



# Understanding your new Retirement Choice, Retirement Choice Plus Annuity contracts

## For plan participants

As of April 24, 2018, Grand Valley State University will use TIAA's Retirement Choice and Retirement Choice Plus annuity contracts for all future contributions, rollovers and transfers into the retirement plans. To help you better understand how these new annuity contracts work, here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

### Q. Why is Grand Valley State University using new annuity contracts?

A. The new Retirement Choice/Retirement Choice Plus annuity contracts can help Grand Valley State University to effectively manage their plans, including through the monitoring of investments and expenses, adding and/or removing investment options, and transferring account balances to alternate investment options in the plan. Generally, any changes to the plan's investment options should follow Grand Valley State University's investment policy, and you should receive prior notice of any changes. Please note that all assets and any earnings in the old (existing) and new annuity contracts are used to fund your retirement account. Your retirement account is for your benefit, subject to your plan's vesting rules.

### Q. How are the new contracts different?

A. Most differences between the contracts relate to the TIAA Traditional Annuity (issued by Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America). The Retirement Choice/Retirement Choice Plus annuity contracts have a minimum guaranteed interest crediting rate for TIAA Traditional between 1% and 3%, determined annually. This adjustable rate guarantee allows TIAA to take less risk under the prevailing interest rate environment, and can provide the potential for higher total interest crediting rates through TIAA's potential declaration of additional amounts of interest.\* Additionally, the Retirement Choice contract gives you the ability to withdraw your money from TIAA Traditional in fewer installments than under the old contracts. For more details about the differences between the contracts (including the differences in withdrawal restrictions), see the charts on the following pages.

### Q. How will this change affect the balances in my current contracts?

A. Your current annuity account balances in your old annuity contracts will remain in those contracts unless you choose

to move them. However, any new contributions, rollovers and external transfers that you make on or after April 24, 2018 will go into the new Retirement Choice/Retirement Choice Plus annuity contracts.

### Q. Can I move my money between the old and new contracts?

A. Once the new contracts go into effect, you may move accumulations in annuity and mutual fund options out of your old contracts to the new contracts, subject to the rules of your retirement plan and any applicable restrictions on the options. However, any money moved out of the old contracts cannot be moved back into them. Money moved out of TIAA Traditional in the old contracts will no longer receive the 3% minimum guaranteed rate and will lose applicable "vintages." This may impact the amount of lifetime income you can receive at retirement. In some cases the effect on the amount of your lifetime income can be significant, particularly if you expect to retire within 10 years or so and are considering converting some or all of your TIAA Traditional savings to begin a stream of lifetime annuity income. You should compare the potential lifetime credited rates for TIAA Traditional before transferring from TIAA Traditional in the old contracts to the new contracts. You can do this by logging in to *My Account* at [TIAA.org](http://TIAA.org) or calling the number below.

### Q. How do I transfer money to the new contracts?

A. If you have reviewed the different benefits and features in your plan's new contracts and decide that you want to transfer money to the new contracts, call TIAA **800-842-2252**.

For detailed information on the features of the different contracts, consult the TIAA and CREF Contract Comparison Chart on the next page.

\* All guarantees are subject to TIAA's claims-paying ability. Additional amounts when declared remain in effect for the "declaration year" which begins each March 1 in the accumulation phase and January 1 in the payout phase. Additional amounts are not guaranteed for future years.

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### TIAA and CREF annuity contract comparison chart

	Old Contract	New Contract	Old Contract	New Current
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Retirement Annuity (RA)</b>	<b>Retirement Choice (RC) Annuity</b>	<b>Supplemental Retirement Annuity (SRA) and Group Supplemental Retirement Annuity (GSRA)</b>	<b>Retirement Choice Plus (RCP) Annuity</b>
TIAA Traditional Annuity minimum guaranteed rate during the accumulation (or “pay-in”) phase <sup>1</sup>	3.00% for all premiums remitted since 1979.	Between 1.00% and 3.00%: Rate redetermined annually on January 1. Applies to premiums deposited during the applicable calendar year and is guaranteed for 10 years.	3.00% for all premiums remitted since 1979.	Between 1.00% and 3.00%: Rate redetermined annually on March 1. Applies to all accumulations and premiums deposited during the period.
Potential for additional amounts of interest during the accumulation (or “pay-in”) phase	Your balance in TIAA Traditional earns a total interest crediting rate, which comprises a minimum guaranteed rate described above and the potential for additional amounts of interest when declared by TIAA’s Board of Trustees. The additional amounts, when declared, remain in effect through the “declaration year,” which begins each March 1 for accumulating annuities and January 1 for payout annuities. Interest in excess of the guaranteed amount is not guaranteed for periods other than the period for which it is declared.			
TIAA Traditional Annuity guaranteed minimum payment amount <sup>1</sup>	Based on 2.50% interest and a fixed-mortality table.	Based on 2.00% interest and a mortality table that is updated each year.	Based on 2.50% interest and a fixed-mortality table.	Based on 2.00% interest and a mortality table that is updated each year.
Transfers and cash withdrawals from TIAA Traditional Annuity <sup>2</sup>	RA: Lump-sum withdrawals are not available from TIAA Traditional. All withdrawals and transfers from the account must be paid in ten annual installments.	Lump-sum withdrawals are available from TIAA Traditional only within 120 days after termination of employment and are subject to a 2.5% surrender charge. All other withdrawals and transfers from the account must be paid in 84 monthly installments (7 years).	Lump-sum withdrawals and transfers available from TIAA Traditional without restrictions or charges.	Lump-sum withdrawals and transfers are available from TIAA Traditional without surrender charges. For certain RCP contracts, 90 day equity wash applies if competing funds exist (e.g. money market, short-term bond, self-directed brokerage accounts or the TIAA Real Estate Account). Transfers from TIAA Traditional can only be made to non-competing funds. Amount must remain in non-competing funds for 90 days before transferring to competing funds. (TIAA Contract form IGRSP-02-ACC/TIAA Certificate form IGRSP-CERT3-ACC)

<sup>1</sup> All guarantees are subject to TIAA’s claims-paying ability.

<sup>2</sup> Income and withdrawal options are subject to the terms of the employer plan. Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty, in addition to ordinary income tax.

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TIAA and CREF annuity contract comparison chart (*continued*)

	Old Contract	New Contract	Old Contract	New Current
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Retirement Annuity (RA)</b>	<b>Retirement Choice (RC) Annuity</b>	<b>Supplemental Retirement Annuity (SRA) and Group Supplemental Retirement Annuity (GSRA)</b>	<b>Retirement Choice Plus (RCP) Annuity</b>
Range of distribution options <sup>1</sup>	Lifetime income, fixed-period annuities, systematic and lump-sum cash withdrawals (except RA TIAA Traditional). Interest-only and required minimum distribution payments.	Lifetime income, systematic and lump-sum cash withdrawals, interest-only and required minimum distribution payments.	Lifetime income, fixed-period annuities, systematic and lump-sum withdrawals and required minimum distribution payments.	Lifetime income, systematic and lump-sum cash withdrawals, and required minimum distribution payments.
Fixed-period annuity payment options <sup>1</sup>	RA: Not available for TIAA Traditional. 2-30 years for TIAA and CREF variable annuities.	Not available	SRA: 2-30 years for all TIAA and CREF annuities. GSRA: 5-30 years for all TIAA and CREF annuities.	Not available
Retirement Transition Benefit <sup>1</sup>	If the plan permits, participants can take a cash distribution up to 10% of the amount being converted to lifetime income.	If the plan permits, participants can take a cash distribution up to 10% of the amount being converted to lifetime income.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Employer transfer of annuity assets	Employers cannot transfer TIAA and CREF annuity assets to other investments.  Under the terms of a group custodial agreement, employers may transfer the plan assets invested in mutual funds.	Employers can transfer TIAA and CREF annuity assets to other investments, subject to contract provisions.  However, assets in TIAA Traditional can only be transferred in 60 monthly installments without any surrender charge.  Under the terms of a group custodial agreement, employers may transfer the plan assets invested in mutual funds.	Employers cannot transfer TIAA and CREF annuity assets to other investments.  Under the terms of a group custodial agreement, employers may transfer the plan assets invested in mutual funds.	Employers can transfer TIAA and CREF annuity assets to other investments, subject to contract provisions.  However, assets in TIAA Traditional can only be transferred in 60 monthly installments without any surrender charge.  Under the terms of a group custodial agreement, employers may transfer the plan assets invested in mutual funds.

<sup>1</sup> Income and withdrawal options are subject to the terms of the employer plan. Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty, in addition to ordinary income tax.



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Under Texas law, the benefits of an annuity purchased under the Optional Retirement Program are available only if a participant attains the age of 70½ years or terminates participation in the program. For these purposes, a person terminates participation in the Optional Retirement Program, without losing any accrued benefits, by: (1) death; (2) retirement; or (3) termination of employment in all Texas public institutions of higher education.

TIAA Traditional is a guaranteed insurance contract and not an investment for federal securities law purposes.

TIAA Traditional is a fixed annuity product issued by Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA), New York, NY.

Annuity contracts contain terms for keeping them in force. Exclusions, restrictions, limitations and reductions in benefits will, in certain situations, apply to annuity contracts. Your financial consultant or advisor can provide you with costs and complete details.

**Investment, insurance and annuity products are not FDIC insured are not bank guaranteed, are not bank deposits, are not insured by any federal government agency, are not a condition to any banking service or activity, and may lose value.**

Retirement Annuity (RA) TIAA Contract form series 1000.24/CREF Certificate series C1000.11-STD.1; Supplemental Retirement Annuity (SRA) TIAA Contract form series 1200.8/CREF Certificate series C1200.4; Group Supplemental Retirement Annuity (GSRA) TIAA Contract form series G1250.1/CREF Certificate series CG1250.1; Group Annuity (GA) TIAA Contract Form Series 6008.8 and 6008.9-ACC/CREF contract series C6008.1. Retirement Choice (RC) TIAA Contract form Series - IGRS-01-84-ACC/TIAA Certificate Series IGRS-CERT2-84-ACC/CREF Contract form series: CIGRS-01/CREF Certificate series: CIGRS-CERT1; Retirement Choice Plus (RCP) TIAA Contract form Series - IGRSP-01-84-ACC/TIAA Certificate Series - IGRSP-CERT2-84-ACC/CREF Contract form series: CIGRSP-01 CREF Certificate series: CIGRSPCERT1; TIAA Stable Value TIAA Contract form series - SV-01/TIAA Certificate series - SV-CERT1.

TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., and Nuveen Securities, LLC, Members FINRA and SIPC, distribute securities products. Annuity contracts and certificates are issued by Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA) and College Retirement Equities Fund (CREF), New York, NY. Each is solely responsible for its own financial condition and contractual obligations.

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