Register for Member Access](#), for member sign-up instructions.

- 2. Why is the online calculator not available for employees who have part-time service credit?**

TRSL members with part-time service credit may be able to retire much sooner due to additional eligibility credit. When TRSL receives an estimate request from members with part-time service, our retirement analysts review the member's account history and any eligibility credit earned to determine their first eligibility date for retirement or DROP.

- 3. Can the [Benefit Estimate Request](#) (Form 10) be faxed instead of mailed?**

Yes, the TRSL fax number (225-925-4779) is provided at the top of the request form.

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4. How will the employee know if TRSL has received the Form 10 benefit estimate request?

Within 10 days, the member should receive either (1) a letter acknowledging the benefit estimate request or (2) the actual estimate (depending on volume of requests).

Members should allow two to three weeks (after receiving the acknowledgement letter) for TRSL to calculate and mail the estimate.