

MERRILL ADVISORY CENTER

Explanation of fees

As of June 01, 2024

As a Merrill Advisory Center client, you work with our Financial Solutions Advisors to implement a financial approach to meet your investment objectives and goals.

As part of your relationship with us, it's important that you understand what the fees are, including the fees associated with our investment solutions. We believe the better informed you are, the better decisions you can make about what's right for you — whether it's investing under our investment advisory programs or in a brokerage account where eligible.

Investment Advisory Program Services

- Ongoing advice on your investments and trade execution
- Asset-based fee based on a percentage of the assets in your account
- Ongoing management of accounts enrolled in the program as outlined in the program materials

Brokerage Account Services

- Access to advice, investment recommendations, trade execution and other brokerage services
- Transactions must be authorized by you
- Per trade transactional fee on purchase and sell transactions
- No ongoing monitoring or monitoring services

The ability to open a brokerage account as a Merrill Advisory Center client and work with a Financial Solutions Advisor to receive Brokerage Services is limited to certain types of clients and account types.

This Explanation of Fees does not cover the costs and fees for investment activity for a Merrill Edge Self-Directed account. See <https://www.merrilledge.com/pricing>.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("BofA Corp."). MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp. Merrill Lynch Life Agency Inc. ("MLLA") is a licensed insurance agency and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp.

BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS") is a registered broker-dealer, Member SIPC, and wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation.

Banking products are provided by Bank of America, N.A., Member FDIC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp.

Investment products offered through MLPF&S, and insurance and annuity products offered through MLLA:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
Are Not Deposits	Are Not Insured By Any Federal Government Agency	Are Not a Condition to Any Banking Service or Activity

Investment Advisory Program Services

For additional information on these programs, please contact us at 888.654.6837 or visit the [Program Website](#).

→ Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor

Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor is an online fiduciary investment advisory program that provides ongoing portfolio management and monitoring, advice and guidance from an aligned Financial Solutions Advisor and access to managed strategies and investment solutions.

Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor has an annual Program Fee of 0.85%. You may be eligible for promotional discounts, rebates, credits under various programs. Additional fees, expenses and charges apply as outlined in the program brochure.

For more information regarding Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor, please reference the [Program Brochure](#).

→ Merrill Edge Advisory Account

Merrill Edge Advisory Account is a traditional fiduciary investment advisory program that provides ongoing portfolio management and monitoring, advice and guidance from an aligned Financial Solutions Advisor and access to managed strategies and investment solutions.

Merrill Edge Advisory Account has an annual Program Fee of 0.85%. You may be eligible for promotional discounts, rebates, credits under various programs. Additional fees, expenses and charges apply as outlined in the program brochure.

For more information regarding Merrill Edge Advisory Account, please reference the [Program Brochure](#).

→ Merrill Guided Investing (online)

Merrill Guided Investing is an online self-guided fiduciary investment advisory program providing ongoing portfolio management and monitoring and access to specific managed strategies and investment solutions, without the support of a Financial Solutions Advisor.

Merrill Guided Investing has an annual Program Fee of 0.45%. You may be eligible for promotional discounts, rebates, credits under various programs. Additional fees, expenses and charges apply as outlined in the program brochure.

For more information regarding Merrill Guided Investing, please reference the [Program Brochure](#).

Brokerage Accounts (available to certain eligible clients only)

Secondary Market Equity Transactions

Secondary market equity transactions include common stock, exchange traded funds, closed-end funds, certain listed preferred stocks, and American Depositary Receipts.

You will pay a commission that is calculated based on the principal value of the security being purchased or sold with a maximum commission of \$75 per transaction. The commission is in addition to the purchase price you pay or the sale price you receive for the security. The commission may be discounted)

Secondary Market Fixed Income Transactions

Secondary market fixed income transactions include Treasury securities, government agencies, brokered certificates of deposit (brokered CDs), corporate bonds, municipal securities and over-the-counter (OTC) preferred securities.

For purchases, you pay a “markup” which is included in the price of the security. The total markup that you will pay consists of the Merrill markup described below and a dealer markup that our affiliate BofA Securities, Inc. (BofAS) receives if it executes the transaction. The dealer markup paid to BofAS is typically up to 1.00%.

The markup that is charged may be discounted from the maximum Merrill markup percentage listed below.

Maximum Merrill markup for purchases

	1-year maturity	5-year maturity	10-year maturity	Greater than 10-year maturity
Treasury securities	0.20%	0.685%	1.28%	1.50%
Government agencies	0.20%	0.685%	1.28%	1.78%
Brokered CDs	0.375%	1.25%	2.00%	2.00%
Corporate bonds	0.375%	1.25%	2.00%	2.00%
Municipal securities*	0.375%	1.25%	2.00%	2.00%
OTC preferred securities	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%

For example, if you purchase a corporate bond with a 5-year maturity for a principal amount of \$50,000, the maximum markup is calculated as following: $\$50,000 \times 1.25\% = \625.00 .

* For additional information regarding our affiliate's process in seeking bid prices for municipal securities when facilitating sales of municipal securities, see the [Best Interest Disclosure Statement](#).

Maximum Merrill markdown for sales

For sales, an amount called a “markdown” is deducted from the security price that you receive. The total markdown that you will pay consists of the Merrill markdown described below and a dealer markdown that BofAS receives if it executes the transaction. The dealer markdown paid to BofAS is typically up to 1.00%. The markdown that is charged may be discounted from the maximum Merrill markdown percentage listed below.

All maturities

Treasury securities	0.00% - 0.25%
Government agencies	0.00% - 0.25%
Brokered CDs	0.00%
Corporate bonds	0.00% - 0.50%
Municipal securities	0.00% - 0.375%
OTC preferred securities	1.00%

For example, if you sell a corporate bond with a 5-year maturity for a principal amount of \$50,000, the maximum Merrill markdown is calculated as follows: $\$50,000 \times 0.50\% = \250.00 .

Mutual Funds and Money Market Funds

Mutual funds and money market funds are funds that consist of a portfolio of securities that seek to meet an identified objective and are managed by a fund manager. The fees you pay or incur vary based on the share class and the fund’s own designated pricing schedule. You can find these fees, including the fund’s operating expenses, in the fund’s prospectus and offering materials.

Security & share class

Fees

Mutual fund Class A shares

- You pay an upfront “front-end” sales charge that varies depending on the size of your purchase, the fund’s breakpoint schedule and/or your eligibility for any discounts or waivers.
- At Merrill, you can typically only purchase an amount of Class A shares that results in you paying a sales charge of 3.50% or less (note that mutual fund prospectuses typically permit Class A share purchases in amounts that result in front-end sales charges that range from 0.00% to 5.75%).
- Mutual funds have an annual asset-based distribution and/or service fee (known as a “12b-1” fee) paid out of the fund’s assets. For the Class A shares, the 12b-1 fee paid to us for most of the funds offered at Merrill typically ranges between 0.20% – 0.30% per annum.
- Generally, if you redeem or sell Class A shares for which no front-end sales charge was imposed within 12 -18 months of the purchase date, you may pay a Contingent Deferred Sales Charge (CDSC) ranging from 0.25% – 1.00%, which is deducted from the redemption proceeds.

Mutual fund Class C shares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no front-end sales charge for Class C shares, but you pay a larger annual asset-based 12b-1 fee upon the initial purchase and annually thereafter. The Class C share 12b-1 fee ranges from 0.50% – 1.00% per annum. Generally, if you redeem the Class C shares within 12 to 18 months of the purchase date, you may pay a CDSC of 1.00%, which is deducted from the redemption proceeds.
Mutual fund share classes for retirement accounts and ERISA plan accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For personal retirement accounts (IRA, IRA Roth, inherited IRA) and for SEP and SIMPLE Accounts, you purchase Class A shares or Class C shares and pay the fees indicated above. For ERISA plan accounts, you will not pay an upfront fee but you pay an annual asset-based retirement group fee, based on the share class for which that ERISA plan account is eligible. These retirement group fees are typically 0.25% for Class A shares, 0.50% for Class R shares and 1.00% for Class C shares. You also pay a separate administrative service fee ranging from 0.10% – 0.35%, which, for certain funds, is deducted from fund assets.
Money market funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For money market funds available for purchase, you will not pay an upfront fee; however, money market funds have an annual asset-based administration fee that ranges from 0.00% – 0.50%, all or a portion of which is paid to Merrill. Money market funds available to certain accounts as an automatic cash sweep typically include a 0.40% annual asset-based administrative service fee. Money market funds available for purchase in a Merrill brokerage account typically do not charge an annual asset-based service fee.

There are fees and expenses, such as annual management and other similar fees, charged by the fund manager or product sponsor that are typically part of the overall expenses of the fund, as disclosed in the fund's prospectus



New Issue Offerings

New issue offerings involve the issuance of Treasury securities, agencies, corporate bonds, municipal securities, brokered CDs, closed end funds and unit investment trusts. You will not pay a fee to purchase new issue securities. Instead, the issuer or the investment manager for the issuer pays us or our affiliate BofAS compensation in the form of a sales charge, gross fee or underwriting discount for acting as the underwriter or selling agent for the offering. The offering price and the terms of the securities reflect this compensation. The compensation varies among offerings and is disclosed in the prospectus or offering document for the security.

The chart below provides a general guide or range of fees we or BofAS receives for new issue offerings.

Offering type	New issue compensation
Treasury securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For non-competitive bids submitted for certain new issue Treasuries at the auction, a \$50 per auction service fee will generally be charged.
Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BofAS as the underwriter receives from the issuer an upfront gross fee ranging from 0.05% – 3.00%, depending on tenor.
Corporate bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BofAS as the underwriter receives from the issuer an upfront gross fee ranging from 0.125% – 3.00%, depending on tenor.
Municipal securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BofAS as the underwriter receives from the issuer an upfront gross fee that varies significantly depending on type of offering and tenor.

Brokered CDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BofAS as the placement agent receives an upfront placement fee ranging from 0.02% to 0.30% of the principal amount of the brokered CD on an annualized basis, depending on tenor, which is included in the offering price of the brokered CD (which is the price you pay)..
Unit investment trusts (UIT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a sales charge included in the UIT offering price (which is the price you pay) that varies based on the type of UIT and its tenor. • For equity UITs with a 15-month term, you pay a sales charge of 1.85% to the UIT issuer, of which Merrill receives 1.25%. For equity UITs with a 24-month term, you pay a sales charge of 2.75% to the UIT issuer, of which Merrill receives 2.00%. • For fixed income UITs, you pay a sales charge between 2.50% – 3.50%, depending on the tenor, of which Merrill receives between 1.60% – 2.60%.
Closed-end funds (CEFs)³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BofAS as the underwriter receives from the fund manager an upfront gross fee up to 4.50%, depending on the CEF strategy. In addition, the fund manager may pay us a structuring fee that ranges from 0.50% – 2.00%.

For CEFs and UITs, there indirect fees and expenses, such as annual management and other similar fees, charged by the product sponsor or manager that are typically part of the overall expenses of the CEF or UIT, as disclosed in the product's prospectus.

→ Annuities

When you purchase an annuity through your Advisor, you pay fees directly to the issuing insurance company, the amount of which depends on the annuity type and features you select. For fixed indexed, fixed rate and income annuities, the fees are included through the crediting rates established by the insurance company. For variable annuities, the fees you pay are included in the annuity contract and prospectus.

Our affiliate Merrill Lynch Life Agency Inc. (MLLA) is paid by the insurance company, and the amount it receives varies depending on the type of annuity. A portion of the amount received is paid to your Advisor as compensation. These payments include first-year sales commissions and may include other commissions paid annually in subsequent years.

The commissions are not an upfront sales charge and do not reduce your initial investment.

Annuity type	Commission to MLLA
Fixed Indexed and Variable indexed⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLLA is paid a first-year sales commission of up to 3.50% of each annuity premium and a trailing commission each year thereafter of up to 0.30% of the value of your annuity. • Certain fixed indexed annuities do not have an annual trailing commission. • Fixed indexed annuities offer optional benefits which have annual fees of up to 1.25% (as disclosed in the annuity contract).
Fixed rate⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLLA is paid a first-year sales commission of up to 2.50% of each annuity premium.
Income⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLLA is paid a first-year sales commission of up to 4.00% of each annuity premium.
Variable⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLLA is paid a first-year sales commission of up to 3.40% of each annuity premium and a trailing commission each year thereafter of up to 0.55% of the value of your annuity. • Variable annuities have distinct fees paid by you to the insurance company and other service providers, including an annual asset-based fee of up to 1.05%. Variable annuities offer optional benefits which have annual fees of up to 1.75% (as disclosed in the annuity contract).

⁴ For additional premiums added to contracts that were purchased at Merrill prior to June 1, 2020, first-year commissions, trailing commissions and other charges are based on applicable rates in effect at the time the contract was purchased. For these contracts, the first-year sales commissions received from insurance companies ranged from 0.75% – 5.25%, and the annual trailing commissions range from 0.00% – 1.20%, in each case, depending on the type of annuity.

For additional premiums added to contracts originally purchased with a firm other than Merrill, the first-year and trailing commission rates that we receive may have been established when your contract was purchased based on the selling agreement in place with that other firm and may fall outside the ranges listed above.

529 Plan

Merrill offers plans designed for residents of any state (Omnibus 529 plans) and plans that are only available to residents or taxpayers of the sponsoring state (State 529 plans). The fees you pay or incur vary based on the 529 plan, investment portfolio and unit class you invest in as outlined below.

Type of 529 Plan	Fees
Merrill Omnibus 529 Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At Merrill, you purchase a 529 class unit based on your overall assets in a particular Section 529 plan or certain relationship eligibility criteria we specify. For 529 investments of \$250,000 or more or if you meet certain relationship eligibility criteria, you will be automatically invested in Class A units. For 529 investments of less than \$250,000, you will be automatically invested in Class C units. Class C units convert to Class A units four years from purchase.For Class A units offered by most Omnibus 529 Plans, you will not pay an upfront sales charge.* You will pay an annual trailing commission, from 0.125% to 0.25% of the average account assets invested in Class A units.For Class C units, you will not pay an upfront sales charge, but you will pay an annual trailing commission of 0.125% to 1.00% of the average account assets invested in Class C units until the units convert to Class A units, at which time it will decrease to a commission of between 0.125% to 0.25%.Generally, if within 12 months of the purchase date you redeem any Class A units or Class C units, you will pay a Contingent Deferred Sales Charge (CDSC) in an amount up to 0.25% on Class A units and up to 1.00% on Class C units, which is deducted from the redemption proceeds.
State 529 plans offered by Merrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The pricing model available in State 529 plans vary by plan. Based on your investment time horizon and age of your beneficiary, you will purchase a Class A unit or a Class C unit.For Class A units, you pay an upfront sales charge of up to 5.25%. You will also pay an annual trailing commission of up to 0.25% of the average account assets invested in Class A units. The actual amount of the Class A unit sales charge is based on the State 529 plan you select, the size of your investment in the plan, the plan’s particular sales charge breakpoint schedule (which lowers the charge based on larger purchases or holdings) and your eligibility for any other discounts or waivers.For Class C units, you will not pay an upfront sales charge. For Class C units, you will pay an annual trailing commission of up to 1.00% of the average account assets invested in Class C units. This trailing commission decreases to a maximum of 0.25% upon conversion to Class A units. In many State 529 plans, Class C units convert to Class A units after a predetermined number of years set by the plan.If you redeem Class C units within 18 months of the purchase date, you will typically pay a CDSC fee of up to 1.00%.

*Certain Omnibus 529 Plans may offer only Class A units and charge an upfront sales charge. Merrill may limit availability of such plans to residents or taxpayers of the plan’s home state. In addition, an Advisor may be paid a portion of any upfront sales charges paid.

There are other fees and expenses, such as account maintenance, enrollment or transaction fees and other similar fees, charged by the Section 529 plans that are typically part of the overall expenses of the 529 plan, disclosed in the 529 plan’s program document and Merrill 529 Account Unit Class Disclosure and Terms and Conditions.

Important Information

General

In the document, references to Merrill means Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and its affiliates. The information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only and is not meant to replace your close review of the terms and conditions contained in the agreements for the Merrill programs and accounts, the brochures and disclosures relating to the investment advisory programs and investment products, including individual securities. The fee information covered here does not cover all available investment types or solutions or certain fees that apply to securities activities in your account. Additional fees apply when executing transactions in international markets. These fees include local country costs and fees, local broker fees, stamp taxes, markups, markdowns and dealer spread charges in connection with foreign currency exchange conversions. Certain of these fees are included in the execution price for the security as a net price and are not reflected as separate charges on your trade confirmations or account statements. The [Merrill Schedule of Miscellaneous Account and Service Fees](#) also has information on other fees and charges relating to your account or account activities for more information.

Merrill offers a broad range of brokerage, investment advisory and other services. There are important differences between brokerage and investment advisory services, including the type of advice and assistance provided, the fees charged, and the rights and obligations of the parties. It is important to understand the differences, particularly when determining which service or services to select. For more information about these services, the applicable fees and their differences, speak with a Financial Solutions Advisor, or reference the [Client Relationship Summary \(Form CRS\)](#) and the [Summary of Programs and Services](#) at ml.com/relationships. Our CRS provides more information about our obligations to you. For information about our brokerage services and fees, see our [Best Interest Disclosure Statement](#). Before enrolling in MGIA, MEAA or MGI, you should review the applicable program ADV Brochure. These disclosures, available at ml.com/relationships, provide information about these programs, the compensation we receive as well as conflicts of interest and other matters.

The way we make money from the purchase and sales of investment products, among other things, creates a conflict of interest. Merrill and our financial solutions advisors, as well as our affiliates, benefit from transactions in your account. The more trades that you make in your Account, the more we get paid or benefited, creating a financial incentive to recommend transactions in your Account. There is a conflict of interest when your financial advisor recommends an account or program type, a security transaction or investment strategy where it is expected that Merrill will earn greater revenue over another account or program type, security transaction or investment strategy. More information is available in the Best Interest Disclosure Statement and in the ADV brochures for the MGIA, MEAA and MGI programs.

Additional information regarding transaction and other fees

Fees, charges, commissions, other transaction charges, fund sales charges, and the fees and charges for new issue transactions are determined by reference to various schedules and methodologies and pricing arrangements and agreements in effect from time to time and are subject to change. Fee ranges are provided for informational purposes only. In certain transactions, minimum commission charges will apply. Certain commissions may be discounted. Individual circumstances will determine commission prices and whether you qualify for any waivers or discounts.

Fixed income transactions. The markup or markdown amount compensates us for executing the transaction. Purchases and sales of fixed income securities may occur in the over-the-counter markets and Merrill may act in a principal capacity (for its own account) in executing your order. The maximum markup/markdown will vary based on various criteria including (1) product type (corporate bonds have higher markups/markdowns than government products); (2) maturity (shorter maturities have lower markups/markdowns); and (3) whether the transaction is a purchase or a sale (purchases have higher markups than markdowns for sales due to the buy and hold nature of fixed income securities). Certain fixed income security features such as call dates may result in lower markups/markdowns than shown in the fixed income schedule. For products priced on a discount basis, including treasury bills, agency discount notes and commercial paper, the markup can be up to 0.20% and there is no markdown. Mortgage-backed securities are subject to the same markups/markdowns as corporate bonds and assessed on the security's average life. Preferred securities are generally traded on stock exchanges where equity commissions will apply. When preferred securities are traded in the over-the-counter markets, they are subject to the maximum markups/markdowns for fixed income securities noted above.

When your transaction is executed in a principal capacity, markups/markdowns are disclosed on client confirmation statements as a total dollar amount and as a percentage of the prevailing market price. Where a trade is executed by Merrill as agent, markups/markdowns are not charged but commissions may be charged and will be disclosed on client confirmation statements. Commissions are subject to the same maximums as the markups/markdowns described above.

Mutual fund arrangements. We have prepared and provided to you a document entitled [Mutual Fund Investing](#), which goes into greater detail on fees and expenses for mutual fund share classes available through us. Fees and expenses in a mutual fund, including the sales charges paid by the fund to Merrill in connection with a purchase of fund shares, reduce the net asset value of the fund and the investment return. Actual sales charges and trails, breakpoints and sales waivers are controlled by each fund's prospectus and vary according to type of strategy and fund. Please refer to each fund's specific prospectus to understand the particular features of each share class. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) maintains a Mutual Fund Expense Analyzer tool on its website at <http://www.finra.org/fundanalzyer> that may help you in making a decision about which share class is best for you.

Merrill has entered into agreements with various mutual fund families or their service providers to be paid for sub-accounting and other services. Each fund's operating costs include (like other mutual fund expenses) its allocable share of the fees and expenses of these services. These service arrangements generally vary by mutual fund. The sub-accounting service fee is deducted directly from the client's investment in the mutual fund and/or paid by the fund's service providers. In addition, mutual fund sponsors or managers pay Merrill a fee for marketing support services that compensates us for the services we provide to our financial advisors and to third-party mutual fund sponsors and distributors, for ongoing maintenance of information and for due diligence relating to the offering of mutual funds at Merrill.