



## **Get the money you need for school.**

Whether you're an undergrad, grad student, or a parent, we have loans to meet your needs.

- Competitive interest rates
- Multiple repayment options
- No origination fee or prepayment penalty
- Borrow up to 100% of all your school-certified expenses for the entire year like tuition, fees, books, housing, meals, travel, and even a laptop



### **Wisconsin Rapids Office**

1610 Lincoln Street • Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494 • phone 715.421.1610

### **Plover Office**

1760 Plover Road • Plover WI 54467 • phone 715.344.7440

### **Mailing Address**

PO Box 1208, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-1208

# RETHINKING PROTECTION: FRAUD AND SCAMS



Each year, fraudsters find new ways to trick people out of money. Whether its an imposter scam – impersonating a love interest, a grandchild, debt collector, or the Social Security Administration – stealing someone’s identity, or hacking into your computer using malware, these fraudsters know how to pull it off. While some scams involve new tricks, many have been around for decades.

Of the nearly 2.2 million fraud reports, 34% indicated money was lost. Using common channels like email, text, and phone calls; fraudsters typically disguise their identity while retrieving confidential information. Below are just some of the most common scams that fraudsters use:

## Tech Support Scams

Someone calls and says they’re a computer technician. They might say they’re from a well-known company like Microsoft or Apple, or maybe your internet service provider. They tell you there are viruses, and you’ll have to provide remote access to your computer or buy new software to fix it. These scammers might want to sell you useless services, steal your credit card number, or get access to your computer to install malware, which could then let them see everything on your computer.

## Romance Scams

Using fake online dating profiles with photos of other people, scammers say they are from the U.S. but are temporarily traveling or working overseas. Most romance scams start with fake profiles on online dating sites created by stealing photos and text from real accounts. Some of the fictitious occupations include working on an oil rig, in the military, or as a doctor with an international organization. Scammers quickly profess their love and tug at the victim’s emotions with fake stories and their need for money. They often request money for reasons such as a plane ticket, other travel expenses, and customs fees –all needed to get back into the country.

## Elderly Scams

Fraudsters target seniors, often a loved one or grandparent, pretending to be a grandchild or other relative in distress. They will often indicate they have been arrested and need bail money. Variations of this scam include an “attorney” calling on behalf of the person in trouble, and instead of wiring funds, the request is to purchase gift cards and provide the account numbers.

## Secret Shopper Scams

Members looking to earn extra cash are frequently tricked into participating in the secret shopper scam. If a member accepts the job, they receive a counterfeit cashier’s check ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. They are instructed to cash the check and purchase money orders and gift cards and send them to the scammers. For their efforts they will keep a percentage of the check they receive. The counterfeit check is subsequently returned unpaid and charged back to the member’s account.

## Focus on... Taylor Ciesielski

Taylor Ciesielski joined the staff of Members' Advantage Credit Union as part of the Youth Apprenticeship Internship program through SPASH. She started in April of 2018 and after graduating from SPASH in 2019 she has remained on staff as a part-time MSR in our Plover location. Her duties include helping members with their transactions on the MSR line and answering phone calls.

Taylor is currently attending UWSP majoring in Business Administration. She anticipates graduating in December of 2022.

Taylor grew up in Stevens Point with her mom and one younger sister. When she is not working or studying, she enjoys kayaking, boating, watching baseball, and spending time with family and friends.

If you are in our Plover office make sure to say hi to Taylor!



### Pink Whip Salad

#### Ingredients:

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 can of sweetened condensed milk
- 8 oz of Cool Whip
- 1 large can of crushed peaches (or pineapple)
- 1 can of cherry pie filling

#### Directions:

- Beat cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk together
- Fold Cool Whip into the mixture
- Drain peaches (or pineapple) and add to mixture
- Add pie filling and mix all together
- Chill and keep refrigerated until ready to serve



Hello

## Inactive and Dormant Accounts

The Credit Union has several accounts which have been inactive for a substantial amount of time. In many cases we have not received a change of address, and in some cases a member is deceased with no living relatives or "payable on death" instructions. After a certain period of inactivity when we do not know the whereabouts of the member, we are required to send any unclaimed funds to the state.

These accounts incur a cost to the Credit Union (and ultimately the entire membership) in the form of postage and production costs for mailing statements, computer software costs based on the number of open accounts, and especially in the risk of fraud on accounts that have not been used regularly. In order to minimize the financial risks to the Credit Union and the costs of maintaining these accounts, a dormant account fee is assessed on these inactive accounts.

Avoid the fee! Be an active member. After all, you own it!

In the event that we charge your account in error, please bring it to our attention and we will gladly refund you the inactivity fee.



NCUA

**"YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES.  
YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE." – DR. SEUSS**



## 4 Signs You Need to Clean Up Your Finances

It's easy to see when your house needs cleaning: clothes are on the floor; dirty dishes are stacked in the sink. But it may be a little harder to know when to "tidy up" your finances. Here are a few signs:

### 1. You're living paycheck to paycheck

If you barely make ends meet at the end of the month, it's time to buy yourself some wiggle room for unexpected events. Start by cutting back on at least one major expense and putting that money into an emergency fund. The goal of an emergency fund is to be able to cover a three-month period of unemployment at a minimum. Consider downsizing to a smaller home or apartment, going from a two-car household to one, or commuting by bus or bike. Getting a side gig is another way to boost your emergency funding.

### 2. You're not saving for retirement

According to the Fed's 2020 Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households study, 25% of American adults have no retirement savings or pension. If you're one of those people, it's time to start. Your goal should be to save 15% or more of your monthly income for your retirement. If you're not used to saving, going from 0 to 15% might be hard. So, start small and simply set aside \$50 each month. Increase that amount when you get a raise or get a better handle on your expenses.

### 3. You're carrying credit card debt

There is good debt—mortgages for homes and loans for education—but there is also bad debt. Credit card debt is the worst kind of debt you can have, and the longer you carry it, the more money you end up losing in interest. If you're up to your chin in credit card debt, maybe it's time to create a budget and move to a cash-only system until your debt is under control.

### 4. You don't have a budget in place.

Do you follow a budget? Many Americans don't, even though it's probably the most effective way to manage money. Without a budget in place, you'll have a hard time seeing where your money is going, where you're overspending, and where you can make changes.

If any of these signs apply to you, it's time to clean up and learn how to manage your money. You'll be thankful in the long run.



## savings corner

**Open Deposit**  
.15% APY\*

**Share Certificate**  
(\$1,000 minimum deposit)

6 month term	.25% APY*
12 month term	.40% APY*
18 month term	.45% APY*
24 month term	.60% APY*
30 month term	.45% APY*
36 month term	.75% APY*
48 month term	.85% APY*
60 month term	.75% APY*

**IRA Share Certificates**  
**Traditional/Roth/Health Savings and Education SAs**

(\$1,000 minimum deposit)

12 month term	.40% APY*
18 month term	.45% APY*
24 month term	.60% APY*
30 month term	.45% APY*
36 month term	.75% APY*
48 month term	.85% APY*
60 month term	.75% APY*

**IRA Passbook** .25% APY\*

**Money Market Sharedraft**  
(\$1,000 minimum deposit)  
From 0.20% - .30% APY\*

*Rates are subject to change.  
\*APY=Annual percentage Yield*

## office hours

### WISCONSIN RAPIDS

7:00-5:00 M-W Drive-up  
7:00-6:00 Th-F Drive-up  
9:00-5:00 M-F Lobby  
9:00-1:00 Sat. Drive-up Only

### PLOVER

7:00-5:00 M-W Drive-up  
7:00-6:00 Th-F Drive-up  
9:00-5:00 M-W Lobby  
9:00-6:00 Th-F Lobby  
9:00-1:00 Sat. Drive-up Only

### 24 hr Drive-up ATM

No Surcharge for Members using a MACU debit card.

### WE WILL BE CLOSED

Thanksgiving: November 25  
Christmas Eve: Dec. 24 – Drive up 7am-Noon  
Christmas Day: December 25  
New Years: January 1