FOUR WAYS
YOUR CREDIT CARD IS BETTER THAN CASH

Move over, cash – there’s a new king in town. You already know that your credit card is a great option for moving through a checkout line quickly; online shopping and booking vacations, but some less obvious perks could have you leaving behind paper money for good.

Check them out below!

1. **Track Your Spending Habits.** It can be very hard to keep track of how you’re spending your money when using cash. Holding onto receipts throughout the month can be difficult and putting together a comprehensive list of all purchases (including small ones), tedious. However, using your credit card regularly means your spending history will be detailed on one bill at the end of each month, making it easy to review purchases and gain insights into your spending habits. Even better, as an MCU cardholder you can view your bill in real-time using online banking. Having easy access to this information is the first step to identifying any problematic spending habits and to make changes that work for you.

2. **Build Your Credit.** Credit is important. A good credit score will help you get approved for lower interest rates on loans, rent an apartment and even receive better pricing on insurance. Thirty-five percent of your credit score is based on your payment history, which is good news for responsible credit cardholders. Using your credit card on items you would normally pay for with cash and then paying your bill on time each month will help you create a strong payment history, building your credit score with the added benefit of not taking on extra debt.

3. **Have a Safety Net.** Credit cards offer a variety of features that can protect you if things go wrong. For example, while very little can be done if cash is lost or stolen, cardholders can simply call their financial institution to report their card missing and have a new one provided to them in just a matter of days. And with zero liability protection, cardholders are protected from losing any money if they’re victimized by fraud. Similarly, if a consumer uses their card in a transaction that turns out to be a scam, they can alert their financial institution or credit card company to place a stop on a payment.

4. **Enjoy Rewards.** You’re already spending your money on everyday items like groceries, utilities and gas. Why not earn perks for your purchases? While the benefits will vary, many credit cards will offer programs that may reward you for your spending habits. These rewards may include cashback, air miles and merchant discounts. Cash can’t do that for you!
MCU’S Back to School Financial Tips for College Students

This fall, college students everywhere are getting back into the swing of things when it comes to their classes. However, for some, staying on top of their finances can be a surprising new challenge. Whether you’re an incoming freshman or a graduating senior, taking simple steps to manage your money will not only help you feel confident about your finances but will also create great habits for the future. Check out our tips below!

**FINANCE 101**

Create a Budget. Setting a budget is the first step to successfully managing your money. To start, students should take time this semester to review their income, savings and expenses in order to set realistic limits on activities such as eating out, entertainment and shopping. To make your budget work best for you, it's important to recognize that small purchases, like gourmet coffee, can add up and to consider that other expenses, like car insurance, will only occur once or twice throughout the year.

Stay Smart About Credit. College is a great time to take steps toward building credit but it’s easy for students to quickly find themselves in over their heads. While some credit card offers may be tempting, college students should stick to opening a student credit card with a modest limit and competitive rate that they can use comfortably within their means. This will both help them set good habits for the future and slowly but surely raise their credit score.

Get Creative with Textbooks. Purchasing textbooks can be a major expense for students. To help minimize this cost, students can look to buy used copies online, rent their books or even purchase the electronic versions. These alternatives may save hundreds of dollars every semester. If you do choose to buy your textbooks, consider selling them at the end of the semester. Many college bookstores have buyback programs that can assist with this or students can look online.

Take Advantage of Student Perks. Being a student can come with some serious money-saving perks, including discounts offered by both local and national chain stores. Your school may also offer money-saving amenities. Keep an eye out for your free campus fitness center and resources like free tutoring. Students should also check the campus activities calendar for events, including concerts and festivals, which are both fun and budget-friendly!
1. **How it Works.**
The equity in your home is the difference between the value of the property and the amount owed on your mortgage. A HELOC allows homeowners to borrow against this equity in various amounts over time. Once you pay back what you’ve borrowed, that amount is made available again. The homeowner may use their line of credit as many times they want while their HELOC remains open.

2. **Take Advantage of Competitive Rates.**
HELOC interest rates tend to be much more competitive than the rates on credit cards and personal loans. This may save borrowers hundreds or even thousands of dollars throughout the lifespan of their HELOC.

3. **Your Credit Score Matters.**
The interest rate on a HELOC will depend on your credit-worthiness. Borrowers with high credit scores (700 and above) can expect to be offered the best rates and those with lower scores can expect to pay more.

4. **Know Your Limit.**
A HELOC can amount up to about 85% of the equity in a borrower’s home. Of course, just because you could be approved for that amount, a homeowner should stick to a line of credit that they can confidently pay back. If a homeowner does default on a HELOC, they risk losing their home to a foreclosure.

5. **Selling Your Home?**
You’ll be expected to pay off your HELOC quickly. The easiest way to take care of the balance is to pay it out of the sale proceeds at the time of closing along with the remaining balance on your mortgage. However, homeowners can run into trouble if their homes have insufficient equity to cover these expenses.

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**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HELOCs**

A home equity line of credit (HELOC) is a convenient financial lending product that allows you to borrow against your home’s equity to manage your expenses as needed.

**SAVE BIG BORROW SMART**

WITH AN MCU HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT (HELOC)

For more information visit nymcu.org/heloc
MCU invites our members to join us for the 69th Annual International Credit Union Day® (ICU Day) on October 19, 2017 as we show our appreciation for the people who keep MCU and the credit union movement strong: you! This year’s ICU Day theme of “Dreams Thrive Here” celebrates how credit unions serve as a way to turn personal goals into realities. Without our members and their commitment to the credit union movement, our mission to serve New Yorkers in the tradition of “people helping people” could not be possible. It’s one more way you keep our city great!

**PERSONAL LOAN RATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Type</th>
<th>Amount Financed</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Auto-Pay APR*</th>
<th>Monthly Payment Per $1,000 Borrowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsecured Loan</td>
<td>$1,000–$15,000</td>
<td>Up to 60 Months</td>
<td>5.95%</td>
<td>$19.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsecured Loan</td>
<td>$15,001–$50,000</td>
<td>Up to 60 Months</td>
<td>6.95%</td>
<td>$19.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsecured Loan</td>
<td>$15,001–$50,000</td>
<td>Up to 72 Months</td>
<td>7.55%</td>
<td>$17.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AUTO LOAN RATES**

**New Cars (Best loan rates available when using the MCU Car Buying Service)**

- 2017–2016: 12.5% Up to 60 Months: 1.45% $17.29
- 2017–2016: 12.5% 61–66 Months: 2.35% $16.17
- 2017–2016: 12.5% 67–72 Months: 2.35% $14.91

**Pre-Owned Cars (Best loan rates available when using the MCU Car Buying Service)**

- 2015: 12.5% Up to 60 Months: 1.85% $17.47
- 2015: 12.5% 61–66 Months: 2.65% $16.30
- 2015: 12.5% 67–72 Months: 2.75% $15.09

Rates may be higher based on applicant’s credit worthiness. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. MCU only finances vehicles purchased from a car dealer; we do not offer financing for private sales, individual sales or lease buyouts. *Auto-Pay: When direct deposit or automatic payroll deduction is utilized as the method of loan repayment. Annual percentage rates for auto loans will increase by 1/2% after consummation if automatic payroll deduction or direct deposit is cancelled. Annual percentage rates on unsecured loans will increase by 2% after consummation if automatic payroll deduction or direct deposit is cancelled. Late payment fee: $25.00.

**NOTICE FROM THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Supervisory Committee has established a procedure whereby members can confidentially submit concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters, as well as concerns impacting on internal controls. Correspondence should be sent to:

**Municipal Credit Union**
Supervisory Committee/Internal Audit Department
Post Office Box 3418, New York, NY 10277-1863
Attn: Giovanni Porcelli, Chairman
Phone: 212-238-3573 Email: gporcelli@nymcu.org

Municipal Credit Union is an equal housing lender.

**PHONE NUMBERS:**
- MCU’s Automated Service – Touch Tone Teller: Within the Five Boroughs/Long Island (212) 693-4900
- Outside the Five Boroughs/Long Island (800) 323-6713

**Application Express:**
- (800) LOAN-MCU

**MCU Auto Loans:**
- 888-4MCU-AUTO

**VISA Information:**
- (800) 481-7338

**Mortgage and Home Equity Information:**
- (212) 238-3521

**Deposit Account Information:**
- (212) 693-4900

**New Member Line:**
- (666) JOIN-MCU

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**NCUA:** Your savings federally insured to at least $250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency. For complete information concerning our savings programs, contact the credit union for a “Truth-in-Savings” disclosure.