



Learning Objectives

- \uparrow Why credit is a function of business
- ↑ The strategic role of credit
- ↑ Where credit typically fits within the business organization
- ↑ The role of credit in financial management
- ↑ The role of credit in the operating cycle
- ↑ The goals and core activities of a credit department

Credit in the Company

- ↑ Credit as a Business Function
- ↑ The Strategic Role of Credit
- ↑ Credit Within the Business Organization
- \bigstar The Role of Credit in Financial Management
- ↑ Credit and the Operating Cycle
- $\boldsymbol{\uparrow}$ The Core Activities of the Credit Department
- ↑ The Credit Department Department's Goals
- ↑ The Credit Department's Multi-Functional Role
- ↑ The Credit/Sales Relationship

Credit in the Company (continued)

- ↑ The Credit/Purchasing Relationship
- ↑ The Credit/Manufacturing Relationship
- ↑ The Credit/Information Systems Relationship
- ↑ Credit Department Relationships with Other Departments
- ↑ Organizing the Credit Department
- ↑ Day-To-Day Administration
- ↑ Lockbox Operations
- ↑ Collecting Accounts Receivable
- Control and Follow-Up

Credit as a Business Function

- **↑**Business
- **↑**Business organization
- **↑**Strategy
- ↑Strategic planning

The Strategic Role of Credit

- ↑Amassing Information
- ↑Credit Analysis
- **↑**Collection
- ↑Cash Application
- ↑Deduction Resolution

Credit Within the Business Organization

↑ Management of Accounts Receivable

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- ↑Net Working Capital
- ↑Finance Related Functions

The Role of Credit in Financial Management

- ↑ Financial Management:
 - > Obtain cash from investors
 - > Use that cash to buy productive assets
 - > Operate those assets to produce additional cash
 - > Return cash to the business and/or investors

Cash Management

↑Managing Cash Inflows
↑Internal Cash Flow Management
↑Managing Cash Outflows





The Core Activities of the Credit Department

- ↑ Customer and credit analysis
- ↑ Developing credit policy
- \uparrow Managing the collection function
- ↑ Setting credit availability thresholds
- ↑ Management reporting

The Credit Department's Goals

It is the responsibility of the manager of the credit department to plan and direct the activities of the credit function within the guidelines of company policy.



Most credit departments confer with many departments during the credit process.

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The Credit/Sales Relationship

Establishing a viable creditsales relationship is one of the most important tasks of the credit manager.

The Credit/Purchasing Relationship

Besides inquiring into the backgrounds of potential suppliers, the credit department can also analyze a supplier's financial condition.

The Credit/Manufacturing Relationship

Just as with marketing risk sales, production risk sales should be followed closely by the credit department to minimize collection costs and bad debts.

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The Credit/Information Systems Relationship

With a new business or technology process, the first goal of the credit department should be to get as involved as possible in the decision making and planning process.

Credit Department Relationships with Other Departments

↑Accounting

↑Legal

- **↑**Engineering
- ↑Traffic/Shipping
- ↑Personnel

Organizing the Credit Department

Two essential functions:
>defining responsibility
>staffing

Day-To-Day Administration

The major functions performed daily by the credit department include:

- ↑ The credit approval process
- ↑ The establishment of an account
- ↑ Order processing
- ↑ Accounts receivable administration
- ↑ Collections and adjustments
- ↑ Control and follow-through

Lockbox Operations

A lockbox is a check collection system operated by a bank.

- ↑ Wholesale lockboxes
- ↑ Retail lockboxes
- ↑ Economic benefits
 - > Mail time
 - > Processing time
 - > Availability time

Collecting Accounts Receivable

A collection effort is needed when payment is not received for invoices when they are due.

- ↑ Letters
- ↑ Phone calls
- **↑** E-mail
- ↑ Visits
- ↑ Third-party collections

Control and Follow-Up

The concept of control and follow-up is to identify and remedy reasons for nonpayment.

