

A GUIDE FOR CREDIT CARDS FROM AVADIAN CREDIT UNION

Everything You Need to Know Before You Apply



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

From APRs and annual fees to credit limits and rewards points, **it's all right here.**



PURCHASING POWER,
REWARDS, AND
CONVENIENCE



So you're thinking about opening a credit card, but you're not sure what you should be considering. Or maybe you're thinking about switching from a card you currently use to a new card with better rewards.

Either way, you're in the right spot. In this eBook, we'll take a look at the reasons credit cards are beneficial for you, what you need to consider when comparing cards, the credit card options we offer at Avadian Credit Union, and how our online and mobile banking makes it easy to manage your card.

Let's jump right in.

Why Use a Credit Card?

BUILDING YOUR CREDIT & LIFE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Credit cards often get a bad rap, but the reality is that most of us need one. Let us state this upfront: it is best to pay your credit card bill off every month. If you don't, credit cards can get you into financial trouble, but when used properly, credit cards also work to build your credit.

They also serve more practical purposes for everyday use, like booking a hotel room, paying for online services like your favorite music or streaming service, or covering a large, unexpected expense.

Their benefits extend beyond building your credit and practical uses like paying for things in a digital world. They also offer benefits like cashback, rewards benefits, and cardholder perks like the fraud protection offered by most credit card providers.

So, if you do open a credit card, we think it's important that you choose one that will serve as more than just a necessary tool and be a true asset in your financial toolbox.



What to Consider When Choosing a Credit Card



Annual Percentage Rate. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “the APR is the cost of credit expressed as a yearly interest rate.”

Confused? Here’s the simple version: the lower the rate on your credit card, the better. The higher the rate, the more you’ll be charged when you carry a balance on the card from month to month. This number can be different for purchases, cash advances, and balance transfers. Will you have a fixed rate or a variable rate?

You’ll also want to know how the finance charges are calculated: adjusted balance, average daily balance, daily balance, ending balance, or previous balance? ([The Balance](#) offers a deeper look at what each of these mean.)

For our credit cards, interest charges are calculated by applying the periodic rate to the average daily balance to each of these transaction types separately: purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances.

Fees. The fees charged on credit cards can add up and really put a dent in the benefits you might receive from the card. For instance, you’ll want to consider if the card has an annual fee (a fee charged just for the privilege of having the credit card in your wallet). What are the late fees? Will you be charged a fee if you want to make a balance payment over the phone? What about balance transfer fees? Over-limit fees (we’ll take a look at credit limits next)? Cash advance fees? Foreign transaction fees? Expedited payment fees?

Credit Limit. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the credit limit is “the maximum amount that may be borrowed on a credit card. Some credit card advertisements offer a credit limit ‘up to’ a certain amount – but you may not qualify for the maximum.”

You can find the credit limit on the card you’re applying for in the Credit Card Agreement and credit card disclosure documents.



Rewards. Here's the fun one. Cash. Airline miles. Gift cards or discounts to your favorite retailers. Gas. Experiences. Think about what type of rewards you want to accrue the most and look for a card that offers the most of what you're looking for.

Cardholder benefits. This is a somewhat overlooked benefit, but we think it's too important not to discuss. Some card providers offer benefits for cardholders like emergency card replacement, emergency cash disbursement, roadside assistance, cardholder inquiry services, warranty programs on the items purchased on the card, and protection against unauthorized purchases.

Avadian's Credit Card Options

CHOOSE THE OPTION THAT FITS YOUR NEEDS



We have three credit card options: the Avadian Visa Signature Card, the Avadian Visa Rewards Card, and the Avadian Visa Secured Card.

Common Features

All three of the credit cards offered by Avadian share these features for new accounts:

- No annual fees
- No balance transfer fees
- No transaction purchase fees
- Enhanced fraud protection with embedded chips that improve security every time you make a purchase at a chip-activated terminal
- Tap-and-go technology that allows contactless payment at compatible payment terminals
- Zero liability on fraudulent transactions. You can use any of these Visa cards online or in-store without worry because you're protected from unauthorized use of your card or account information.
- Instant card issuance at any Avadian branch upon approval when you open a new account or need a replacement
- 24/7 emergency cash disbursement and card replacement
- Mobile wallet compatible

Now let's use this table to compare our cards at a glance. We'll then take a closer look at each card individually.

	VISA SIGNATURE CARD	VISA REWARDS CARD	VISA SECURED CARD
Annual Fee	None	None	None
Balance Transfer Fee	None	None	None
Transaction Purchase Fee	None	None	None
Enhanced Fraud Protection	✓	✓	✓
Zero Liability on Fraudulent Transactions	✓	✓	✓
Points	1.25 per \$1 spent	1 per \$1 spent	None
Rewards	✓	✓	None
Purchase Rate	Variable rate, ranging from 8.90% APR to 16.90% APR	Fixed rate, ranging from 9.90% APR to 16.90% APR, depending on creditworthiness	Fixed rate, 14.90% APR
Minimum Credit Limit	\$5,000	None	None
Tap-and-go Contactless Payment Technology	✓	✓	✓
Mobile wallet compatible	✓	✓	✓
Manage card online (travel notifications, freeze/block a card, dispute a transaction, and more)	✓	✓	✓

Credit card approval subject to creditworthiness, membership, and other qualifications. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change without notice.

SIGNATURE CARD



The Avadian Visa Signature Card

If you're looking for maximum rewards points to redeem for cash, merchandise, experiences, travel, and more, the Avadian Visa Signature Card is for you. It offers 1.25 points per dollar you spend (compared with 1 point per dollar spent on an Avadian Visa Rewards Card), so you rack up points more quickly.

Points can be redeemed for monetary rewards, merchandise, experiences, travel, and fuel. Monetary rewards include cash back; gift cards (both physical and electronic) to Target, Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, and more; and even donations to charities. Rewards can also be redeemed for more than 300,000 items, theme parks, flights, cruises, rental cars, hotels, and at-the-pump fuel at participating merchant locations.

The Avadian Visa Signature Card provides cardholders with special benefits like an extended warranty program on items purchased with your Avadian Visa Signature Card; a year-end detailed spending report to help with budgeting and financial planning; and travel and emergency assistance services.

Those Signature Card benefits are in addition to standard Visa cardholder benefits like lost/stolen card reporting, emergency card replacement and cash disbursement; Roadside Dispatch, a pay-per-use roadside assistance program; cardholder inquiry services; and Visa's Zero Liability policy protecting you against unauthorized purchases.

The Avadian Visa Signature Card has a variable rate that ranges from 8.90% APR to 16.90% APR as of Nov. 16, 2020. It has a minimum credit limit of \$5,000.

REWARDS CARD



The Avadian Visa Rewards Card

The Avadian Visa Rewards Card is another great option if you're looking for a card that will help you rack up rewards like cash, merchandise, experiences, and travel.

It offers all the same rewards options as the Avadian Visa Signature Card. The differences are that you'll earn 1 reward point for every dollar spent, enjoy a great low introductory rate of 4.99% APR for six months, and then a fixed rate between 9.90% APR and 16.90% APR, depending on your credit. It has no minimum credit limit.

Like the Signature Card, the Rewards Card enjoys the standard Visa cardholder benefits like lost/stolen card reporting, emergency card replacement and cash disbursement; Roadside Dispatch, a pay-per-use roadside assistance program; cardholder inquiry services; and Visa's Zero Liability policy protecting you against unauthorized purchases.

SECURED CARD



The Avadian Visa Secured Card

Our Avadian Visa Secured Card was designed for those who may have a hard time getting approved for a traditional credit card product. Whether you have poor credit history or no credit history, the Secured Card helps teach financial discipline and form healthy spending habits while helping the user build credit.

The Secured Card also enjoys the standard Visa cardholder benefits like lost/stolen card reporting, emergency card replacement and cash disbursement; Roadside Dispatch, a pay-per-use roadside assistance program; cardholder inquiry services; and Visa's Zero Liability policy protecting you against unauthorized purchases.

It offers a 14.90% fixed rate APR and has no minimum credit limit.

BUSINESS CARD



Business Credit Card

Own a business? Check out our Business Credit Card.

It earns 1 reward point per dollar spent and features an introductory low rate of 2.99% APR for the first six months; after the introductory rate period, your rate will convert to a variable rate, currently between 11.49% and 16.74% APR.

Like our credit cards for consumers, it features no annual fee or balance transfer fee and includes a card with an embedded chip for enhanced fraud protection plus tap-and-go technology. You'll also appreciate fraud monitoring and how online and mobile banking makes it easy to manage your card, including lost/stolen card reporting, travel notifications, and more.

Contact our Business Services representatives at 1.800.874.3925 or businessservices@avadiancu.com to learn more about our Business Credit Card.

Managing Your Card Anywhere, Anytime

CONTROL YOUR CARDS WITH ONLINE AND MOBILE BANKING



Stay on top of it all with Avadian's online and mobile banking. Check your balance, view transactions, and make payments any time. You can also freeze your card (place a temporary hold) and provide a travel notice if you will be traveling outside of your normal area, so we can note the account to prevent unnecessary denials.

And if you have a Signature or Rewards Card, you can track and redeem points through your online banking account.

Ready to Apply?

If you think one of our Avadian Visa credit cards is right for you, applying¹ is simple: just [click here](#) to get started today or stop by one of our [branches near you](#).

¹Subject to membership, creditworthiness, and approval.



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