**BANKING**

Banks and credit unions are institutions that keep your money safe and provide you with easy access. They differ slightly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banks</th>
<th>Credit Unions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For-profit companies with shareholders</td>
<td>Non-profit organization owned and controlled by its members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Majority can open without problem</td>
<td>Becoming a member can depend on where you work or live</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some accounts have management fees and/or minimum balance requirements</td>
<td>Typically offers free accounts with no minimum balance requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usually has 24/7 customer service and easy-to-use online options</td>
<td>Technology can be limited on lesser funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can be national (even international) with ATMs in convenient locations</td>
<td>Usually community-based, with no extra capital for increased ATMs*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insured by the FDIC up to $250,000</td>
<td>Insured by the NCUA up to $250,000</td>
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*However, some offer no-fee use of other ATMs in an existing network

**Banking** is essential for a student to build assets, that is, to become owners of cars, houses, and businesses. Banking in the United States is safe, convenient, and secure. Having checking and savings accounts enable customers to have direct deposit, to pay bills on time, and to create emergency funds.
THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Where is the bank/credit union located? Is there a branch or ATM on campus?
- Does the bank/credit union offer special student accounts?
- Is there a monthly fee for having the account?
- Is there a minimum balance required to avoid penalty fees?
- Does the bank/credit union offer online banking, or budgeting tools, and if so, is there a fee?
- Are there any interest-earning accounts?
- What other fees does the bank/credit union charge?

What is a checking account? Allows daily purchases with a debit card or use of an ATM.
What is a savings account? Allows you to plan for savings to meet your goals.
What is direct deposit? Auto deposit of paycheck into your banking institution.

A payday lender (also called paycheck advance, cash advance, quick loan, payday loan, post-dated loan) is not a banking institution. They are short-term high-interest loans that trap people into situations when they become unable to pay back the loans.

I love saving money.

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