

# pencil points



DO  
AWAY  
WITH  
DEBT



A new year is a great time to get a fresh start, and Academic Employees Credit Union is here to help! If you want to pay off your credit card bills, lower your loan payments and enjoy greater financial freedom, talk to our loan team. We offer smart options that help you save money:

- **Refinance your vehicle loan** from another lender to enjoy a lower payment or better interest rate with Academic Employees Credit Union. And did you know that you could even take out a loan on a car that you've paid off, and use the funds to consolidate other debt?
- **Open a personal loan** to pay off your credit cards, and make one monthly payment instead.
- **Tap into your home equity** to pay off debt with flexible terms and low rates.

Our experienced loan officers can review your accounts and see which options are best for your unique situation. Together, we'll give your finances a fresh start. Contact Academic Employees Credit Union to begin today!



## We Want You to Check with Us

At Academic Employees Credit Union, you aren't just another account number. You're a member, and you matter. That's why our checking accounts offer the service, access and savings we think you deserve:

- Our checking accounts are free. You'll pay no monthly fees or minimum balance charges.
- You can manage your money online, any time.
- Enjoy the freedom of a Visa® debit card, accepted at retailers worldwide.
- Access your account at Academic Employees Credit Union or Highway Alliance Credit Union offices or ATMs.
- Receive friendly, personal service from a team dedicated to your financial success.

Not only will your Academic Employees Credit Union checking account help you save money, your choice to support the credit union helps us serve all our members better.

## What's New with You?

At the beginning of the year, we like to touch base with our members to see if any important personal details have changed. Did you move? Welcome a new baby or lose a family member? Change jobs or get a new phone number? We want to know!

Keeping your contact information – including your current address, email and phone number – on file with the credit union ensures that you

receive your statement on time, as these documents cannot be forwarded to new physical mailing addresses. Plus, these details help us notify you quickly in the event of suspected fraud. (Remember, though, we will never call you to ask for your account number or other personal details.)

If you've recently gotten married or welcomed a baby, congratulations! These life events, along

with divorce, may impact your designated beneficiaries. Update your beneficiary list to be sure you're providing for the right people in the future.

Call Academic Employees Credit Union at (573) 445-1845, or stop by our office to update your personal information any time!

# Get A Head Start on Tax Season

The April 15 tax deadline will be here before you know it, but you can start your prep early. Now is a great time to gather statements and receipts, consider your deductions and even make a last-minute investment.

## Should You Itemize?

The Tax Cut & Jobs Act increased standard deductions across the board, giving Americans a bigger tax break. But, if you've itemized your taxes in the past, it may still make sense to do so. Consider these deductions:

- **Capital losses**, including those from mutual funds, stocks and other investments. You may need to print and file a 1099-B form for any affected accounts.
- **Charitable donations**, including gifts given to a 501(c)(3) organization, as well as mileage and other expenses related to volunteering for a nonprofit.
- **Real estate expenses** such as property taxes paid, as well as any first-time homebuyer credit or home energy improvement credits.
- **Education expenses**, including tuition paid, interest paid on student loans and college expenses such as books or travel.
- **Family expenses**, including child and dependent care costs, adoption expenses, child tax credits and earned income tax credits.
- **Personal property and vehicle expenses** such as registration fees or paid property taxes, as well as tax credits for electric vehicles.
- **Medical expenses** that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income are eligible, including medical bills, prescription costs, medical equipment charges and insurance premiums. HSA payments are also tax deductible if you itemize, even if you don't hit the 7.5% threshold.
- **Retirement and investment expense deductions** give you money back for investing in an HSA, Traditional IRA, Simple IRA, Solo 401k and SEP IRA, and you have until April 15, 2019, to make a qualifying investment and reduce your tax liability. If you're under certain income thresholds, you may also be able to claim the Retirement Savings Contribution Credit.
- **Employment expenses**, including costs related to applying and interviewing for a job, mileage, food, travel, clothing, software and hardware.

While itemizing your deductions may be complex, it can potentially result in significant returns. Check with your trusted tax advisor, and review your financial documents to see if you're getting the return you deserve.



## Notes and Info

### Savings Rates

Effective Jan. 1, 2019

Our website contains our most current rates on shares as well as certificates of deposit. Check it out or give us a call.

	APR*	APY**
Primary Shares		
\$100 - \$4,999.99	0.01%	0.01%
\$5,000 and up	0.01%	0.01%
Specialty Shares	0.01%	0.01%
Christmas Club	0.01%	0.01%

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.

\*\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are subject to change. Contact the credit union, or visit AcademicECU.com for rates on other term share certificates.

### Holiday Closings

Our office will close to observe the following holidays:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Monday, Jan. 21  
President's Day  
Monday, Feb. 18

Remember, even when our office is closed, you can still access your account 24/7 with your ATM or debit card, the convenience of our Voice Response Unit and online with Internet Member Account Services!

## The Difference in the Deductions

The standard tax deduction is the automatic reduction in the amount of your income that's subject to tax. Recent changes in tax legislation increased this amount – check out the difference:

	2017	2018
<b>Single filers</b>	\$6,350	\$12,000
<b>Married, filing separately</b>	\$6,350	\$12,000
<b>Married, filing jointly</b>	\$12,700	\$24,000
<b>Head of household</b>	\$9,350	\$18,000
<b>Dependents</b>	\$1,050	\$1,050 or \$350 + earned income, whichever is greater
<b>Personal exemption</b>	\$4,050	\$0

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Serving The Academic Community Since 1936



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24 Hour VRU (Voice Response Unit)  
1-888-BCTCU24 (1-888-228-2824)

### Lobby Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Drive Up Hours

Monday & Tuesday: 8 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.