

what is a **credit score**?

At MSUFCU, we offer you a wide range of outstanding financial products and services to help you reach your financial dreams. An important part of attaining many of your financial goals, such as buying a new home, car, or even finding a new job, is a positive credit score.

know your **score**

Your credit score is a three-digit number that ranges from 300 to 850. Lenders typically use this score to determine the likelihood you will be able to pay them back.

Your VantageScore 4.0® credit score is generated by the three major credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.¹



how is your credit score **determined?**



extremely influential
credit utilization

highly influential
credit mix

moderately influential
payment history

less influential
age of credit history

less influential
new accounts

important to know

- One late payment can lower your score by as much as 100 points.
- You can challenge inaccurate information on your report.
- The total credit you have is less important than your total available credit.
- Debit cards will not repair or establish credit.
- Negative items will eventually drop off of your credit report.
- You can get a free copy of your credit report each year.²

what affects your **credit score**

factors that hurt your score

credit utilization

No availability. Credit cards with balances at their maximum credit limits lower your score.

credit mix

Too many revolving accounts. Revolving credit (credit cards) reflects more negatively than installment loans (auto, mortgage).

payment history

Late payments. It takes about 24 months to restore damaged credit from just one late payment.

age of credit history

Closing revolving accounts. This reduces the history of your accounts and lowers available credit limits.

new accounts

Opening multiple cards. Multiple new accounts opened in a short period of time reflects negatively on your credit score.

ways to improve your score

Pay down debts. Bring delinquent loans current.

Revolving credit. Move revolving debt (line-of-credit accounts) to installment debt (closed-end loan accounts).

Pay on time. Setting up automatic payment on your loans and lines of credit will ensure you never miss a payment.

Don't close accounts. Pay down or pay off credit cards, but don't close them. The available limit will help your score.

Avoid multiple cards. Don't open multiple new lines of credit in a short period of time.

how credit inquiries **impact your score**

"Soft" hits to your credit report **do not** affect your score.

Examples of soft hits:

- Inquiries by you: You can get a free copy of your credit report without penalty.
- Inquiries by insurance companies

"Hard" hits to your credit report **may** affect your score.

Examples of hard hits:

- Inquiries by lenders: This can occur any time you apply for a credit account or loan.
- Inquiries by retail stores

get your free **credit score**

MSUFCU members who have active loans or checking accounts with us can view their VantageScore for free on the MSUFCU Mobile app and in ComputerLine.® Scores are updated quarterly, so members can stay informed about their credit and avoid surprises.

resources

Request Your Credit Report:
annualcreditreport.com

Financial Seminars:
msufcu.org/seminars

Financial Calculators:
msufcu.org/calculators

GreenPath Financial Wellness:
msufcu.org/greenpath

¹VantageScore® 4.0 is a consumer credit score provided by VantageScore Solutions LLC, an independently managed company owned equally by the three major credit reporting agencies in the United States — Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax. If you have a high VantageScore 4.0 score, you may be considered a lower credit risk to lenders, while a low score indicates you may be a higher credit risk to lenders. Your VantageScore 4.0 score is provided to MSUFCU by Experian and is based on the information contained in your Experian credit report. ²Free credit reports are available annually at annualcreditreport.com. To receive your credit score, a fee may apply. Federally insured by NCUA.

