

Purchasing Additional Service Credit

Washington State Department of Retirement Systems

You may purchase additional service credit to increase your monthly retirement benefit. You can purchase additional service credit at the time of your retirement only. You cannot use the additional service credit to qualify for retirement.



Why would I want to buy additional service credit?

Purchasing additional service credit increases your monthly retirement benefit for the rest of your life. And if you choose a survivor option, the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) will continue paying the increase to your survivor after your death.

You can purchase between one and 60 months of service credit in whole-month increments. The cost of service is based on the administrative factor for your age and plan. The monthly increase to your benefit is based on the same formula used to calculate your retirement benefit.

The administrative factors used in the following examples are for illustrative purposes only. See *Administrative Factors* on the DRS website for the most current numbers.

Example 1 Steps 1-3

Lee is a 65-year-old PERS Plan 2 member who has 22 years (264 months) of service credit. Her Average Final Compensation (AFC) is \$3,000 per month. She wants to purchase five years (60 months) of additional service credit.

Step 1 Before filing her retirement application, Lee calculates her estimated monthly benefit without the purchase of additional service credit:
 $2\% \times \text{service credit years} \times \text{AFC} = \text{monthly benefit}$

So Lee's estimated monthly benefit will be \$1,320 ($2\% \times 22 \times \$3,000 = \$1,320$).

Step 2 Lee uses the same formula to calculate how much her monthly benefit will increase when she purchases five years (60 months) of additional service credit.
 $2\% \times 5 \times \$3,000 = \300

Buying 60 months of service credit will increase Lee's monthly benefit to \$1,620 ($\$1,320 + \$300 = \$1,620$).


Step 3 Lee must figure out the cost to purchase the additional five years (60 months) of service credit. So she divides the amount of the monthly benefit increase (\$300) by an administrative factor based on her age:
 $\$300 \div 0.0069798 = \$42,981$

Lee will pay \$42,981 to purchase five years (60 months) of service credit.

Example 2
in 10-month increments

Months to Purchase	Monthly Increase to Benefit	Administrative Factor	Estimated Cost
10	\$50	0.0069798	\$7,164
20	\$100	0.0069798	\$14,327
30	\$150	0.0069798	\$21,491
40	\$200	0.0069798	\$28,654
50	\$250	0.0069798	\$35,818
60	\$300	0.0069798	\$42,981

See *Administrative Factors* on the DRS website for current numbers.

 **What's the next step?**

Log in to your online account and create an estimate. This should help you determine how to proceed. Then, if you want to purchase additional service credit, submit a completed *Request to Purchase Additional Retirement Service Credit* form with your online retirement application.

A bill will be created in the month you retire. Your payment must be made in full for the entire amount of service credit you purchase within 90 days of the bill issue date.

To pay your bill, you can make a one-time cash or check payment, an electronic funds transfer, or roll over funds from a tax-deferred retirement account, such as the state's Deferred Compensation Program or an IRA. After DRS receives your payment, your benefit will increase. For more information, *contact DRS*.

 **Fast fact**

You can review your service credit details in *online account access at drs.wa.gov/oa*.

To contact DRS

Call



360.664.7000
800.547.6657
TTY 711

Write



Department of Retirement Systems
PO Box 48380
Olympia, WA 98504

Email



General inquiries:
recep@drs.wa.gov

Send a secure message through your online account:
drs.wa.gov/oa

Visit



6835 Capitol Blvd.
Tumwater, WA 98501

See the DRS website for directions.

Hours



Monday - Friday
8 am to 5 pm
Pacific Time

Website



drs.wa.gov

You can also send email through the Contact Us page on the DRS website.

This document is a summary. It is not a complete description of purchasing service credit. State retirement laws govern your benefit. If a conflict exists between the information in this document and what is contained in current law, the law governs.