
Common Stock versus Preferred Stock

i. Common stock

1. A corporation must have common stock (equity)
 - a. Usually one vote per share;
 - b. Can receive dividends if authorized by directors;
 - c. Right to receipt of assets upon liquidation after debt and preferred shareholders are paid;
 - d. There is no receipt of interest;
 - e. There is no right to return of the investment.

ii. Preferred stock

1. Usually no right to vote but may be granted if dividends aren't paid for a specified number of dividend periods.
2. Can receive dividends if approved by Board. This is usually in a set amount and on a preferential basis (no payments can be made to common shareholders until the full amount is paid to preferential stock holders). Can be cumulative or non-cumulative.
3. Can receive assets on liquidation usually in a fixed amount and on a preferential basis after debt is paid.
4. No receipt of interest.
5. There is no right to return of investment.