

Summary Prospectus

OCTOBER 1, 2016



TIAA-CREF Lifestyle Conservative Fund of the TIAA-CREF Funds

Class:	Institutional	Advisor	Premier	Retirement	Retail
Ticker:	TCSIX	TLSHX	TLSPX	TSCTX	TSCLX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's prospectus and other information about the Fund online at www.tiaa.org/lis_pro. You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800-223-1200 or by sending an e-mail request to disclosure@tiaa.org. The Fund's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), each dated October 1, 2016, as subsequently supplemented, and the sections of the Fund's shareholder report dated May 31, 2016 from "Portfolio of Investments" through "Notes to Financial Statements," are incorporated into this Summary Prospectus by reference and may be obtained free of charge at the website, phone number or e-mail address noted above.

Investment objective

The Fund seeks long-term total return, consisting of current income and capital appreciation.

Fees and expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund:

SHAREHOLDER FEES (fees paid directly from your investment)

	Institutional Class	Advisor Class	Premier Class	Retirement Class	Retail Class
Maximum sales charge imposed on purchases (percentage of offering price)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Maximum deferred sales charge	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Maximum sales charge imposed on reinvested dividends and other distributions	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Redemption or exchange fee	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Account maintenance fee (annual fee on accounts under \$2,000)	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$15.00

ANNUAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	Institutional Class	Advisor Class	Premier Class	Retirement Class	Retail Class
Management fees	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
Distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees	—	—	0.15%	—	0.25%
Other expenses	0.13%	0.21% ¹	0.14%	0.38%	0.16%
Acquired Fund fees and expenses ²	0.37%	0.37%	0.37%	0.37%	0.37%
Total annual Fund operating expenses	0.60%	0.68%	0.76%	0.85%	0.88%
Waivers and expense reimbursements ³	(0.13)%	(0.13)%	(0.14)%	(0.13)%	(0.13)%
Total annual Fund operating expenses after fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement	0.47%	0.55%	0.62%	0.72%	0.75%

¹ Estimate is for the current fiscal year.

² “Acquired Fund fees and expenses” are the Fund’s proportionate amount of the expenses of any investment companies or pools in which it invests. These expenses are not paid directly by Fund shareholders. Instead, Fund shareholders bear these expenses indirectly because they reduce Fund performance. Because “Acquired Fund fees and expenses” are included in the chart above, the Fund’s operating expenses here will not correlate with the expenses included in the Financial highlights in this Prospectus and the Fund’s annual report.

³ Under the Fund’s expense reimbursement arrangements, the Fund’s investment adviser, Teachers Advisors, LLC (“Advisors”), has contractually agreed to reimburse the Fund for any Total annual Fund operating expenses (excluding interest, taxes, brokerage commissions or other transactional expenses, Acquired Fund fees and expenses and extraordinary expenses) that exceed: (i) 0.10% of average daily net assets for Institutional Class shares; (ii) 0.25% of average daily net assets for Advisor Class shares; (iii) 0.25% of average daily net assets for Premier Class shares; (iv) 0.35% of average daily net assets for Retirement Class shares; and (v) 0.49% of average daily net assets for Retail Class shares of the Fund. These expense reimbursement arrangements will continue through at least September 30, 2017, unless changed with approval of the Board of Trustees.

Example

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in shares of the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all your shares at the end of those periods. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund’s operating expenses, before expense reimbursements, remain the same. The example assumes that the Fund’s fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement agreement will remain in place through September 30, 2017, but that there will be no waiver or expense reimbursement agreement in effect thereafter. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	Institutional Class	Advisor Class	Premier Class	Retirement Class	Retail Class
1 year	\$ 48	\$ 56	\$ 63	\$ 74	\$ 77
3 years	\$ 179	\$ 205	\$ 229	\$ 258	\$ 268
5 years	\$ 322	\$ 366	\$ 409	\$ 459	\$ 475
10 years	\$ 738	\$ 835	\$ 929	\$ 1,037	\$ 1,072

Portfolio turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund’s performance. During the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 26% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal investment strategies

The Fund is a “fund of funds” that invests in Institutional Class shares of other funds of the Trust and potentially in other investment pools or investment products (collectively, the “Underlying Funds”). The Fund is designed for investors seeking long-term total return, consisting of current income and capital appreciation, through a relatively stable asset allocation strategy targeting a conservative risk-return profile. The Fund’s investment adviser, Teachers Advisors, LLC (“Advisors”), generally seeks to meet the Fund’s investment objective by investing: (1) approximately 40% of the Fund’s assets in equity Underlying Funds and (2) approximately 60% of the Fund’s assets in fixed-income Underlying Funds. The Fund may deviate from these target allocations by up to ten percentage points depending upon current market conditions and outlook.

The Underlying Funds’ allocation targets generally represent targets for investments in equity and fixed-income asset classes. Within the equity and fixed-income asset classes, Advisors allocates the Fund’s investments to particular market sectors (which may include U.S. equity, international equity, fixed-income and short-term fixed-income) represented by various Underlying Funds. To maintain an appropriate allocation among the Underlying Funds, the portfolio managers monitor the domestic and foreign equity markets, as well as overall financial and economic conditions. The Fund may sometimes be more heavily weighted toward equities or fixed-income than the target allocations, if the portfolio managers believe market conditions warrant. For example, the Fund may increase its holdings in fixed-income Underlying Funds in periods when the portfolio managers believe the equity markets will decline. The market sector allocations and Underlying Fund allocations may also be changed over time by the portfolio managers, including the addition and removal of market sectors and Underlying Funds in which the Fund invests in light of the Fund’s desired level of risk and potential return at a particular time as evaluated by the portfolio managers based on a mix of qualitative and quantitative factors. The portfolio

managers may also opportunistically purchase other Funds or other investment pools or investment products, based on the portfolio managers' evaluation of the market sectors and/or Underlying Funds without prior notice to shareholders.

As a result of its investments in the Underlying Funds, the Fund's returns will reflect investments in a mix of domestic and foreign equities of companies of various sizes and a variety of domestic and foreign fixed-income instruments of private and governmental issuers of varying maturities and credit qualities.

As part of the Fund's ability to invest in unaffiliated investment products or pools noted above, the Fund may invest in exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") and exchange-traded notes ("ETNs") to gain exposure to various market sectors or securities in order to effect its asset allocation strategy. Additionally, the Fund may use ETFs and ETNs for cash management, hedging or defensive purposes. ETFs and ETNs will be subject to the risks associated with the types of securities or sectors that they track, while ETNs, which are structured as fixed-income obligations, will also be subject to the general risks of fixed-income securities, including credit risk.

The Fund's asset class allocations, market sector allocations within each asset class, and Underlying Fund allocations within each market sector as of June 30, 2016, are listed in the chart below. These allocations may change over time. Underlying Fund allocations in particular may change from year to year.

Asset Class	Allocation	Market Sector	Allocation	Underlying Funds	Allocation			
EQUITY	39.97%	U.S. Equity	27.09%	• Large-Cap Value Fund	6.95%			
				• Large-Cap Growth Fund	6.87%			
				• Growth & Income Fund	5.87%			
				• Enhanced Large-Cap Value Index Fund	2.30%			
				• Enhanced Large-Cap Growth Index Fund	2.29%			
				• Small-Cap Equity Fund	2.07%			
				• Mid-Cap Value Fund	0.41%			
				• Mid-Cap Growth Fund	0.33%			
				International Equity	12.88%	• International Equity Fund	4.40%	
						• International Opportunities Fund	2.98%	
		• Enhanced International Equity Index Fund	2.54%					
		• Emerging Markets Equity Fund	2.34%					
		FIXED-INCOME	60.03%	Fixed-Income	40.09%	• Bond Plus Fund	30.06%	
						• Bond Fund	9.01%	
• High-Yield Fund	1.02%							
Short-Term Fixed-Income	19.94%					• Short-Term Bond Fund	19.94%	
						• Money Market Fund	0.00%	
						Total	100.00%	100.00%

Principal investment risks

You could lose money over short or long periods by investing in this Fund. An investment in the Fund, due to the nature of the Fund's portfolio holdings, typically is subject to the following principal investment risks:

- **Asset Allocation Risk**—The risk that the Fund may not achieve its target allocations. In addition, there is the risk that the asset allocations may not achieve the desired risk-return characteristic or that the selection of Underlying Funds and the allocations among them will result in the Fund underperforming other similar funds or cause an investor to lose money.
- **Underlying Funds Risks**—The Fund is exposed to the risks of the Underlying Funds in which it invests in direct proportion to the amount of assets the Fund allocates to each Underlying Fund.
 - **Fixed-Income Underlying Funds Risks**—The risks of investing in fixed-income Underlying Funds include risks specific to their investment strategies, as well as risks related to the fixed-income markets in general, such as:
 - credit risk—The risk that a decline in an issuer’s financial position may prevent it from making principal and interest payments on fixed-income investments held by a Fund when due;
 - interest rate risk—The risk that the value or yield of fixed-income investments may decline if interest rates change, which could adversely affect a Fund’s income or the value of its holdings;
 - income volatility risk—The risk that the level of current income from a Fund’s portfolio of fixed-income securities may decline due to rapid and unpredictable changes in prevailing market interest rates;
 - call risk—The risk that, during periods of falling interest rates, an issuer may call (or repay) a fixed-income security prior to maturity, resulting in a decline in a Fund’s income; and
 - extension risk—The risk that during periods of rising interest rates, borrowers may pay off their mortgage loans later than expected, preventing a Fund from reinvesting principal proceeds at higher interest rates and resulting in less income than potentially available.
 - **Equity Underlying Funds Risks**—The risks of investing in equity Underlying Funds include risks specific to their investment strategies, as well as risks related to the equity markets in general, such as:
 - market risk—The risk that the price of equity investments may decline in response to general market and economic conditions or events, including conditions and developments outside of the financial markets;
 - issuer risk—The risk that an issuer’s earnings prospects and overall financial position will deteriorate, causing a decline in the value of the issuer’s financial instruments over short or extended periods of time; and
 - foreign investment risk—The increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, currency, market or economic developments compared to investments in U.S. issuers, which can result in greater market and price volatility.

- **Active Management Risk**—The risk that the strategy, investment selection or trading execution of Advisors could cause the Fund or an Underlying Fund to underperform its benchmark index or mutual funds with similar investment objectives.
- **Fund of Funds Risk**—The ability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective will depend in part upon the ability of the Underlying Funds to achieve their investment objectives. There can be no guarantee that any Underlying Fund will achieve its investment objective.

There can be no assurances that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. You should not consider the Fund to be a complete investment program. Please see the non-summary portion of the Prospectus for more detailed information about the risks described above, including the risks of the Underlying Funds.

Past performance

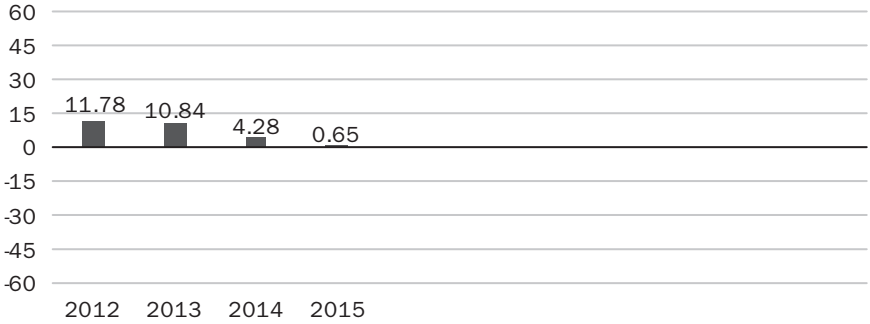
The following chart and table help illustrate some of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year to year. The bar chart shows the annual total returns of the Institutional Class of the Fund, before taxes, in each full calendar year since inception of the class. Because the expenses vary across share classes, the performance of the Institutional Class may vary from the other share classes. Below the bar chart are the best and worst returns of the Institutional Class for a calendar quarter during the full calendar-year periods covered by the bar chart. The performance table following the bar chart shows the Fund's average annual total returns for the Institutional, Premier, Retirement and Retail Classes over the applicable one-year, five-year, ten-year and since-inception periods ended December 31, 2015, and how those returns compare to those of certain broad-based securities market indices and a composite index based on the Fund's target allocations. The Advisor Class does not have a full year of performance and is not included in the table. After-tax performance is shown only for the Institutional Class shares, and after-tax returns for the other Classes of shares will vary from the after-tax returns presented for Institutional Class shares.

The returns shown below reflect previous agreements by Advisors to waive or reimburse the Fund and certain Underlying Funds for certain fees and expenses. Without these waivers and reimbursements, the returns of the Fund would have been lower. Past performance of the Fund (before and after taxes) is not necessarily an indication of how it will perform in the future. The indices listed below are unmanaged, and you cannot invest directly in an index. The returns for the indices reflect no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes.

For current performance information of each share class, including performance to the most recent month-end, please visit www.tiaa.org.

ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL CLASS SHARES (%)†

Lifestyle Conservative Fund



† The year-to-date return as of the most recent calendar quarter, which ended on June 30, 2016, was 2.76%.

Best quarter: 6.70%, for the quarter ended March 31, 2012. Worst quarter: -3.43%, for the quarter ended September 30, 2015.

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS

For the Periods Ended December 31, 2015

	Inception Date	One Year	Since Inception
Institutional Class	12/9/2011		
Return Before Taxes		0.65%	6.68%
Return After Taxes on Distributions		-0.57%	5.53%
Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares		0.76%	4.83%
Retail Class	12/9/2011		
Return Before Taxes		0.29%	6.35%
Retirement Class	12/9/2011		
Return Before Taxes		0.40%	6.41%
Premier Class	12/9/2011		
Return Before Taxes		0.41%	6.50%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes)		0.55%	2.28% [†]
Russell 3000 [®] Index (reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes)		0.48%	14.96% [†]
Lifestyle Conservative Fund Composite Index [‡] (reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes)		0.03%	5.91% [†]

Current performance of the Fund's shares may be higher or lower than that shown above.

[†] Performance is calculated from the inception date of the Institutional Class.

[‡] As of the close of business on December 31, 2015, the Lifestyle Conservative Fund Composite Index consisted of: 40.0% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index; 28.0% Russell 3000[®] Index; 20.0% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. 1-3 Year Government/Credit Bond Index; and 12.0% MSCI All Country World Index ex USA. The Fund's composite benchmark, the components that make up a composite benchmark and the method of calculating a composite benchmark's performance may vary over time.

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates in effect during the periods shown and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. The after-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their Fund shares through tax-deferred arrangements such as 401(a), 401(k) or 403(b) plans or Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). After-tax returns are shown for only one class, and after-tax returns for other classes will vary.

Portfolio management

Investment Adviser. The Fund's investment adviser is Teachers Advisors, LLC.

Portfolio Managers. The following persons manage the Fund on a day-to-day basis:

Name:	John Cunniff, CFA	Hans Erickson, CFA
Title:	Managing Director	Managing Director
Experience on Fund:	since 2011	since 2011

Purchase and sale of Fund shares

Institutional Class shares are available for purchase directly from the Fund by certain eligible investors (which include employee benefit plans and financial intermediaries). Advisor Class shares are available for purchase through certain financial intermediaries, employee benefit plans and insurance company separate accounts. Premier Class and Retirement Class shares are generally available for purchase through employee benefit plans or other types of savings plans or accounts. Retail Class shares are available for purchase through certain financial intermediaries or by contacting the Fund directly at 800-223-1200 or www.tiaa.org.

- The minimum initial investment is \$2 million and the minimum subsequent investment is \$1,000 for Institutional Class shares, unless an investor purchases shares by or through financial intermediaries that have entered into an appropriate agreement with the Fund or its affiliates. Employee benefit plans, fee-based managed account programs (“wrap accounts”), state sponsored 529 college savings plans, collective trust funds, investment companies or other pooled investment vehicles, thrifts, bank and trust companies that have entered into agreements to offer Institutional Class shares held in omnibus accounts on the books of the Fund are exempt from initial and subsequent investment minimums.
- There is no minimum initial or subsequent investment for Advisor Class shares. Advisor Class shares are primarily offered through certain financial intermediaries and employer-sponsored employee benefit plans.
- There is no minimum initial or subsequent investment for Premier Class shares. Premier Class shares are primarily offered through certain financial intermediaries and employer-sponsored employee benefit plans.
- There is no minimum initial or subsequent investment for Retirement Class shares. Retirement Class shares are primarily offered through employer-sponsored employee benefit plans.
- The minimum initial investment for Retail Class shares is \$2,000 per Fund account for Traditional IRA, Roth IRA and Coverdell accounts and \$2,500 for all other account types. Subsequent investments for all account types must be at least \$100.

Redeeming or Exchanging Shares. You can redeem (sell) or exchange your shares of the Fund on any day that the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) or its affiliated exchanges NYSE Arca Equities or NYSE MKT is open for trading (each such day a “Business Day”). Exchanges may be made for shares of the same share class of other funds offered by the Trust. If your shares are held through a third party, please contact that entity for applicable redemption or exchange requirements. If your shares are held directly with the Fund, contact the Fund directly in writing or by telephone.

Tax information

The Fund intends to make distributions to shareholders that may be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains. Distributions made to tax-exempt shareholders or shareholders who hold Fund shares in a tax-deferred account are generally not subject to income tax in the current year, but redemptions made from tax-deferred accounts may be subject to income tax.

Payments to broker-dealers and other financial intermediary compensation

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and/or its related companies may pay the financial intermediary for providing investor services. The Fund's related companies may also pay the financial intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other financial intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.



730 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3206