

	Pathway: How Do I Do a Personal Credit Check?
Date	June 25, 2013
Owner	SNA Resource Access Workgroup
Authors	Tony Aloise, tony.aloise@hotmail.com
Steps	<p>You may request your free credit report online, request your report by phone or request your report through the mail. Free credit reports requested online are viewable immediately upon authentication of identity. Free credit reports requested by phone or mail will be processed within 15 days of receiving your request.</p> <p><u>On-Line:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to https://www.annualcreditreport.com/. Don't confuse this with "freecreditreport.com" which is sometimes advertised on TV. • Select your state. • Complete the on-line form with personal information including name, social security number and address. • Select any one of the three credit agencies. • Respond to the agency-specific questions for identify verification, e.g previous employers or credit. • View your file online. Download it to PDF or print the file to save it. • <i>Note: it is sometimes difficult to get past the verification phase on-line unless you really know your financial history. In that case, consider calling or writing.</i> <p><u>By Phone:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 1-877-322-8228 • You will go through a simple verification process over the phone. <p><u>By Mail:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download the request form (you need an Adobe viewer). • Print and complete the form. • Mail the completed form to: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Annual Credit Report Request Service P.O. Box 105281 Atlanta, GA 30348-5281</p>
Local Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Other Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Trade Commission

continued on page 2...

Other Information

- Knowing your credit history is important because it may affect your ability to get a job, buy a house, rent an apartment or get a good loan rate for a car.
- There are 3 independent credit agencies...Experian, Transunion, Equifax. By law, you are entitled to 1 free credit report per year per agency.
- If you have not previously opened a credit card or applied for a loan you may not have a credit history.
- Your credit report is free. If you also want to know your credit score you will have to pay a small fee, usually less than \$15. You will be given an opportunity to purchase a credit score from any of the nationwide credit reporting agencies after you receive your free annual credit report from any of them in response to a request made.
- If you find an error in your credit report you should take the time to get it corrected. You must submit the request for correction in writing. Federal law requires the credit agencies to respond within 30 days.
- Your credit score takes the following factors into account:
 - Your payment history (35%). Payment on time and past due.
 - The amount of outstanding debt (30%). This part considers the total amount you owe, the number of accounts with balances and % vs. credit limits (credit utilization ratio).
 - The length of your credit history (15%).
 - The types of credit you use (10%). You should have a balance...secured/unsecured. Residential, installment and credit cards.
 - New credit (10%).