



—Travel Reminder—



If you will be traveling outside of Wisconsin, inform MCU before you go. In an effort to prevent debit card fraud, the credit union flags credit transactions made outside of Wisconsin. By informing us of your plans, we'll make sure your debit card isn't flagged to ensure you are able to make signature debit card transactions.

Please note that if you are traveling within the United States, you typically can make debit card transactions and ATM withdrawals as long as you enter your personal identification number (PIN).

Contact Madison Credit Union at 608-266-4750 to notify us of your travel plans.

Successful Shred Fest

Madison Credit Union's third annual Shred Event, held on May 4, was a success!

- We shredded **9,820** pounds of paper.
- We collected **\$525** and **214 pounds** of food to donate to The River Food Pantry.



We far exceeded last year's numbers. Thanks for participating and donating to The River Food Pantry!

Credit Card/Insurance Offers

Are you annoyed with the various credit card or insurance offers you receive every day? Creditors and insurers obtain lists of individuals that meet certain criteria from the consumer reporting agencies. They use these lists to send pre-screened offers to.



OptOutPrescreen.com is the official Consumer Credit Reporting Industry website that handles requests to opt-in or opt-out of these offers.

You have the following options to opt-out or opt back in to receive these offers:

- Opt-out for five years (request electronically or by phone: 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688))
- Opt-out permanently (complete form online to mail in)
- Opt back in to resume offers (request electronically)

Once you complete your request, the credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, Innovis and TransUnion) will update their lists within five days of your request.





Nine Ways to Master Your Money

1. Set S.M.A.R.T. Goals

Saving tends to be easier when you have a certain purpose in mind: Saving for your first house, your retirement at a certain age, a child's college education, or even a trip around the world. The important thing is for your goals to be *specific, measurable, actionable, realistic and time-bound*, or SMART.

2. Pay Yourself First

Save and invest 5-10% of your gross annual income. Of course, this can be much harder than it sounds. If you're currently living from paycheck to paycheck without any real opportunity to get ahead, begin by creating a solid spending plan after tracking all monthly expenses.

3. Maintain an Emergency Fund

Before you commit your newfound savings to volatile and hard-to-reach investments, make sure you have at least three to six months' worth of expenses saved in an emergency fund to see yourself through difficult times.

4. Pay off Your Credit Card Debt

If you're trying to save while carrying a large credit card balance at, say, 19.8%, realize that paying off the debt is a guaranteed return of nearly 20% per year. Once you pay off your credit cards, use them only for convenience, and pay off the balance each month.

5. Insure Your Family Adequately

A major lawsuit, unexpected illness, or accident can be financially devastating if you lack proper insurance. The key to insurance is to cover only financial losses so large that you could not cope with them and remain financially fit (known as the law of large numbers).

6. Buy a Home

According to the US census, since 1968, the median price of new single-family homes has gone up almost tenfold; many houses still appreciate at a rate of 6% to 8% annually. Further, home ownership entitles you to major tax breaks.

7. Take Advantage of Tax-deferred Investments

If your employer has a tax-deferred investment plan like a 401(k) or 403(b), use it. Often, employers will match your investment. Even if they don't, no taxes are due on your contributions or earnings until you retire and begin withdrawing the funds.

8. Diversify Your Investments

When it comes to managing risk to maximize your return, it pays to diversify. First you need to diversify among the three major asset classes: cash, stocks and bonds.

9. Write a Will

The simplest way to ensure that your funds, property and personal effects will be distributed according to your wishes is to prepare a will. Having a will is especially important if you have young children because it gives you the opportunity to designate a guardian for them in the event of your death. Although wills are simple to create, about half of all Americans die intestate, or without a will.



Contact Information

Main Office:

949 East Washington Avenue
Ph. 608-266-4750
www.madisoncu.com

Lobby Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Drive Up Hours:

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Upcoming Closings:

Thursday, July 4, 2019
Monday, September 2, 2019

CU*TALK Phone Number:

1-800-860-5704

Lost/stolen ATM/Debit card call:

1-800-523-4175

MCU Mobile Banking App:



Shared Branch Outlets

Dane County Credit Union

South - 2160 Rimrock Road*

West - 709 Struck Street*

East - 3394 E. Washington Ave.*

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon



Heartland Credit Union

Verona - 105 Enterprise Drive*

East - 5325 High Crossing Boulevard*

DeForest - 120 Vinburn Road*

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

* Refer to the locations page at madisoncu.com for drive up hours, ATMs, and other information.

Comments Are Welcome

Checks & Balances is published quarterly to help members make informed choices for their financial health. We welcome your comments. Send comments to: Madison Credit Union 949 East Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53703 or creditunion@cityofmadison.com

