

# Insider guide to credit cards

**Overview:** Credit cards are a powerful financial tool, and knowing how to use them properly can set you up for financial success. Knowing what to look out for when choosing a credit card, how to use a credit card responsibly and effectively and what credit card perks to take advantage of will give your finances a boost.

## Credit Card Requirements: Credit Card Uses:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| ✓ Alliant membership | → Cashback and low-interest intro periods |
| ✓ Good credit score  | → Cash or debit card substitute           |
| ✓ Ability to repay   | → Emergencies and large purchases         |



## Interest rates matter

Comparison based on minimum Alliant Visa Platinum card rate and credit card minimum rate average as of 1/16/24.

### Average credit card

<b>Balance:</b> \$15,000	<b>Interest paid:</b>
<b>Monthly payment:</b> \$450	<b>\$7,266</b>
<b>Minimum APR:</b> 21.11%	

### Alliant Visa Platinum card

<b>Balance:</b> \$15,000	<b>Interest paid:</b>
<b>Monthly payment:</b> \$450	<b>\$4,444</b>
<b>Minimum APR:</b> 15.49% <sup>1</sup>	

-\$2,822 interest paid vs average credit card

## Reap maximum rewards

Comparison based on 2.5% Tier One rewards on Alliant Cashback Visa Signature card.

### Typical rewards

<b>Cashback:</b> 1%	<b>Cashback earned:</b>
<b>Annual Spend:</b> \$25,000	<b>\$250</b>

### Alliant Cashback Visa Signature rewards

<b>Cashback:</b> Up to 2.5%* <sup>2</sup>	<b>Cashback earned:</b>
<b>Annual Spend:</b> \$25,000	<b>\$625</b>

+\$375 cashback vs typical rewards

\*on your first \$10,000 of qualifying eligible purchases per billing cycle (1.5% for purchases over \$10,000)<sup>2</sup>



### Insider Scoop:

"Credit Cards serve as a valuable financial resource, offering advantages such as rewards, cash back, fraud protection, credit building, and access to emergency funds."

– Steve Ciliak  
Product Mgr-Lending Prod | Alliant Credit Union

## Key Credit card factors to consider

### Pros

- ✓ Build credit to get better loan terms
- ✓ Purchase, fraud and theft protection
- ✓ Earn cashback

### Cons

- ✗ High interest when not paid in full
- ✗ Variable interest rates
- ✗ Can be tempting to overspend



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## Perks to pay attention to



### No annual fee

Some credit cards come with steep annual fees that cost you hundreds of dollars every year, but Alliant credit cards have no annual fee.



### Purchase protection

With a \$0 fraud liability guarantee from Visa, Alliant credit cards let you rest easy knowing you aren't responsible for unauthorized purchases.<sup>3</sup>



### Digital wallet compatibility

Alliant credit cards work with many popular digital wallets, including Google Pay™, Apple Pay™, Samsung Pay™ and more.<sup>4</sup>

## Become a member and get rich credit card rewards and perks

Learn more at [www.myalliantcreditunion.com](http://www.myalliantcreditunion.com)



Get  
started  
now

1. Loan approval and APR based on creditworthiness and ability to repay. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change. APR=Annual Percentage Rate. The introductory rate on purchases and balance transfers is good for 12 months from the date of account opening based on your credit worthiness. After that, or if you don't qualify for the introductory rate, your APR will adjust to your standard variable rate which will apply to all new purchases, new balance transfers, and all unpaid purchase and balance transfer balances remaining from the introductory period. Standard purchase and balance transfer APR: from 15.49%-27.49% for Visa Platinum Card and 18.24%-28.24% for Visa Platinum Rewards Card depending on your creditworthiness. See the [Alliant Visa Card Disclosure \(PDF\)](#) and [Alliant Visa Platinum Card Agreement \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

2. Loan approval and APR based on creditworthiness, payment method and ability to repay. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change. APR=Annual Percentage Rate. As described in the [Alliant Cashback Visa Signature Card Program Terms & Conditions](#), certain categories of purchases do not qualify to earn cash back. See the [Alliant Cashback Visa Signature Card Disclosure](#) for additional details.

3. Visa's Zero Liability policy covers U.S.-issued cards only and does not apply to ATM transactions, PIN transactions not processed by Visa, or certain commercial card transactions. Cardholder must notify issuer promptly of any unauthorized use. For more information, visit the [Visa website](#).

4. Apple, the Apple logo, and iPhone are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Apple Pay is a trademark of Apple Inc; Google Pay is a trademark of Google Inc; Samsung Pay is a trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., LTD.



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