

# Work Backwards Insights

## Relationships

I made the following assumptions and that drove my “Work Backward” relationship path: First I want to live together for two years before getting married – thus I need to start that phase by Age 28. Second I want to exclusively date my potential future spouse for 1 year before moving in together – thus I need to start dating her seriously by Age 27. I must meet my future spouse by about Age 26 and start dating her.

So this means I will be single for my Age 26 and Age 22 Financial Models.

I realize things could happen very differently than this. I might meet the right person two years out of college, move in with them almost immediately and get married after only one year living together. Alternately I might not meet someone who is that special until I am 30.

## Financial

**Income:** I assumed I would get a professional job upon graduation from college and its income would be \$40,000/year. I had assumed I would be earning \$100,000/year by Age 30. The Excel model calculated my Age 26 income would be \$70,000.

**House Down Payment:** To buy the home we want, \$375,000, we will need a down payment of at least \$75,000. It turns out I need to save 10% of my income starting at age 22. I will also need my future spouse to start saving 10% of her income starting when we move in together (and hopefully share the same Vision of owning a home soon after we get married).

## Summary

This was a lot of assumptions. While I think they are reasonable I can see if any of the major ones, e.g. Income, are off it will change my financial picture a lot.