

Your Plan for Stock Market Success

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Learn the Market
Position Yourself to Win Ron Ianieri





Ron Ianieri

Ron Ianieri started his career at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange working on the Foreign Currency Options Floor just after the crash of 1987. After two years he moved to the Equity Options Floor and was trained in option theory by well-known technical and analytical traders Cooper, Neff and Associates. He then joined TFM Investment Group where he served as the Options Specialist in Dell Computer during the early 1990's at a time when Dell was one of the busiest option books in the US. During this period, Ron Ianieri began to develop his highly respected *Options Trader Trainee Course*. Today he serves as Chief Options Strategist for Options University, which he co-founded.

Introduction

Whether you intend to trade yourself or prefer to hire a broker to do your trading for you, your success will largely depend on how well you educate yourself about the stock market. The reality is, brokers are salespeople. If they make a bad deal, they get a different job, while you—the unhappy investor—take the financial loss.

Most people who fail in the stock market lose their money because they did not educate themselves before they plunged into trading. You can avoid that costly mistake by learning from Ron Ianieri, a seasoned professional floor trader and nationally acclaimed educator. With this program, you will build the foundation of knowledge that can earn you consistent profits in good markets and bad.

To follow up with Ron Ianieri, visit OptionsUniversity.com/trumpu Additional Trump University resources available at TrumpUniversity.com/wealthplan

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My Goal Commitments for This Program

The outcomes I seek from Your Plan for Stock Market Success include:

I intend to achieve these outcomes by:

I commit to spending at least _____ hours per week for _____ weeks to master this program.

Signed:

_____/____/_____

Embark on Your Investing Education

Purpose	To become a consistently profitable investor, understand that education is the key. You must work to acquire the best possible education to ensure your investing success.
Success Tip	Lay out a plan defining a logical progression of your educational goals that will lead you to become the successful investor that you envision.
Action	 Assess your current level of understanding. It is easier to get to where you want to go when you know where you are starting. Earmark time and dollars toward your education. Just like college, every hour and dollar invested in your education comes back ten-fold. Allocate a minimum of three hours per week to pursue your investment education. Allocate real dollars to your educational budget. Remember, quality education comes at a price. Make sure you get a big bang for your educational buck. Be a discretionary buyer of classes and books. There is a lot of misinformation and inaccurate information out there. Check that you are only buying the "real goods"! Contact the best you know. Reach out to a friend, family member or colleague who you consider to be the most knowledgeable investor you personally know. Ask them how they got started with their investing education and what materials helped them most.
Self Report	Date started: Date completed: Key learning/result:

Understand the Market Mechanism

Purpose	To become successful in stock market investing, start becoming aware of what the market is and how it functions.
Success Tip	Understanding the roles and rules of the players in the market can help you to understand what you could do to make a profit.
Action	Required reading:
	Acquire and read: <i>Standard & Poor's Guide to Understanding Money</i> & <i>Investing</i> .
	When you invest, you not only become involved with the company you have invested in, but also the institution that allows you to invest. This means you need to know about the stock exchange as a business entity.
	Acquire and read: <i>The Wall Street Journal's Complete Money and Investing Guidebook</i> .
Self Report	Date started:
	Date completed:
	Key learning/result:

Begin to Develop Your Universe of Stocks

Purpose	Identify the sectors and individual stocks that best suit your skill set, personality, style and interest.
Success Tip	You cannot trade everything! Sectors and stocks that are a natural fit for you will help ease your entry, maintain your enthusiasm, and aid you in profit-making.
Action	Start out on a big-picture basis when approaching the market. Begin to "drill down" into industries, then sectors, and eventually specific companies or sector indices that you are the most familiar with or that hold the greatest interest for you.
	1. Begin with the industry you are currently working in.
	With all of the things you are trying to learn, it is fortunate that you are already familiar with something. Without possibly realizing it, you probably know a lot about the fundamentals of the industry and stocks of the business you currently are working in. Starting here will cut down on the time of your initial learning curve.
	2. Locate and identify industries or companies that are of interest to you.
	There is no way for you to trade everything. You must narrow down your scope and concentrate on a few areas. Include sectors and stocks that interest you, so investing will be more like a hobby than a job. Very few people excel at things they do not enjoy!

Action	3. Locate and identify some industries or companies that are in the news or "hot". There will be times when your universe will be slow or stagnant. At these times you may have to go outside your universe to locate opportunities. On such occasions, it is best to find stocks that are moving and in the news. If you then find those stocks to be interesting, you can always add them into your universe.
Self Report	Date started: Date completed: Key learning/result:

Research Fundamentals and Financials of Sectors and Securities that Interest You

Purpose	Acquire the knowledge to appraise the risks and rewards of investing in your areas of interest.
Success Tip	The best investors are informed about the economy, the markets, and especially the sectors and securities they choose to be most active in.
Action	 Now it's time to delve into the "nuts and bolts" of the companies and sectors to analyze them for potential investments. Visit each of the following Internet websites: Morningstar's Stock Screener Zacks.com Stock Screener Yahoo! Finance and it's Stock Screener MSN Money and it's Stock Screener Marketwatch.com and it's Stock Screener Many of the sites can provide you with a wealth of information beyond their stock screeners. Take notes on the type of information that's available to you from each website. Most of them provide predefined screens and many of these come along with commentary to support the screen's aim. This is a great way to begin to learn how and why to discriminate between stocks. Continue to practice screening for investment candidates and
	begin to note common characteristics of the stocks that you're attracted to. Obviously, you will begin to develop your own style of trading. You want to
	find stocks that fit your comfort zone rather than adjust your comfort zone to fit the stock.

Action	3. Use the power of the Internet to locate free, independent research on the industries and stocks you have selected to be in your universe.
	Today, there are many independent firms offering an unbiased look at the financial well-being of many different industries and individual stocks. Get your information on this from companies that have NO affiliations with brokerage firms.
	4. Take trials of Reuters Power Screener, Smart Money's Stock Screener and other screeners once you've become acclimated to the free screeners mentioned above.
	Some may save you time or offer performance-enhancing features. Different services offer different tools aimed at screening through the countless amount of potential investment candidates. You need to check a variety of these sites to find the ones you like best.
Self Report	Date started:
	Date completed:
	Key learning/result:

Action Step 5 Utilize an Expert

Purpose	Become informed in a coherent, time-efficient manner while gaining unique yet practical wisdom through mentorship.
Success Tip	Enroll in classes taught by a respected instructor who is a successful professional with lots of experience and a solid resume in your area of focus.
Action	Weigh the "costs" very carefully when deciding if you'd like to hire a mentor. Good ones are not inexpensive, but what you pay in mentorship you will more than save by the serious market mishaps you'll learn to avoid.
	 Make sure the instructor has considerable professional experience in trading. The best instructors are ones who have been working in and trading for a professional trading firm for at least eight years.
	 Make sure that the instructor is able to convey information to you in an unbiased way. You want to learn how you can trade successfully in a consistent manner, not how the instructor trades.
	• Ask for three references. Call or email those former students.
	• With the former students, discuss the quality of their education and how much value they found in it. Ask about course coverage to make sure that your main educational areas of interest are taught by the instructor.
	 When you find a good instructor, stick with that person! There are not a lot of good ones around.
Self Report	Date started:
	Date completed:
	Key learning/result:

Select a Broker Specializing in Your Favorite Securities

Purpose	Choose a broker who specializes in the securities you plan to trade most frequently so you can benefit from competitive prices, wide access, timely executions, expert advice, advanced tools and unique research.
Success Tip	Not all brokers are created equal. Price should not be the determining factor, especially at the start of your active investing career. Expert advice and useful tools can be well worth a slightly higher commission rate.
Action	Nowadays, commission cost has been brought down to a level where most brokers are priced competitively in the same price range. Other factors have become more important in differentiating the best from the not-so-good brokers.
	• Determine how active you plan to be as you begin investing. This will help you to select the right broker.
	• Decide if you would prefer to start investing with the assistance of a true brokerage professional or would rather go solo with an online broker. Consider having an account with both to leverage the positives of both arrangements.
	 Weigh the broker's prices on your preferred trading product against the quality of their research, their depth of knowledge and their willingness to work for you given your account size.

Action	Research available brokers, both online and traditional, if you plan on hiring the services of a market veteran. Construct a brokerage comparison grid to help determine which broker is the best fit for you at this stage of your investing career. Consider these factors in your rankings: Account minimum funding levels Account fees Commission schedules for trades: Online trades Telephone trades Trades with a broker's assistance Account features: Checking and debit card availability Compatibility with other financial software It is very important to evaluate the scope and quality (usefulness) of the broker's online tools for execution and pre-trade and post- trade analysis.
Self Report	Date started: Date completed: Key learning/result:

Learn the Basics of Technical Analysis

Purpose	Understand technical analysis to smarten your selection of opportunities, timing for entries and exits, and to advance your analysis for risk/reward ratios.
Success Tip	Pattern repetition (business cycles) is a common and accepted principle in all aspects of the business world including the markets. This gives credence to the concept of pattern recognition (technical analysis).
Action	Select one of the following paths:
	Path 1:
	Acquire an introductory guide that covers the basics of technical analysis (recommended: <i>Technical Analysis from A to Z</i> , by Steven B. Achelis). Take notes as you go through the material. Be sure to note the following:
	 Which type of technical analysis seems best suited for your style of investing?
	 Of those, which areas of technical analysis are most accessible for you? Which are least?
	Let your notes guide you toward which educational resources you should acquire next. Here are some books that are "required reading" for chartists:

Action	Suggested Reading List:
	Technical Analysis of Stock Trends, 8th Edition by Robert D. Edwards, John Magee
	<i>Technical Analysis Explained</i> by Martin J. Pring
	<i>Technical Analysis of the Financial Markets</i> by John J. Murphy
	<i>Getting Started in Technical Analysis</i> by Jack D. Schwager
	<i>New Concepts in Technical Trading Systems</i> by J. Welles Wilder
	And/or:
	Path 2:
	Enroll in an online 'Introduction to Technical Analysis' course. Look for one that is taught by active or former professional traders who use technical analysis extensively in their own trading. Usually these courses permit live Q&A, which allows students to clarify difficult or confusing subjects immediately with the instructor. Also, they are normally recorded so that students can revisit the subject matter on demand.
	Combining both paths usually produces the best results!
Self Report	Date started:
	Date completed:
	Key learning/result:

Learn Options Theory and Application

Purpose	Educate yourself to take control of the risk-management process while intelligently leveraging your investment capital.
Success Tip	Unless you're already an options expert, forget all that you've heard. Options usage by personal investors is exploding and with good reason. Harnessing the inherent power of options can supercharge your investment performance by increasing profitability and, more importantly, minimizing risk!
Action	Select one of the following paths:
	Path 1:
	Purchase a comprehensive book that covers the fundamentals of options theory as it is taught to professional traders (recommended: <i>Options Trading 101: From Theory to Application,</i> available through www.optionsuniversity. com).
	This resource should also contain profiles of the various options strategies along with a full accounting of risks (the "Greeks") and synthetic positions. Take notes as you read through the material.
	If after finishing this primer on options theory and application you are still unclear on any questions, you need to proceed to Path 2.
	REMEMBER: It's critical to be very clear on how options work and the risks involved in utilizing them. Options are a powerful tool but they need to be used properly because of the leverage they provide and the types of risk they entail.

Action	And/or:	
	Path 2:	
	Purchase a professionally produced options course or enroll in an online course that covers theory, strategy, and application.	
	• Seek out a company with classes taught by active or former professional traders who use options as their primary tool in investing.	
• Check with previous students to see how they gauge their experi- with the class and instructor. Also ask questions to determine whe these former students are currently trading and how successful to been at it.		
	 Make sure that the class provides for a live Q&A dialogue where students can have challenging material addressed or re-addressed by the class instructor. 	
Make sure these classes are recorded so that students have some f with their own schedules. Most companies will archive the classes repeated viewing by students.		
Self Report	Date started:	
Date completed:	Date completed:	
	Key learning/result:	

Recognize Your Strengths and Weaknesses

Purpose	Become cognizant of personal elements that can aid/ hinder your investment development and performance.
Success Tip	By being aware of your strengths and weaknesses, you'll be on guard to analyze their manifestations in your investing. Psychology is a very important component of active investing. Investors tend to become emotionally affected when real money is at risk, and many take losing badly, which in turn produces additional losses. Within your trading journal, you'll need to include comments about your psychological, emotional and physical states at the time you make your investing decisions. This information will be invaluable when you go to assess ways to improve your performance. Removing negative behavior patterns and maintaining positive ones will be the largest single factor in determining your success or failure.
Action	Create an "S&W file" that lists your personal strengths and weaknesses and catalogues your psychological, emotional and physical states each time you make an investing decision. Keep a copy of this with your trading plan and as part of your trading journal. You'll reference your S&W against your plan and your journal to ensure that you're utilizing your strengths and minimizing your weaknesses.
	Catalog your top five strengths that you believe will benefit your investing:
	Examples:
	 Accustomed to working with numbers Voracious reader

Action	Catalog your top five weaknesses that you believe will present challenges to your investing:	
	Examples:	
	Lack of investing confidence or knowledgeLack of patience	
	You need to manage your strengths and weaknesses to manage your psyche and the investing process. Ideally, you'll optimize your strengths when the investing environment is conducive for it. When the markets are challenging, you'll need to prevent your weaknesses from undermining your results. Like anything else, you need to be good on both offense and defense.	
Self Report	Date started:	
Date completed:		
	Key learning/result:	

Build Your Own Trading Plan (and Stick to It)

Purpose	Establish the methods and governing guidelines that will maintain your discipline and prudence as you learn to be a successful investor.	
Success Tip	Avoid approaching investing as someone that's sitting down at a casino table. Chance is involved, but true professionals execute a plan that's designed to allow the probabilities to work in their favor over time. Treat investing as a business, not a game.	
Action	Craft a written trading plan that places particular importance on continued education, the opportunity-selection process, risk- management and diversification. These are always important but even more so at the start of your investing career. Your trading plan should include the following:	
	 Realistic goals given your level of experience, resources and investment capital 	
	 An outline of your trading protocol that includes each step in succession and the requirements to initiate a trade 	
	 How you plan to regularly develop and monitor a list of trading candidates 	
	• A money-management system focused on position sizing and adequate diversification	
	 Lists of your strengths and weaknesses with reminders of what you need to keep doing and prevent yourself from doing 	

Action	 A comprehensive trading journal that includes a psychological commentary on yourself 	
	 Your plan to analyze your trading journal for across-the-board improvement (psychology, methodology and performance) 	
	• A plan to identify areas that need improvement via proper education	
	Successful professional traders methodically execute their battle-tested trading plans because the plans are designed to put the probabilities to work for them. That's the purpose of the plan. If you treat investing like a business and follow a well-crafted plan, you will align yourself with the probabilities consistently, and over time that will greatly benefit you.	
Self Report	Date started:	
	Date completed:	
	Key learning/result:	

Practice Paper Trading and Using Your Trade Journal

Purpose	Become acclimated with the investing process and monitor both your own psychology and the results being produced by your trading plan and risk-management system.	
Success Tip	Paper-trade the strategies you have learned and track the results in a trade journal before putting up real money. Real money can change everything for many people, but paper trading is practice, and practicing will always improve things in some way.	
Action	Ideally, your paper trading will incorporate a "demo" account that's connected to live or current data through your brokerage software. This software should help you track your positions and maintain a record of all the transactions that you make. Remember the reason for keeping a journal is to refine your investing process so that you repeat the positives as much as possible while reducing the negatives.	
	Trading Journal Instructions:	
	• Enter each trade with all pertinent details.	
	• Include the rationale for why you initiated those trades.	
	 Construct electronic support for your trades by keeping a folder for each one if that is practical. 	
	• Note what you did correctly according to your trading plan and how you'll continue doing that. Also note what you did wrong and how you need to improve on that.	
	 Avoid concentrating strictly on problems with your investing. This will make the journal one-sided and possibly make you resistant to maintaining it. 	
	• Journal entries should be made in the morning before the market opens or the previous evening. Summarize your thoughts about the markets before the action starts.	

Action	 Include your specific "game plan" for that day for your portfolio. 	
	 Maintain timely, cumulative trading statistics. These should include: Number of trades Average profit on wins Average profit on losses 	
	Calculate these factors by win/loss and in the aggregate: — Duration of each trade — Risk/ reward ratio average	
	• Make comments on the important things that impacted the markets that day and your expectation for how they will affect the days ahead. This will help you learn to better interpret news and events over time.	
	 List the most common and repetitive emotional thoughts that you had. You'll need to review these to eliminate destructive psychology. Consider having your journal evaluated by a fellow investor or mentor. They may be able to isolate issues that your own personal biases obscure from you. 	
This journal will serve as a mirror that will force you to look at your in the success or failure of your investing and also the quality of your m You'll need to (and should want to) review your journal regularly. It so like quite an undertaking, but remember that you will have a record progress through journaling. Nothing else will help you evaluate area improvement or bolster your confidence the way that a trading journ The most important reflection from your trading journal asks: "Did I to own trading plan?"		
Self Report	Date started:	
	Date completed:	
	Key learning/result:	

Start Small in Trading Real Money

Purpose	Acclimate yourself to the markets gradually and successfully while minimizing the impact of "growing pains."
Success Tip	Keep yourself focused on your strategy application and the state of your psyche. Trading success is something that is achieved over time, so focus less on results initially and more on your own personal consistency of execution.
Action	 Study these beginning guidelines and adjust your trading plan to address the relevant ones if it currently does not. 1. Don't allow any single trade to be larger than 5 percent of your total portfolio. 2. Plan to utilize only a fraction (25 percent) of your intended investment capital. 3. Under no circumstances should you "double down." 4. Stick to your trading and risk-management plan. 5. Stick to what has worked for you in paper trading. 6. Minimize your emotions as much as possible. 7. After several months of consistent performance that is similar to your paper-trading results, increase your capital usage to 50 percent of your eventual size. 8. Maintain a reasonable degree of diversification amongst your holdings.
	9. Review your daily trading journal to stay disciplined and focused.
Self Report	Date started: Date completed: Key learning/result:

Stay Apprised of the Markets

Purpose	Treat your investments the same way that successful professionals treat theirs by staying apprised of the markets. Things can change rapidly, and you must be prepared to react.
Success Tip	Most active traders who are on top of things find a way to check in with the markets regularly through several windows. Make your approach part of your daily routine.
Action	 The ideal would be to check all the points listed below, but that may be too time-consuming. Pick out at least three to do regularly. The more the better, but do what you can. Read commentary websites and newspapers to keep up on overnight news. Be sure to check on news that can affect your positions: Economic (including economic releases) Market Political International Sector-specific Industry Company-specific Subscribe to a news service for your PDA/cell phone. Set news and price alerts on your stocks that are automatically forwarded to your PDA/cell phone. Periodically check the news and prices by visiting an encompassing
	 Periodically check the news and prices by visiting an encompassing website.

Action	• Listen to audio "market wraps" that are available over the Internet.	
	• Take advantage of free webinars offered by many investment-education websites. This is a great way to get exposed to new ideas and techniques.	
Self Report	Date started:	
Date completed: Key learning/result:	Date completed:	
	Key learning/result:	

Keep Expanding Your Education

Purpose	Maintain or raise your level of success by staying current with and responsive to changing market dynamics.	
Success Tip	Everything you learn will enhance your investing approach and eventually your results as the new information becomes internalized and produces synergies. This really isn't different from any other professional field of practice.	
Action	1. Subscribe to magazines, journals and educational websites.	
	2. Take advanced, professionally-taught, online classes.	
3. Perform your own research by acquiring software that includes analy mass-automated studies and back-testing capabilities.		
	4. Join forums and investor groups for ideas and to learn the best practices of other successful independent traders.	
	5. Explore alternative trading approaches to develop a portfolio of strategies. This will diversify both your approaches and holdings.	
Self Report	Date started:	
	Date completed:	
	Key learning/result:	

Ron Ianieri Has More to Teach You

If you've learned from this presentation on the Wealth Builder's Action Plan, you can find more great tools and advice at: OptionsUniversity.com/trumpu

For further resources on **Stock Market Success** – check out the special interest section at Trump University for users of *The Wealth Builder's Action Plan:*

TrumpUniversity.com/wealthplan

Credits

The Wealth Builder's Action Plan

Concept	James Burgin, Jon Ward
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