Get credit ready.

Good credit could open doors to important financial milestones—from signing a lease to buying a car, or starting a business. Set yourself up for a lifetime of success by mastering these credit essentials.



1 Credit basics and your FICO® score

Your credit report tracks account history, payments, balances, and inquiries. Your credit score is a 3-digit summary (300–850) that lenders use to judge credit risk and determine interest rates.

FICO score ranges:

800–850: Exceptional
740–799: Very Good
670–739: Good
580–669: Fair
300–579: Poor

FICO score breakdown:

35% Payment history
30% Amounts owed
15% Length of credit history
10% New credit
10% Credit mix

Inquiry types:

- **Soft inquiry:** Checking your own score or a lender pre-approving you; no score impact.†
- **Hard inquiry:** Lender review for an application; may temporarily lower score.

Note: Multiple rate-shopping inquiries in a short window usually count as a single inquiry.

Register or check your credit with the major bureaus.

Experian® TransUnion® Equifax®

Track your credit score with SoFi*
at sofi.com/coach/credit-score-monitoring/

2 Five habits to build good credit.

Consistency beats perfection when building credit over time:

- **Always pay on time:** Set up autopay or reminders to never miss a due date.
- **Keep balances low:** Keep credit utilization under 30% of your available limit.
- **Apply selectively:** Space out new credit applications and only open what you need.
- **Build a credit mix over time:** Combine revolving accounts (like credit cards) and installment loans (like student loans).
- **Check credit regularly:** Track trends, enable alerts, and dispute bureau errors early.

3 Credit myths, debunked.

- ✗ **Myth:** Checking your own credit lowers your score.
- ✓ **Fact:** Checking your own credit is a soft inquiry and won't affect your score.
- ✗ **Myth:** You need to carry a balance to build credit.
- ✓ **Fact:** Carrying a balance or paying interest is never required to build credit.
- ✗ **Myth:** Student loans don't count toward establishing credit.
- ✓ **Fact:** On-time student loan payments directly support a strong credit profile.

Learn more at sofi.com/GradToolkit

Monitor your credit with SoFi.*

Scan to get started. ➜

PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM SoFi SCAN CODE WITH PHONE CAMERA

This content is provided for informational and educational purposes only and should not be construed as financial advice.

†To check the rates and terms you may qualify for, SoFi conducts a soft credit pull that will not affect your credit score. However, if you choose a product and continue your application, we will request your full credit report from one or more consumer reporting agencies, which is considered a hard credit pull and may affect your credit.

*SoFi Coach offers users the ability to connect both SoFi accounts and external accounts using Plaid, Inc.'s service and for SoFi to present to you data we have received from the credit bureau. The credit score and associated data provided to you is a VantageScore® based on TransUnion® (the "Processing Agent") data.©2026 SoFi Technologies, Inc. All rights reserved. STU26-4364300-F