When 0% Interest Isn’t Your Best Auto Loan

When it comes to auto loans, a 0% interest rate is a head-turner, but it’s not always the best deal.

Car dealerships generally advertise 0% offers in the summer when they’re looking to make room in the showroom for newer models. The offers come from the financing arms of the large auto manufacturers, which unlike traditional lenders profit directly off the sale of the car and don’t necessarily need the interest revenue.

But like any great deal--there’s a catch. According to The New York Times, only about 10% of consumers actually qualify for 0% interest loans, which require pristine credit--usually a FICO score of 720 or higher. Those loans typically are reserved for a limited number of models and are not available if you’re shopping for a used car--which cost less than newer models.

These 0% loans often are paired with shorter-term loans, which cost you less overall but mean a higher monthly payment. So before you head to the dealership chasing a 0% loan, keep these points in mind:

» Look for all available deals. Check for other offers, such as cash back. If you can get a rebate--which lowers the overall price of the car--paired with a low-interest loan, it may save you more than the 0% financing. Be sure to crunch the numbers with our online calculator located here on our website: www.ukfcu.org. See how much you can afford to finance and what your monthly payment will be.

» Negotiate the price. Before you get to the interest rate, finalize a sale price and stick to it. Don’t feel pressured to accept expensive add-ons. Once the sale price is established, then talk about financing; and

» Get preapproved for a loan here at UKFCU. Heading to the dealership with a firm offer in hand will give you a point of comparison and puts you in a stronger negotiating position. Credit unions, as not-for-profit financial cooperatives, offer competitive rates. We offer low rates on new, used and refinance auto loans. Check us out online--ukfcu.org!

Those loans typically are reserved for a limited number of models and are not available if you are shopping for a used car--
UKFCU Annual Meeting Recap
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Another annual meeting is in the books! And what an exciting event it was. Socializing, food, fun, and great prizes! The meeting took place Thursday, May 23rd, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the UKFCU Corporate Offices.

All UKFCU branches closed at 3:30 p.m. to allow our employees and members time to arrive and enjoy light hors d’oeuvres and receive their gift before the meeting.

David Kennedy, President/CEO, began the meeting swiftly at 5:00 p.m. reporting, once again, that 2018 was yet another successful year for UKFCU! He continued by sharing UKFCU ended the 2018 year strong with over $860 million in total assets and over 94,000 members, placing UKFCU in the largest 6% of credit unions, nationally. Better yet, UKFCU continues to be recognized as one of the fastest growing, highest performing large-size credit unions in the country.

He then thanked our members for their continued trust and let them know we would not be here without them. He emphasized, UKFCU will continue to earn that trust by delivering the highest quality products and services. Then in typical annual meeting format, next were recaps with our Treasurer’s Report, Supervisory Audit Committee and our Volunteer Recruitment & Development Committee Reports.

Last but not least, we wrapped up the evening drawing for the door prize winners! This year’s prizes included a YETI Hopper Flip 12 Cooler, iRobot Roomba E6, and three $100 gift cards! Congrats to all of our winners! Here’s to another great year!

UKFCU proud sponsor of J.A. Miss Business!

On March 20th, 2019, Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass, in partnership with UKFCU, proudly presented the 2019 J.A. Miss Business event, an educational workshop designed to help young women develop a successful business and professional career. Attendees had the opportunity to win a $500 scholarship from UKFCU by submitting an essay describing what the event taught them, and how to apply the skills they learned to empower their future.

Pictured: Hannah Sloan, UKFCU Marketing Specialist, & Reagan Toothaker, $500 Scholarship Winner.
Paying for College with UKFCU

Now that you’ve reviewed the costs, how will you cover them?

Our congratulations go out to the Class of 2019 and their parents! Preparing for college is an exciting time, but it can also be stressful as you start to tally the costs. College is expensive! Before you get overwhelmed, take a deep breath and walk through the process one step at a time.

How much will it cost?

By now you have probably received a financial aid award letter from your college of choice that outlines your Cost of Attendance (COA) and the financial aid you are eligible to receive. Remember that your true cost of attendance may vary based on things such as your housing situation (a single room will usually cost more than a double shared with a roommate) or where you purchase your books (look for deals online or with used books).

How will I pay for it?

Now that you’ve reviewed the costs, how will you cover them? Your award letter includes information about any scholarships and grants you may be eligible for. Start with these options because they typically do not have to be repaid – in other words, free money for college!

The next option for financial aid comes from federal student loans. Federal loans offer many options to help you or your parents fund your college education. They also offer great benefits such as fixed rates, deferment, and income based repayment, to name a few.

Still need more help paying for college?

Private student loans are the final option you should explore. These loans come from a private lender like UK Federal Credit Union. Our Student Choice line of credit comes with low interest rates, flexible repayment terms, and a convenient line of credit structure that allows you to get funding for your entire undergraduate career with just one application. By borrowing from a trusted, local lender, you’ll get a fair value loan with the personal service you’ve come to expect from your credit union.

Don’t wait until your fall tuition bill is due – now is the time to look into your options for paying for college! For more information, or to apply for a Student Choice loan, visit www.ukfcu.studentchoice.org/.
Whether it's on their computers, tablets or smartphones, most teenagers go online multiple times a day. And a lot of that time is spent on various social media networks. In fact, 71% of teens use more than one social network.

Because posts can live online forever, it's better for your teens to learn good habits early. There are various ways you can make sure they are being safe and smart on social media.

**Username and password safety**

Being safe with passwords and usernames is a great way your teens can protect themselves from things like identity theft or having someone else misuse their accounts.

» Advise your teens to create a username that doesn't contain any personal information such as name, birthday or address.

» Encourage them to create hard-to-guess passwords and to change them regularly to avoid being hacked.

» Remind your teens to log out of sessions on shared computers.

» Advise your teens to stay away from strangers on the Internet, just like in real life. This can help them avoid unwanted and potentially dangerous encounters.

**Smart posting**

It's important for your teens to have an understanding of the effect their social media posts could have on their lives, including future job searches.

» Encourage them to avoid making inflammatory statements, trolling and bullying.

» A picture that they are tagged in can be seen by people they might not want to see it. If this happens, they should remove the tag or ask the person posting the image to do so.

» An inappropriate photo or post has the potential to go viral, so tell your teen to be thoughtful when posting. If they aren’t sure if they should post it or not, don’t post it.

» Explain that people can take screenshots of posts, so they could circulate even after they’ve been deleted.

**Managing their privacy**

» Show them how to control privacy settings and who sees their posts.

» They can avoid predators by only accepting invitations from people they know, and allowing only trusted users to add them as a friend or follower.

» Remind them not to post personal information like their social security number or their home location, and to use caution if you go on a family vacation – this helps prevent break-ins while you’re away.

Social media is a great way for your teens to stay connected and share experiences. By teaching them best practices, you can help ensure that they get the most out of their online experiences.

Liberty stands with you to keep you protected online, as well as at home and on the road. Get your free, no-obligation quote on home and auto insurance by calling Joey Doom at 859-286-8269 or by visiting www.libertymutual.com/ukfcu.