



International Value Portfolio

A Series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund

Summary Prospectus
May 1, 2017

Initial Shares
Service Shares

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, including the statement of additional information and most recent reports to shareholders, online at www.dreyfus.com/vifunddocuments. You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-800-DREYFUS (inside the U.S. only) or by sending an e-mail request to info@dreyfus.com. The fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, dated May 1, 2017 (each as revised or supplemented), are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

Investment Objective

The fund seeks long-term capital growth.

Fees and Expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. These figures do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their Variable Annuity contracts (VA contracts) or Variable Life Insurance policies (VLI policies), and if such fees and/or charges were included, the fees and expenses would be higher.

| Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment) | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Initial Shares | Service Shares |
| Management fees | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees | none | .25 |
| Other expenses | .38 | .36 |
| Total annual fund operating expenses | 1.38 | 1.61 |
| Fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement* | (.52) | (.50) |
| Total annual fund operating expenses (after fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement) | .86 | 1.11 |

*The fund's investment adviser, The Dreyfus Corporation, has contractually agreed, until May 1, 2018, to waive receipt of its fees and/or assume the direct expenses of the fund so that the expenses of none of the classes (excluding Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder services fees, taxes, interest, brokerage commissions, commitment fees on borrowings and extraordinary expenses) exceed .86%. On or after May 1, 2018, The Dreyfus Corporation may terminate this expense limitation at any time.

Example

The Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in 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 hold or redeem all of 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 remain the same. The Example does not reflect fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example would be higher. The one-year example and the first year of the three-, five- and ten-years examples are based on net operating expenses, which reflect the expense limitation by The Dreyfus Corporation. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

| | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Shares | \$88 | \$386 | \$706 | \$1,612 |
| Service Shares | \$113 | \$459 | \$829 | \$1,869 |

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 may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 108.21% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategy

To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in stocks. The fund normally invests substantially all of its assets in the stocks of foreign companies (i.e., organized under the laws of countries other than the U.S.), including those located in emerging market countries. The fund ordinarily invests most of its assets in securities of foreign companies which The Dreyfus Corporation considers to be value companies. The fund's investment approach is value oriented and research driven. In selecting stocks, the portfolio managers identify potential investments through extensive quantitative and fundamental research. Emphasizing individual stock selection rather than economic and industry trends, the fund focuses on three key factors:

- **value**, or how a stock is valued relative to its intrinsic worth based on traditional value measures
- **business health**, or overall efficiency and profitability as measured by return on assets and return on equity
- **business momentum**, or the presence of a catalyst (such as corporate restructuring, change in management or spin-off) that potentially will trigger a price increase near term to midterm

Principal Risks

An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The fund's share price fluctuates, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions or because of factors that affect the particular company or the company's industry.
- *Foreign investment risk.* To the extent the fund invests in foreign securities, the fund's performance will be influenced by political, social and economic factors affecting investments in foreign issuers. Special risks associated with investments in foreign issuers include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political and economic instability and differing auditing and legal standards. Investments denominated in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that such currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar and affect the value of these investments held by the fund.
- *Emerging market risk.* The securities of issuers located or doing substantial business in emerging market countries tend to be more volatile and less liquid than the securities of issuers located in countries with more mature economies. Emerging markets generally have less diverse and less mature economic structures and less stable political systems than those of developed countries. Investments in these countries may be subject to political, economic, legal, market and currency risks. The risks may include less protection of property rights and uncertain political and economic policies, the imposition of capital controls and/or foreign investment limitations by a country, nationalization of businesses and the imposition of sanctions by other countries, such as the United States.
- *Value stock risk.* Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the expected value was misgauged. They also may decline in price even though in theory they are already undervalued.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to sell the securities in a timely manner at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically. Investments that are illiquid or that trade in lower volumes may be more difficult to value. Investments in foreign securities, particularly those of issuers located in emerging markets, tend to have greater exposure to liquidity risk than domestic securities.
- *Portfolio turnover risk.* The fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs.

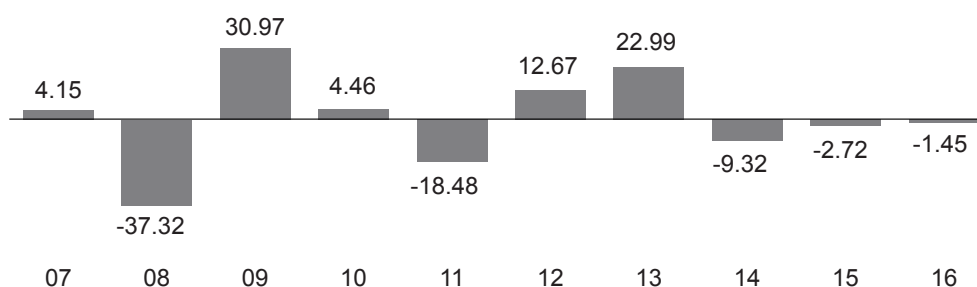
Performance

The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the fund will perform in the future. More recent performance information may be available at www.dreyfus.com.

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

Year-by-Year Total Returns as of 12/31 each year (%)

Initial Shares



Best Quarter

Q2, 2009: 25.18%

Worst Quarter

Q3, 2011: -21.80%

Average Annual Total Returns (as of 12/31/16)

| | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|
| Initial Shares | -1.45% | 3.80% | -1.30% |
| Service Shares | -1.58% | 3.56% | -1.54% |
| MSCI EAFE Index reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes | 1.00% | 6.53% | 0.75% |

Portfolio Management

The fund's investment adviser is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus).

The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by Dreyfus and The Boston Company Asset Management, LLC (TBCAM), an affiliate of Dreyfus. The team consists of Mark A. Bogar, CFA, James A. Lydotes, CFA, and Andrew Leger, who serve as the fund's primary portfolio managers, positions they have held since November 2015. Mr. Bogar is a senior managing director, portfolio manager and head of the global equity team at TBCAM. Mr. Lydotes is a managing director, portfolio manager and senior research analyst at TBCAM. Mr. Leger is a director and senior research analyst at TBCAM.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying, selling (redeeming), or exchanging fund shares.

Tax Information

The fund's distributions are taxable as ordinary income or capital gains. Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. To the extent that the intermediary may receive lesser or no payments in connection with the sale of other investments, the payments from the fund and its related companies may create a potential conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial representative to recommend the fund over the other investments. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices adopted by the financial intermediary. As there may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different intermediaries to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a financial intermediary and its representatives may vary by intermediary. Ask your financial representative or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

This prospectus does not constitute an offer or solicitation in any state or jurisdiction in which, or to any person to whom, such offering or solicitation may not lawfully be made.