

BUILDING CREDIT





WHAT IS MY CREDIT SCORE/REPORT?

Credit score (FICO) ranges from 300-850



- Lower score, less financial options
- Higher score, more financial options

Credit Reports:

- Keep track of your credit activity
- Use your activity to formulate a score

3 credit reporting agencies:

- 1. Equifax
- 2. TransUnion
 - 3. Experian







WHY DO YOU NEED GOOD CREDIT?

- Good to Excellent credit =
 - Higher possibility of loan approval
 - Potential lower interest rates
 - More loan options
- Employers have access and may review credit score
 - You may not be offered a job if your credit is low
 - This may portray you as a less responsible person
- Gives you more "financial freedom" as you get older
 - You control your money, it doesn't control you



HOW DO YOU BUILD YOUR CREDIT?

- Pay ALL bills ON TIME and IN FULL each month!
 - o Utilities, cell phone, etc

- Take out student loans
 - o ONLY the amount you need



- Secure credit card with LOW spending limit
 - Pay off IN FULL and ON TIME each month



HOW TO BUILD YOUR CREDIT FASTER



PAY EVERY BILL ON TIME, EVERY TIME.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CREDITORS. REACH OUT IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE PAYING.



DON'T USE ALL YOUR CREDIT. KEEP YOUR BALANCE LOWER THAN YOUR LIMIT.



DON'T APPLY FOR TOO MANY CREDIT PRODUCTS AT ONCE.



CREDIT VS DEBIT CARDS

CREDIT CARDS	DEBIT CARDS
Short term loan- have to pay back	Money directly tied to bank account
Set limit to spend- based on your credit profile	Can be used where credit cards are accepted
Pay interest if balance is NO paid in full every month	No interest charges but may have fees
Fees may be assessed	Uses a PIN
Lower liability if lost or stole	n Higher liability if lost or stolen

RESOURCES



• Credit Karma



Nerd Wallet

• The Balance

CONTACT US



https://coloradomtn.edu/financial-aid/financial-literacy/



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