



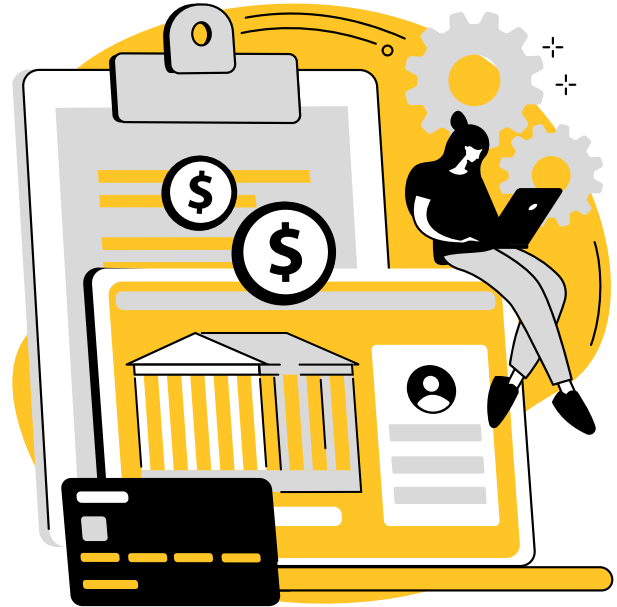
Financial Education

Opening a Checking or Savings Account

Learn what documents you need and what questions to ask before you open an account.

Showing up prepared to the bank or credit union when you're ready to open an account will help you save time and money.

Most banks and credit unions require two forms of identification to open an account. Some will take one form of identification (such as your driver's license or passport) and a bill with your name and address on it. The other part of being prepared is understanding the terms and costs of opening an account. Get answers to common questions before you sign your paperwork.



WHAT TO DO

- **Gather your documents.** Make sure you have the proper identification and documents to open an account.
- **Bring the required amount of money to open the account.** You'll usually need between \$25 and \$100 to open a checking or savings account at a bank. Some credit unions and banks don't require an opening deposit and some require a deposit as low as \$5 to open an account.
- **Get all the facts.** Call the bank or credit union or do research online to answer the questions in the checklist. Make sure you know how the account works and what fees are involved.



GATHER WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE OPENING A CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

1. Review the items you need to open the account and check them off as you gather them. Write down any questions you have.
2. Get answers to all the questions listed to make sure you're aware of the terms, costs, and limitations of the account

WHAT I NEED TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT

QUESTIONS I HAVE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A picture ID issued by a state, or the U.S. or foreign government (check which foreign IDs your bank or credit union accepts) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One of these second forms of identification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Security card• Birth certificate• Bill with your name and address on it | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your Social Security number or ITIN; if you don't have one, you may be able to open only a no-interest account | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money to put into the account | |

QUESTIONS I WILL ASK THE BANK OR CREDIT UNION

RESPONSES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is there a monthly fee? If so, how much is it and can it be waived? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is direct deposit available? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do I have to pay for checks? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are there per-check or transaction fees? How much are they? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are there convenient, free ATMs located near where I live, work, or shop? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is there access to online banking? What's the cost to use? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is there access to online bill paying services? What's the cost to use? | |

**QUESTIONS I WILL ASK THE BANK
OR CREDIT UNION**

RESPONSES

<input type="checkbox"/> What happens if I try to spend or withdraw more money than I have in my account (overdraft)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Are there alerts when my balance gets low?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Will I earn any interest on the money in the account? What is the interest rate?	