



Apply It: My Banking Checklist

You can use this checklist to compare financial institutions and accounts. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space.

Financial Institution Name and Account Type

1	
2	
3	

1. My Needs and Access	Financial Institution		
	1	2	3
Is the institution insured by FDIC (for banks and savings associations) or NCUA (for credit unions)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If the institution is a credit union, am I eligible to join?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do I feel welcome and valued as a potential customer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the institution offer products and services I might need? (Mobile app, personal loans, vehicle loans, mortgages, credit cards, savings products, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the products and services described in terms and language I can understand?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is staff available to answer my questions at times that work for my schedule? (In person, by phone, through online chat, secure email, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can I access my account information how and when I need it? (Phone, paper, online, mobile, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can I access my money how and when I need it? (Convenient ATM, branches, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there special accounts for students, older adults, or other groups I'm part of? What benefits are there to these accounts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other:			

Apply It: My Banking Checklist *continued*

2. Checking Accounts, Reloadable Prepaid Cards and other Transactional Accounts	Financial Institution		
	1	2	3
Minimum opening deposit?	\$	\$	\$
Minimum monthly balance?	\$	\$	\$
Will my money earn interest? If yes, what is the Annual Percentage Yield (APY)? What balance do I have to maintain to earn interest?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
How can I deposit money? (Branch, ATM, online, mobile app, other)			
If I plan to deposit checks, how soon will the funds generally be available to me?			
Is there an online or mobile bill payment feature? How does it work?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can I set up alerts, such as for low balances? If yes, can I choose how they are sent? (Email, text, phone, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What fees might I have to pay every month? What other fees are there? (Ask for a fee schedule)			
Other:			
3. Savings Accounts			
Minimum opening deposit?	\$	\$	\$
Minimum monthly balance?	\$	\$	\$
What is the Annual Percentage Yield (APY)? What balance do I have to maintain to earn interest?			
What fees might I have to pay every month? What other fees are there? (Ask for a fee schedule)			
Other:			

Apply It: My Banking Checklist *continued*

4. Debit Cards and ATM (Automated Teller Machine) Cards	Financial Institution		
	1	2	3
Will I get a debit card or an ATM card? When?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there rebates, bonuses, or other rewards for using a debit card?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can I set up alerts, such as for when the card is used? If yes, can I choose how to receive them? (Email, text, phone, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What fees might the card have? (Ask for a fee schedule)			
Other:			

5. Overdrafts and Overdraft Fees

An overdraft occurs when a transaction goes through, but there is not enough money in your account to cover that transaction.

What are the overdraft practices that come with the account?			
Will the institution authorize and pay overdrafts caused by checks, other transactions using my account number, and automatic bill payments?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If I opt-in to an overdraft program, will the institution authorize and pay overdrafts caused by using ATMs and making everyday debit card transactions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What fees does the institution charge related to overdrafts? (Ask for the overdraft disclosure and fee schedule)			
Can the institution link my savings account to my checking account to avoid an overdraft? If yes, are there fees?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other:			

Apply It: My Banking Checklist *continued*

6. Other Available Services	Financial Institution		
	1	2	3
<p><i>“Person-to-Person” (P2P) Payments</i> Can I transfer money directly to another person? How does the service work and how quickly would the recipient receive my payment? (Ask for a fee schedule)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>Money Orders</i> Can I purchase money orders? (Ask for a fee schedule)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>Remittance Transfers</i> Can I send money to a person or business in another country? (Ask about a specific country if one is important to you, and ask for a fee schedule)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>Safe Deposit Boxes</i> Can I rent a safe deposit box? What size? (Ask for a fee schedule)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>Third Party Access</i> If someone helps manage my banking relationship, what information can they receive on my behalf? How would I authorize them to receive this information?</p>			
Other:			

Overall Comparison

Based on the above information, which one do you think will work better for you?	This one <input type="checkbox"/>	This one <input type="checkbox"/>	This one <input type="checkbox"/>
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