

# **Top 10 Best Credit Unions in Austin, Texas (2016 Ranking & Review)**

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## **2016 RANKING OF TOP CREDIT UNIONS**

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### **Intro: Finding the Best Credit Unions in Austin, TX**

Choosing a bank is an extremely important decision and the Austin, Texas, area has many great banking options to choose from. From big name banks to home grown local institutions, Austin has it all. However, many people prefer to utilize credit unions over banks for their banking needs.

Austin credit unions can offer a great deal of value to their customers. Because they are not-for-profit institutions, credit unions are able to pass on profit to its members — in the form of higher savings rates and lower loan rates — than those offered by most traditional, for-profit banks.

Many of the best credit unions in Austin, Texas offer credit services similar to the large name banks: credit cards, mortgages, home equity loans, lines of credit, and auto loans. They are just able to offer them at a lower rate.



Searching for Austin area credit unions can be a truly daunting task. With so many choices, it can be hard to narrow down the list to only those that are truly the best credit unions in Austin. Luckily, we have done the research for you.

We have assembled a list of the ten best credit unions in Austin. The Austin, TX, credit unions on this list offer the most value to customers through their low-cost products and outstanding customer service.

## **List of the Best Credit Unions in Austin, TX**

- [\*\*A+ Federal Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Amplify Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Austin Telco Federal Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Capitol Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Government Employees Federal Credit Union \(GEFCU\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Public Employees Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*United Heritage Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*University Federal Credit Union\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Velocity Credit Union\*\*](#)

*List is sorted alphabetically (click any of the names above to go directly to the detailed review section for that credit union)*

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## **Methodology for Selecting the Top Credit Unions in Austin, TX**

What methodology did we use in selecting this list of best credit unions in Austin, TX?

Using publicly available sources, AdvisoryHQ identified a wide range of Austin area credit unions that provide services in Austin and the surrounding areas.

We then applied AdvisoryHQ's "[Breakthrough Selection Methodology](#)" to identify the final list of top credit unions that provide services to communities in and around Austin, Texas.

## **Top 10 Best Credit Unions in Austin | 2016 Ranking**

<b>Bank</b>	<b>Location</b>
A+ Federal Credit Union	Austin
Amplify Credit Union	Austin
Austin Telco Federal Credit Union	Austin
Capitol Credit Union	Austin
Government Employees Federal Credit Union (GEFCU)	Austin
Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union	Austin
Public Employees Credit Union	Austin
United Heritage Credit Union	Austin
University Federal Credit Union	Austin
Velocity Credit Union	Austin

*(List is sorted alphabetically)*

## **Detailed Review – Top Ranking Best Credit Unions in Austin, Texas**

Below, please find the detailed review of each firm on our list of the best credit unions in Austin.

We have highlighted some of the factors that allow these Austin credit unions to score so highly in our selection ranking.

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### **FEATURED REVIEWS**

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#### **A+ Federal Credit Union Review**

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**Get Free Award Emblem Request PDF of Review** **Get A Personalized Page** [A+ Federal Credit Union](#) was founded in Austin in 1949 by a group of 50 school teachers during a picnic. From this humble beginning, this locally grown credit union now boasts 20 branches and close to 130,000 members.

This not-for-profit credit union in Austin, TX, is member owned and operated. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors elected from its membership. The Board of Directors also appoints a Supervisory Committee to perform regular audits to ensure the safety of members' funds.

Throughout its 65 year history, A+ Federal Credit Union has upheld its beginning philosophy of people helping people.

#### **Key Factors that Enabled This Firm to Rank as One of the Best Credit Unions in Austin**

Listed below are key factors that enabled A+ Federal Credit Union to be rated as one of this year's best credit unions in Austin, Texas.

PlusPoints Loyalty Program

A+ Federal Credit Union believes in rewarding its members. This commitment to their members really shines through in their [PlusPoints](#) member loyalty program.

Many banks offer an incentive program to customers, but few are as easy to take advantage of or pass on as many savings to customers as this Austin area credit union's incentive program does.

This unique reward program allows members to earn rewards hassle-free and with very little effort. Members simply go about their business as usual and the rewards rack up.

Rewards are easily earned for everyday things. Here is a [breakdown of how points are earned](#):

- 1 point for every \$1 in interest that is paid on a loan
- 1 point for every \$1 in dividends that is earned on a deposit account
- 100 points for every year of membership
- 100 points for members' birthdays
- 10 points every time a member swipes and signs for a purchase using their A+ Federal Credit Union debit card
- 5 points every time the debit card is swiped and used with a PIN number when it is linked to an A+ Cash-back Checking Account
- 100 points for attending a financial workshop
- 50 points for bringing a guest to a financial workshop
- Monthly PlusPoints are also awarded for monthly interest payments received on Portfolio loans

Once a member has earned 2,500 PlusPoints, the points can be used for a reward. While many banks and credit unions offer reward redemption for items or discounts on vacations and airline tickets, A+ Federal Credit Union offers something much more valuable: money saving discounts on their already competitive rates.

[Reward points can be used to:](#)

Buy down the interest rate on a new loan:

- .25% with 2,500 points
- .50% with 5,000 points

Lower mortgage origination fees:

- .25% with 2,500 points
- .50% with 5,000 points

Buy up the rate on CDs:

- .25% with 2,500 points
- .50% with 5,000 points

This unique reward program offers members the opportunity to save money and gain higher earning potential across the span of several years' time – making it a valuable benefit to the members of this credit union in Austin, TX.

### Mobile Wallet

A+ Federal Credit Union offers its members the convenience of using [Mobile Wallet](#). Mobile Wallet allows users to carry their debit or credit card information in digital format on their cell phone.

With Mobile Wallet, consumers can use their smartphone, tablet, or smartwatch to make purchases without having their debit or credit card physically on them.

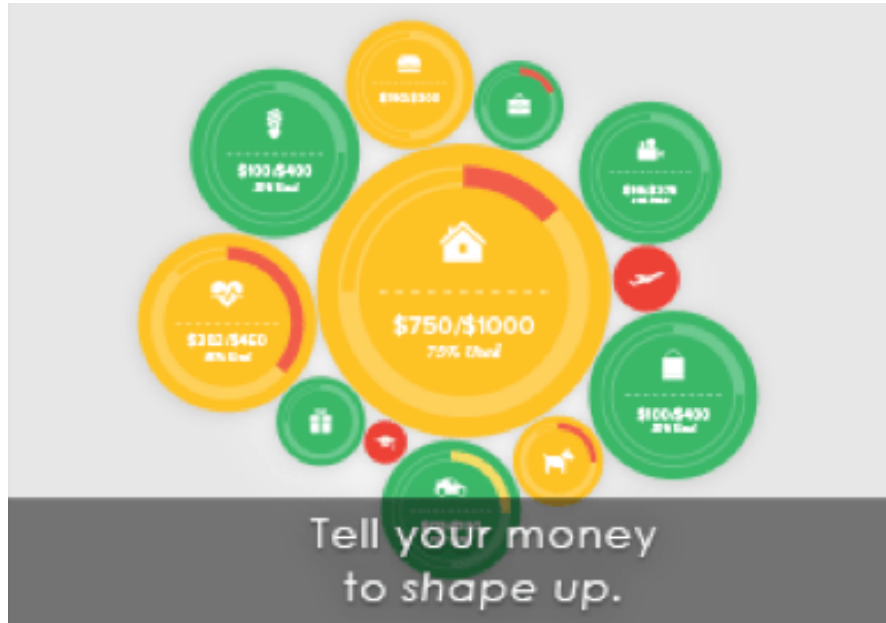
This Austin, TX, credit union currently offers Mobile Wallet service through the use of:

- Android Pay
- Apple Pay
- Samsung Pay

This convenient payment option allows members to use their A+ Federal Credit Union debit card while keeping their card number confidential and their personal information secure.

### myFinance

[myFinance](#) is an online money management tool offered by A+ Federal Credit Union as part of their online banking. This tool is available to help members take control of their finances and stay on track to meet their financial goals.



Features of the myFinance tool include:

- Goal tracking
- Bubble budget
- Expense tracking and categorization
- Debt management
- Categorization
- Mobile access

Another big bonus with this free program is that it allows members to combine all of their financial accounts and debts from all financial institutions to get a complete financial picture. myFinance is just one of the great features that makes A+ Federal Credit Union one of the best credit unions in Austin.

### Loans

In addition to traditional banking services such as checking and savings accounts, this Austin credit union also offers a wide variety of loan services with very competitive rates. These services [include](#):

- Auto loans
- Education loans
- Home loans
- Lines of credit

- Motorcycle, ATV, and 4 wheeler loans
- Boat and watercraft loans
- RV loans
- IRA loans
- [Business loans](#)

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## Amplify Credit Union Review

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[Amplify Credit Union](#) got its start as IBM Texas Employees Federal Credit Union in [1967](#). This credit union in Austin, TX has been serving the Austin area ever since then, growing to include more than [56,000 members](#) and over [\\$790 million](#) in assets.

The Austin area credit union currently holds eight locations across Austin, Round Rock, and Cedar Park, TX, and is a member owned financial cooperative.

### **Key Factors That Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Best Credit Union in Austin**

Below are key factors that enabled Amplify Credit Union to be rated as one of this year's top credit unions in Austin.

#### Free Checking

Amplify Credit Union offers its members [free checking](#) that comes without the fees and balance requirements of many other financial institutions. Its free checking comes with many benefits, such as:

- No monthly maintenance or service fees
- No minimum monthly balance
- [Only a \\$25 minimum](#) required to open an account
- Free debit card
- Online and mobile banking



When compared to other big name financial institutions, the benefits of Amplify Credit Union’s free checking speak for themselves.

**COMPARE** | Compare checking account options at other financial institutions

BANK OR CREDIT UNION	Amplify Credit Union Free Checking	BANK OF AMERICA CORE CHECKING*	WELLS FARGO EVERYDAY CHECKING*
Minimum to Open	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Min. Average Daily Balance to Avoid Fee	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Monthly Fee (if other minimums aren't met)	\$0	\$12.00	\$10.00
Overdraft Protection Transfer Fee (from Savings Account)	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$12.50
Privilege Pay/ NSF Fee (account goes negative)	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Official Checks	1 free per month, then \$3.00 each	\$10.00 each	\$10.00 each
Free Coin Counter at Every Location?	Yes	No	No

\*For informational purposes only. Based on market survey as of January 21, 2016.

## Wealth Management

Amplify Credit Union offers a wide range of wealth management options to its members. These [include](#):

- Financial planning
- Education funding
- IRAs and retirement planning
- Retirement income planning
- Investment management
- Estate planning

A unique advantage that members of this Austin area credit union enjoy is certified financial planners available onsite to work with members on reaching their financial goals.

They also offer self-service online trading for those who wish to make their own investment decisions. Amplify provides members who wish to utilize online trading with tools such as quotes, charts, and analyses to help them make informed decisions.

## Commercial Accounts and Loans

Another reason that Amplify Credit Union is considered a best credit union in Austin is their commitment to helping businesses grow. This commitment can be seen in the wide range of commercial products they offer.

They offer a range of business accounts, including:

- [Business checking](#)
- [Business savings](#)
- [SEP Plans](#)
- [Simple IRAs](#)

They also offer a myriad of business loan options, including:

- [Commercial real estate loans](#)
- [Construction and development loans](#)
- [Small business loans](#)
- [Secured loans and lines of credit](#)
- [Business credit cards](#)

### Bank at Work Program

Amplify Credit Union is an Austin area credit union that has partnered with many corporate sponsors throughout the Austin area to deliver additional discounts and savings to those corporations' employees. Some of the [perks](#) that employees of these sponsors enjoy are:

- \$25 initial minimum deposit requirement waived
- \$100 bonus for setting up direct deposit to their Amplify checking account
- 0.15% discount on auto and personal loans
- Additional 0.15% increase for share certificates
- Free book of checks
- \$500 toward closing costs on an Amplify mortgage
- Free breakfast or lunch, gifts, and door prizes during Amplify's onsite visits

Amplify Credit Union's extensive list of [corporate partners](#) is ever growing, helping more people qualify for this great program.

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# Austin Telco Federal Credit Union Review

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Austin Telco Federal Credit Union operates [24 branches](#) in the Austin metropolitan area and boasts [almost 80,000 members](#). With over [\\$1.3 billion dollars](#) in assets, members of this Austin credit union can be rest assured that their money is in safe hands.

Austin Telco takes the credit union mission statement of “people helping people” seriously and strives to show its commitment to fulfilling this philosophy through the many efforts it makes to benefit its members as well as the communities where it resides.

## **Key Factors That Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Best Credit Union in Austin**

Below are key factors that enabled Austin Telco Federal Credit Union to be rated as one of this year’s best credit unions in Austin.

### Member Discounts

Being a member of Austin Telco Federal Credit Union certainly has its advantages. One of the many perks offered to members is discounts at some of the area’s major attractions. These [include](#):

- SeaWorld and Aquatica San Antonio
- Schlitterbahn Water Park
- Six Flags Over Texas

### Insurance Services

In addition to traditional banking products, Austin Telco also offers its members a variety of insurance options to support their insurance needs. Coverage is offered for many different situations, [including](#):

- Automobile
- Homeowners

- Renters
- Motorcycle
- Boat, Watercraft, and RV
- Business
- Travel
- Pet

Austin Telco Credit Union strives to offer comprehensive coverage at the best prices and on average saves customers who switch an additional [\\$503.50 a year](#).

### Low Loan Rates

Because it is member owned and not-for-profit, Austin Telco is able to offer its members incredibly low rates on loans. This Austin, TX credit union boasts auto loan rates starting as [low as 1.59%](#).

### **New, Used and Refinance Vehicles<sup>1</sup>**

Maximum Terms	730	729-680	679-640	639-600	599-550	549
60 Mo.	1.59%	2.09%	3.09%	5.09%	6.59%	9.59%
66 Mo.	1.69%	2.19%	3.19%	5.19%	6.69%	9.69%
72 Mo.	1.99%	2.49%	3.49%	5.49%	6.99%	9.99%

They also make no secret of the rate that members will qualify for based on their credit score, publishing the [rates for each score range](#) on their website. It is this type of transparency that landed them our list of the best credit unions in Austin.

### ESign

Austin Telco Federal Credit Union is committed to customer convenience. This can be seen in its [eSign](#) feature.

ESign is a perk of being a member which allows loan documents to be signed right at home using a computer, smartphone, or tablet. The loan documents are then delivered electronically and the loan is funded quickly.

This allows members to obtain a loan without the hassle of having to schedule a trip to a branch.

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## Capitol Credit Union Review

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Founded in [1954](#), [Capitol Credit Union](#) has enjoyed a long and rich history in Austin. The member owned credit union in Austin, TX, started out being housed in the basement of the Capitol Building, until it outgrew its location and opened its own building on Lavaca Street in downtown Austin in 1978, where it still operates today.

The current president of Capitol Credit Union, Anne Boatright, has served in this position for 47 years. With over [\\$117 million](#) in assets and a strong foundation, Capitol Credit Union is a safe and secure place for members to place their money.

### **Key Factors That Enabled This Credit Union to Rank as a Best Credit Union in Austin**

Below are key factors that enabled Capitol Credit Union to be rated as one of this year's best credit unions in Austin.

#### Scholarship Program

Capitol Credit Union offers a [scholarship program](#) to its members. The program can be utilized by graduating high schoolers who are planning to attend a 2-4 year college or trade school as well as college students who are currently attending one of the eligible schools.

The program pays out [\\$500](#) to those members who meet the program's qualifications. Qualification requirements include being a current member in good standing with the institution and providing two letters of recommendations.

Capitol Credit Union's dedication to giving back to its members is one of the reasons they are considered to be a best credit union in Austin.

## Automotive Concierge Service

For those members who are in the market for a new car but are having a hard time finding the time required to find the right deal, Capitol Credit Union has the answer. Through their [automotive concierge service](#), the Austin area credit union will find the perfect car for them and deliver it right to their door or to the credit union.

This complimentary locate-to-order car service is just one of the many ways that Capitol Credit Union works to make banking with them as simple as possible.

## Reloadable Prepaid Cards



Capitol Credit Union offers the option of using a reloadable prepaid card for purchases and travel. Members have [three different reloadable card types to choose from](#):

- Reloadable cards
- Youth cards
- Travel cards
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The reloadable prepaid cards can be used anywhere debit cards are accepted and can even be used internationally, making them perfect for

traveling. The cards are reloadable for the life of the card and can be set up with direct deposit straight to the card.

Parents can use the Youth card to teach children about financial responsibility as well as allow them some freedom with purchases without having to worry about them carrying around wads of cash. The Travel card is perfect for traveling without having to worry about someone getting ahold of banking information.

The funds are fully replaceable in the event that the card is lost or stolen.

### Free Checking

Free checking is a much appreciated perk at any bank. But a free checking account that earns interest as well is a no brainer. Capitol Credit Union offers its members a free, interest-earning checking account that is ripe with perks.

In addition to earning interest, the Capitol Free Checking account comes with:

- No monthly fees
- Free Visa debit card
- 24/7 account access
- Mobile banking
- Online bill pay
- Overdraft protection

These member perks and commitment to customer satisfaction make Capitol Credit Union one of the top credit unions in Austin.

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**To browse exclusive reviews of all top rated credit unions in Austin, Texas, please click on any of the links below.**

- [A+ Federal Credit Union](#)
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- [Austin Telco Federal Credit Union](#)
- [Capitol Credit Union](#)
- [Government Employees Federal Credit Union \(GEFCU\)](#)

- [Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union](#)
  - [Public Employees Credit Union](#)
  - [United Heritage Credit Union](#)
  - [University Federal Credit Union](#)
  - [Velocity Credit Union](#)
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## **Conclusion – Top 10 Best Credit Unions in Austin**

Credit unions can offer the same services and products as banks with the added advantage of better rates on loans and savings. In addition to better rates, credit unions tend to put more focus on providing friendly, top notch service to their account holders.

While banks answer to shareholders and are focused on making profits, credit unions are non-profit organizations owned by their members. This means that when you become a member of a credit union, you have a voice in how things are done. Most credit unions hold annual meetings where members can have their opinions heard and are overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors that are member elected. In many ways credit unions are self-governed organizations.

This list represents some of the best credit unions in Austin. All of the credit unions contained in this list belong to the [Austin Alliance of Credit Unions](#) which gives members access to over 300 ATMS free of charge. This added convenience is just another reason why these credit unions in Austin are considered to be the best.

All of the Austin, TX, credit unions on this list offer potential members low fees, competitive rates, strong and stable foundations, longstanding and respectable reputations, dedication to providing excellent customer service, around the clock access via online and mobile banking, and multiple convenient locations. These truly are some of the very best credit unions in Austin.

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AdvisoryHQ Team