A credit report is a file on you, your accounts and your payment history. A credit report is a record of where you work and live, how you pay your bills and whether you have been sued, arrested or have filed for bankruptcy. The collection of information begins when you first apply for a credit card, loan, insurance or a job. Credit-reporting agencies gather and sell this information.

Why should you establish and maintain good credit?

- Employers can legally look at your credit report if you sign an authorization form when you apply for the job. They look at your credit record to gauge your personal integrity and financial honesty. You can refuse to sign the form, but a company may assume you have something to hide.
- Banks, insurance companies and landlords look at your credit report for similar reasons. Just as financial creditors are looking at your ability to repay debt, your landlord is trying to assess if you will be a good tenant.

How do I establish good credit history?

- Get into the habit of re-paying any money you borrow. Re-paying your debt on time is the basis for a good credit rating and positive report.
- Open a savings or checking account.
- Apply for a credit card. If you can t qualify for a credit card on your own, ask someone with good credit to co-sign with you.

Credit Report: Know Your Score

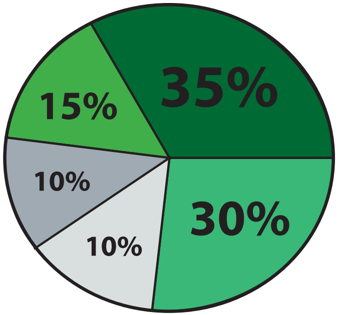
UNITED BANK

BE SMART ABOUT YOUR

CREDIT

United Bank encourages you to be smart about your credit. Just as your GPA is important to your academic success, your credit score is important to your financial success.

How is my credit score calculated?



- **35% Payment History**
  Pay your accounts on time!
  Late payments can hurt your score.
- **30% Amounts Owed**
  Don’t spend all of your available credit.
  Lower debt can help your score.
- **15% Length of History**
  Showing a long history of responsible credit use can help your score.
- **10% Types of Credit**
  Having different types of credit, like a car loan and credit card, can help your score.
- **10% New Credit**
  Opening too many accounts in a short time can hurt your score.

Just like your GPA, your credit score is a cumulative number that represents how well you ve performed, except it is in the world of credit instead of academics. Your credit score is a predictor of how likely you are to be financially responsible and repay a loan.

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Bad
800-850	750-799	700-749	650-699	600-649	300-599

You’ll be approved for a loan more easily and at the best interest rates.

You’ll likely be approved for a loan with good interest rates.

You could be denied a loan, or you may only qualify for more expensive loans.

How can I raise my score?

- Pay your bills in full and on time.
- Check your credit report once a year. Review for errors and address any you find.
- Watch for warning signs of credit trouble. For example, if you re only able to pay the minimum payment, pay late, or use credit for everyday expenses, you re already in trouble. Make sure you think about what you re using credit to buy.
- Stick to a spending plan. A budget is the first step to financial freedom. Start by writing down what you spend for a month or two; you ll be surprised how much you spend and where and hopefully find ways to save.

Credit Score: Your Financial GPA