

wecu VISA news

Tips for shopping,
card safety and
fraud prevention



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Credit cards and college students



Many college students are graduating with more than just a degree; they are also graduating with credit card debt. Not using your card responsibly is a mistake, but good credit can provide considerable benefits in today's credit-oriented society.

A good credit score is important for everything from renting an apartment, to applying for a car loan, mortgage or job. A credit card is a good way to begin building credit and can be easier to acquire than other types of credit.

Avoid being swayed by the freebies companies are handing out. Instead, note and compare the important features of each card:

- **Annual percentage rate (APR):** This is the interest that you are charged on any balance that you do not pay off each month. If the card has a teaser rate be sure to check what the interest rate is when the teaser rate expires.
- **Default APR and conditions:** The default APR is the interest rate you are charged if you make a late payment or go over your credit limit. The default APR can be significantly higher than the regular APR.



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- **Grace period:** A grace period is the number of days you have to pay off your balance before you are charged interest on your new purchases.
- **Fees:** These can include annual, late, and over-limit fees, as well as fees for not carrying a balance or using the card.

Before you use your card make sure the purchase is both necessary and affordable. Charging more than you can pay each month leads to increased minimum payments and interest costs.

Make your payments on time. Late payments can mean late fees, in some cases a higher APR, and damage to your credit score.

When you are thirty you won't want to still be paying for purchases made when you were twenty. If you do not manage your cards responsibly the purchases made on your card will be gone long before your bills are. *Copyright © 2008 BALANCE*

Notice to VISA cardholders

Please be aware that if you allow someone who has not been issued a VISA card on your account to use your card, you will no longer be eligible for VISA's fraud protection because you have compromised the security of your card.



Report lost or stolen cards as soon as you notice they are missing!

Within the USA:

Monday–Friday 7:30am–7:00pm Pacific Time:
Call 360.676.1168 x7360 or 800.525.8703 x7360
TTY 800.833.6388

After hours and weekends: Call 800.682.6075
Outside the USA call collect any time: 206.352.3482