## Understanding Credit Cards

Advanced Level

## What is a Credit Card?

Credit card - a plastic card that you can use to access a line of credit that has been established in advance


## Credit Card Interest

## Interest is charged each month the balance is not paid in full

Rate at which interest is charged is referred to as:

## Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

The cost of credit expressed as a yearly interest rate

## Minimum Payment



## A minimum payment is due each month the card has a balance

To prepare for her first semester of college, Miranda purchased a new computer for $\$ 1,000$ and textbooks for $\$ 500$, spending a total of $\$ 1,500$ on her credit card charging $15 \%$ APR. How much would Miranda pay in interest if she makes the minimum payment?

|  | Payment Made | Time to pay off <br> card | Total amount of <br> interest paid | Total amount <br> paid |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Full Payment | $\$ 1,500$ | 1 month | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 1,500$ |
| Partial Payment | $\$ 135$ | 1 year | $\$ 125$ | $\$ 1,625$ |
| Minimum <br> Payment | $\$ 30$ | 11 years | $\$ 1,413$ | $\$ 2,913$ |

## Credit Card = Helpful Financial Management Tool <br> ..if managed responsibly

## Develop <br> positive credit <br> history

## Convenient payment tool

## Protected from unauthorized charges

## Credit card safer for online shopping

# Develop a Positive Credit History 

Follow these positive behaviors:


Credit card use can have a positive or negative impact on your credit history

Pay credit card balances in full every month

## Be conscious of how credit cards affect your credit history

Pay credit card bills on time

Check the monthly credit card statement for errors

## Convenient Payment Tool

## No need to carry large amounts of cash

Useful in emergencies

## Often required to hold a reservation

How is a credit card a convenient payment tool?

## Protect Yourself from Unauthorized Charges



##  <br> Report lost or stolen cards immediately!

Check your statements monthly!


If a lost credit card is reported before it is fraudulently used

> If the credit card
> number is used fraudulently, but the credit card itself is not
used

## Safer Online Shopping

| ? What is the |
| :--- |
| difference |
| between a credit |
| card and a debit |
| card? |

More protection against fraud

are safer than debit cards

Money is not connected to depository institution account

## Should you choose "debit" or "credit" at a point of



A receipt must be signed (optional if purchase is under \$25)

Potential benefit: Extra liability protection from fraudulent charges

Must enter the card's personal identification number (PIN)

Potential benefit: Option to withdraw cash from your depository institution account for no fee

## Additional Benefits



May charge additional fees or higher interest rates

Carefully evaluate if the benefits outweigh the cost

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## Rewards,

 Rewards, Rewards...

Credit Cards

## Advantages \& Disadvantages



## Credit Cards Advantages \& Disadvantages

- Convenient payment tool
- Useful for emergencies
- Often required to hold a reservation
- Able to purchase "big ticket" items and spread out payments
- Protection against fraud
- Opportunity to establish a positive credit history
- Online shopping is safer than using a debit card
- Possibility of receiving bonuses
- Interest can be costly when a balance is revolved
- Additional penalty fees may apply
- Tempting to overspend
- If not used responsibly, it will have a negative impact on your credit score


## Credit Card Offers

Credit card issuers are required to disclose the terms and fees of credit cards in an easy to read box format

## Called the Schumer Box

## Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases

- Interest rate paid for purchases
- Multiple interest rates may be listed
- final interest rate may depend on creditworthiness of applicant

| Interest Rates and Interest Charges |  |
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| Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases | $12.99 \%, 13.99 \%$ or $14.99 \%$, introductory APR for one year, based on your creditworthiness. After that, your APR will be $14.99 \%$. This is a variable-rate APR that will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. |
| APR for Balance Transfers | 15.99\% <br> This APR will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate |
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| Penalty APR and When it Applies | 28.99\% <br> This APR may be applied to your account if you: <br> 1. Make a late payment; <br> 2. Go over your credit limit; <br> 3. Make a payment that is returned; or <br> 4. Do any of the above on another account that you have with us. <br> How long will the Penalty APR apply? If your APR's are increased for any of these reasons, the Penalty APR will apply until you make six consecutive minimum payments when due. |
| How to Avoid Paying Interest on Purchases | Your due date is at least 25 days after the close of each billing cycle. We will not charge you any interest on purchases if you pay your entire balance by the due date each month. |
| Minimum Interest Charge | If you are charged interest, the charge will be no less than \$1.50. |
| For Credit Card Tips from the Federal Reserve Board | To learn more about factors to consider when applying for or using a credit card, visit the website of the Federal Reserve Board at http://www.federalreserve.gov/creditcard |
| Fees |  |
| Set-up and Maintenance Fees | NOTICE: Some of these set-up and maintenance fees will be assessed before you begin using your card and will reduce the amount of credit you initially have available. For example, if you are assigned the minimum credit limit of $\$ 250$, initial available credit will be only about $\$ 209$. <br> - Annual Fee: $\$ 20$ <br> - Account Set-up Fee: $\$ 20$ (one-time fee) <br> - Participation Fee: $\$ 12$ annually ( $\$ 1$ per month) <br> - Additional Card Fee: $\$ 5$ annually (if applicable) |
| Transaction Fees | - Balance Transfer: Either $\$ 5$ or $3 \%$ of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater (maximum fee: \$100) <br> - Cash Advance: Either $\$ 5$ or $3 \%$ of the amount of each cash advance, whichever is greater <br> - Foreign Transaction: 2\% of each transaction in U.S. dollars |
| Penalty Fees | - Late Payment: $\$ 29$ if balance is less than or equal to $\$ 1000$ OR $\$ 35$ if balance is more than $\$ 1000$ <br> - Over-the-limit: \$29 <br> - Returned Payment: \$35 |

Loss of Introductory APR- We may end your introductory APR and apply the Penalty APR if you become more than 60 days late in paying your bill
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## Introductory Rate

- Introductory rate: APR that may be charged (usually increased) after the introductory period ends
- Not all credit cards have an introductory rate

How does credit worthiness impact APR?

It will influence if a person receives a credit card and the APR. APR will by higher if a person has a poor credit history.

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## Fixed vs. Variable-rate APR

- Fixed-rate APR: cannot change during the period of time outlined in a credit card agreement
- Variable-rate APR: may change depending on other factors (such as economic conditions)

Would you prefer a fixed or variable rate credit card? Why?

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## APR for Balance Transfers

## \& Cash Advances

- Balance transfer: act of transferring debt from one credit card to another
- Cash advance - withdrawing cash from an ATM using a credit card
- Fees may apply (even if the APR is 0\%)


## Interest Rates and Interest Charges

$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|}\hline \text { Annual Percentage Rate } \\ \text { (APR) for Purchases }\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l}\text { Interest Rates and Interest Charges } \\ \text { After that, your APR will be } 14.99 \% \text {, This is a foriable-rate APR that will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. }\end{array}\right\}$

* How We Will Calculate Your Balance: We use a method called "average daily balance (including new purchases)."
* Loss of Introductory APR- We may end your introductory APR and apply the Penalty APR if you become more than 60 days late in paying your bill


## Penalty APR \& When it Applies

Penalty APR: interest rate charged on new transactions if the penalty terms in the contract are triggered

## What could trigger a Penalty APR?

1. Make a late payment
2. Go over your credit limit
3. Make a payment that is returned
4. Do any of the above on another account that you have with them.

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## How To Avoid Paying Interest on Purchases

Pay your bill in full by the due date

## Minimum Interest Charge

Typically \$0.50 - \$2 per month

## Interest Rates and Interest Charges

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## Explore the Federal Reserve Board website

www.federalreserve.gov/creditcard

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## Set-up and Maintenance Fees

- Annual fee: yearly fee that may be charged for having a credit card
- Set-up fee: fee for opening the account
- Participation fee: monthly fee for having the credit card
- Additional card fee: fee to have a second person on the account

Why would a consumer choose a credit card with an annual fee?

Benefits, such as airline miles, the card offers are of greater value to them

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## Penalty Fees

## Penalty fees in addition to Penalty

 APR- Late-payment fee: charged when a cardholder does not make the minimum monthly payment by the due date
- Over-the-limit fee: charged if the account balance goes over the set credit limit
- Returned payment fee: applies if the cardholder does not have enough money to cover a payment.


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| Set-up and Maintenance Fees | NOTICE: Some of these set-up and maintenance fees will be assessed before you begin using your card and will reduce the amount of credit you initially have available. For example, if you are assigned the minimum credit limit of $\$ 250$, initial available credit will be only about $\$ 209$. <br> - Annual Fee: $\$ 20$ <br> - Account Set-up Fee: $\$ 20$ (one-time fee) <br> - Participation Fee: $\$ 12$ annually ( $\$ 1$ per month) <br> - Additional Card Fee: \$5 annually (if applicable) |
| Transaction Fees | - Balance Transfer: Either $\$ 5$ or $3 \%$ of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater (maximum fee: $\$ 100$ ) <br> - Cash Advance: Either $\$ 5$ or $3 \%$ of the amount of each cash advance, whichever is greater <br> - Foreign Transaction: $2 \%$ of each transaction in U.S. dollars |
| Penalty Fees | - Late Payment: $\$ 29$ if balance is less than or equal to $\$ 1000$ OR $\$ 35$ if balance is more than $\$ 1000$ <br> - Over-the-limit: $\$ 29$ <br> - Returned Payment: $\$ 35$ |

* Loss of Introductory APR- We may end your introductory APR and apply the Penalty APR if you become more than 60 days late in paying your bill


## How We Calculate Your Balance

## Credit card companies use one of several methods to calculate an outstanding credit card balance

## Interest Rates and Interest Charges

| Interest Rates and Interest Charges |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases | $12.99 \%, 13.99 \%$ or $14.99 \%$, introductory APR for one year, based on your creditworthiness. After that, your APR will be 14.99\%. This is a variable-rate APR that will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. |
| APR for Balance Transfers | 15.99\% <br> - This APR will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate |
| APR for Cash Advances | 21.99\% <br> - This APR will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate |
| Penalty APR and When it Applies | 28.99\% <br> This APR may be applied to your account if you: <br> 1. Make a late payment; <br> 2. Go over your credit limit; <br> 3. Make a payment that is returned; or <br> 4. Do any of the above on another account that you have with us. <br> How long will the Penalty APR apply? If your APR's are increased for any of these reasons, the Penalty APR will apply until you make six consecutive minimum payments when due. |
| How to Avoid Paying Interest on Purchases | Your due date is at least 25 days after the close of each billing cycle. We will not charge you any interest on purchases if you pay your entire balance by the due date each month. |
| Minimum Interest Charge | If you are charged interest, the charge will be no less than \$1.50. |
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| Fees |  |
| Set-up and Maintenance Fees | NOTICE: Some of these set-up and maintenance fees will be assessed before you begin using your card and will reduce the amount of credit you initially have available. For example, if you are assigned the minimum credit limit of $\$ 250$, initial available credit will be only about $\$ 209$. <br> - Annual Fee: \$20 <br> - Account Set-up Fee: $\$ 20$ (one-time fee) <br> - Participation Fee: $\$ 12$ annually ( $\$ 1$ per month) <br> - Additional Card Fee: \$5 annually (if applicable) |
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* How We Will Calculate Your Balance: We use a method called "average daily balance (including new purchases)."
* Loss of Introductory APR- We may end your introductory APR and apply the Penalty APR if you become more than 60 days late in paying your bil


## Loss of Introductory APR <br> If the card has an introductory rate, this area will list how the lower introductory rate can be lost



## Credit Card Chaos

Two credit card terms will be provided

## Identify which term is true on your credit card offer

## Credit Card Chaos

Does your credit card offer have a:

## Fixed-rate APR for Purchases

OR
Variable-rate APR for Purchases

Card 3 - 15.99\%

Card 1-14.99\%
Card 2 - 14.99\%

## Credit Card Chaos

## Does your credit card offer have an Introductory Rate?

## No Introductory Rate

## Introductory Rate



Card 1 - 12.99-14.99\% for one year Card 3-11.99\% for one year

## Credit Card Chaos

Does your credit card offer have an:

APR for Purchases greater than or equal to 15\%

## APR for Purchases

 less than 15\%Card 3

## Card 1

Card 2

## Credit Card Chaos

## Does your credit card offer have a Minimum Interest Charge?

## Minimum Interest <br> Charge

OR

## No Minimum Interest Charge



## Credit Card Chaos

## Does your credit card offer have an Annual Fee?

## Annual Fee

## No Annual Fee

## OR



Card 1-\$20
Card 3 - \$15


## Credit Card Chaos

Does your credit card offer have a Balance Transfer Fee?

## No Balance <br> Transfer Fee

## Balance Transfer Fee

OR

## Card 3

## Credit Card Chaos

## Does your credit card offer have a Late Payment Fee?

## Late Payment <br> Fee

## No Late <br> Payment Fee

OR

Card 1 - $\$ 29$ if balance less than $\$ 1000$ or $\$ 35$ for balances greater than \$1000

Card 2 - \$30
Card 3 -\$35

## How Do I Obtain a Credit Card?

## Shop around

Compare credit card offers and determine which card best fits your needs

## Complete a credit application

A form requesting information about a person's ability to repay

## Approval?

Applicant may or may not be approved (depends on creditworthiness)

If approved, review the final credit terms closely

## Obtaining a Credit Card



## What is a Credit Card Statement?

> It is important to - review each monthly credit card statement closely!

## Andrew's Credit Card Statement

Please help Andrew interpret his credit card statement.

Summary of Account Activity Overview of credit card

$?$
How much did Andrew charge in new purchases during this credit card billing cycle?

## \$517.12



## Payment Information

- Total new balance
- Minimum payment amount
- Date payment is due

What is Andrew's minimum payment due for this billing cycle?
\$53.00


## Late Payment Warning

What will happen if a payment is late-usually additional fees and a higher interest rate


How long will it take Andrew to pay off the balance of his credit card if he only pays the minimum payment?

## 8 years

## Minimum Payment Warning

Estimate of how long it can take to pay off balance if only minimum payment is made

## Notice of Changes to Your Interest

## Rates

Notifies card holder if rates are changing (typically a result of the Penalty APR being triggered)

Has Andrew triggered the Penalty APR?

Yes, he will pay $28.99 \%$ on all transactions made after 4/9/12


Notice of Changes to Y(4 Interest Rates
You have triggered the Penalty APR of 28.99\%. This change will impact your account as follows:

Transactions made on or after 4/9/12: As of $5 / 10 / 12$, the Penalty APR will apply to these transactions. We may keep the APR at this level indefinitely.
Transactions made before 4, 5, 2: Current rates will continue to apply to these transactions. If you become more than 60 days late on your account, the Penalty APR will apply to those


## Important Changes to Your Account

## Terms

- Must be notified of any significant changes
- Any changes can only apply to new charges
- Account can be closed before the changes go into effect

Other than implementation of the Penalty APR, will there be any other changes to Andrew's account terms?

Yes, his APR for Purchases is increasing to 16.99\%

Andrew's Credit Card Statemen


## Transactions

- List of all transactions since the last statement
- Should be reviewed for errors


## Fees and Interest Charged

- Fees and interest charges must be listed separatelyDoes Andrew owe a late fee?
Yes, he owes a \$35.00 late fee



## Year-to-Date Totals

Total amount paid in fees and interest charges for the current year

## What is the total amount of

 interest Andrew has paid in the year 2012?\$18.74

## Interest Charge Calculation

Summary of the different types of transactions

Why is it important to understand how to read a credit card statement?

## Be Andrew's Financial Advisor

Andrew has come to you and voiced his concerns about having a credit card. He is considering getting rid of his credit card.

As a "financial advisor," you understand that credit cards are financial tools that can be used or abused.

What three pieces of advice will you give Andrew?

## Summary

To avoid paying interest on a credit card, pay the balance in full every month

A credit card can have a positive or a negative impact on credit history

Credit card companies are required to disclose the terms and fees of a credit card

Credit card statements outline important information about a credit card and should be checked carefully for errors

