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Dr. Doug Allen Reflection

After looking through the [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) website, I found the retirement estimator and calculator page to be the most beneficial. These pages could potentially alleviate some concerns people face as they are reaching retirement.

Social security is a topic that financial planners should be educated on in order to better prepare their clients for retirement. I think it would be very important for financial planners to be able to explain to their clients how social security works, when they are eligible for benefits, the filing process, and how they should incorporate social security income into their retirement plans.

When you meet with a client to discuss their retirement plans, the client will most likely have questions about social security. One question may be “When or at what age should I file for social security?” Every situation is different which makes it impossible for me to answer the question for this paper. However, a financial planner should be able to answer recognize variables such as a person’s age, marriage status, IRAs, health, and other factors to determine when a client should start receiving income from social security to best optimize the benefits. Another question that could potentially arise is “What are my options with filing?” This should lead to a response that explains standard filing, filing and suspending, and restricted filing. By informing a client of these filing options they will be able to assess their situation better and determine the best choice. If you are servicing a couple that is reaching retirement age, they may wish to know the best way to enhance their spousal benefits. According to Mr. Allen’s presentation, the best way to do that is to take spousal benefits as soon as full retirement age is reached or as soon as the benefits are available.

In my opinion, Mr. Allen gave an excellent presentation on a topic that most students are uneducated on. His vast knowledge of social security that he bestowed upon us will be very helpful as we move forward with our careers. I would recommend that Dr. Allen be welcomed back next semester to give tis presentation.