



579 & below E 580 619 D 620 659 C 660 699 B 700 749 A 750 & above A+

Improve Your Credit Score


What Makes Up Your Credit Score?

- **35% = Payment History** (i.e. on-time pays or delinquencies)
 - More weight on current pay history
- **30% = Amount Owed** (a.k.a. Capacity)
- **15% = Length of Credit**
- **10% = New Credit** (accumulation of debt in the last 12-18 months)
 - # of inquiries
 - Opening dates
- **10% = Type of Credit**
 - Installment (can raise) vs. revolving (can lower)
 - Finance company loans can lower your score

What Actions Hurt Your Score?

- Missing payments—**Affects my score 60-100 points.**
- Credit cards at capacity—**Approximately 1 point for every % used.**
- Shopping for credit excessively—**Plan for no more than 2-4 inquires per year.**
- Opening up numerous accounts in a short time frame
 - **Recommend no more than 2-3 accounts per year.**
- Having more revolving debts in relation to installment debts
- Closing credit cards out (this could lower available capacity)
- Borrowing from finance companies
 - **See your credit union first. We are here to help.**

How Can You Improve Your Score?

- Monitor your score and use the simulator with DECU Secure Checking and IDProtect® 
- Pay off or pay down your credit cards
 - We recommend not closing credit cards as it may decrease capacity. **Exception: Previous bad experiences with credit cards or paying an annual fee.**
- Move your revolving debt into installment debt
- Continue to make payments on time (**Older late pays will become less significant with time.**)
- Slow down on opening new accounts
- Acquire a solid credit history with years of experience. The longer you have credit, the better it is for your score.
 - Last 12 months = 40%; last 24 months = 70%; last 36 months = 90%; 100% for 37 months and older



My plan to raise my score:

Date: _____

My Credit Score is: _____

Action Steps:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

FICO Score Goal: _____

Savings Goal: _____

Follow-up Date: _____

Team Member: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Opportunity starts here