(1) The offer must be made in writing; 
(2) The employee must meet established qualification requirements; and 
(3) The offered position must be—
   (i) In the employee’s agency, including an agency to which the employee would be transferred in a transfer of function(s) between agencies;
   (ii) Within the employee’s commuting area unless geographic mobility is a condition of the employee’s employment;
   (iii) Of the same tenure and work schedule; and
   (iv) Not lower than the equivalent of two grades or pay levels below the employee’s current grade or pay level, without consideration of the employee’s eligibility to retain his or her current grade or pay under part 536 of this chapter or other authority. In movements between pay schedules or pay systems, the comparison rate of the grade or pay level that is two grades below that of the current position will be compared with the comparison rate of the grade or pay level of the offered position. For this purpose, “comparison rate” has the meaning given that term in §536.103 of this chapter, except paragraph (2) of that definition should be used for the purpose of comparing grades or levels of work in making reasonable offer determinations in all situations not covered by paragraph (1) of that definition.
(d) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the day after separation from the service.

§ 842.207 Air traffic controllers.

(a) An employee who separates from service, except by removal for cause or charges of delinquency or misconduct, is entitled to an annuity—
   (1) After completing 25 years of service as an air traffic controller; or
   (2) After becoming age 50 and completing 20 years of service as an air traffic controller.
(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the first day of the month following separation.

§ 842.208 Firefighters, law enforcement officers, and nuclear materials couriers.

(a) An employee who separates from service, except by removal for cause on charges of delinquency or misconduct, is entitled to an annuity—
   (1) After completing any combination of service as a firefighter, law enforcement officer or nuclear materials courier totaling 25 years; or
   (2) After becoming age 50 and completing any combination of service as a firefighter, law enforcement officer or nuclear materials courier totaling 20 years.
(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the first day of the month following separation.

§ 842.209 Members of Congress.

(a) A Member, except one separated by resignation or expulsion, is entitled to an annuity—
   (1) After completing 25 years of service; or
   (2) After becoming age 50 and completing 20 years of service.
(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the day after separation from the service.

§ 842.210 Military reserve technicians.

(a) A military reserve technician as defined in 5 U.S.C. 8401(30) who is separated from civilian service because of ceasing to qualify as a member of a military reserve component after reaching age 50 and completing 25 years of service is entitled to an annuity.
(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the day after separation.

§ 842.211 Senior Executive Service, Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, and Senior Cryptologic Executive Service.

(a) A member of the Senior Executive Service, the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, or the Senior Cryptologic Senior Executive Service
§ 842.212 Deferred retirement.

(a) An employee or Member who, after completing 5 years of service, separates from service or transfers to a position not covered by FERS is entitled to a deferred annuity beginning on the first day of the month after the individual attains age 62.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(3) and (c) of this section, an employee or Member who has not attained the minimum retirement age, and who, after completing 10 years of service, is separated or transferred to a position in which the individual is no longer covered by FERS, is entitled to a deferred annuity commencing—

(i) The first day of the month following the date on which the individual attains the minimum retirement age or, if later,

(ii) A date the individual designates that follows the date on which the designation is filed.

(2) The election of a commencing date may be filed no more than 90 days before that commencing date, and must be elected in a form prescribed by OPM. A written election that is not in the prescribed form, but which designates a specific commencing date, will be accepted as an informal election, subject to ratification in the prescribed form.

(c)(1) If an employee or Member separates from service after completing 10 years of service but before attaining the minimum retirement age, and is reemployed before filing an application for retirement based on that separation, that individual may not elect an annuity commencing date that precedes separation from the reemployment service.

(2) In the case of an employee or Member who separates from service after completing 10 years of service but before attaining the minimum retirement age, and is reemployed after filing an application for retirement based on that separation, that individual may not elect an annuity commencing date that precedes separation from the reemployment service if he or she is reemployed prior to a postponed commencing date elected under paragraph (b).

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