



Managing business credit

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Tim Maxey

Lead Business Growth Strategy Consultant

Wells Fargo

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Managing credit

Financing opportunities

Don't guess about credit – manage it.

How your business can rely on credit

- Provide working capital
- Support business growth
- Take advantage of opportunities

How your banker can be a valuable resource

- Conduct a business financial review
- Review business situation
- Discuss future business goals

Take control of your credit profile

A credit profile is everything a lender sees about you and your business.

Create a sound financial footing

- Establish checking and savings accounts specifically for your business and separate from your personal accounts
- A strong payment history may strengthen your credit profile
- Review your personal credit profile yearly, and clear up any issues

Bank strategically

- Consolidate banking relationships
- A strong banking history may support your creditworthiness
- Demonstrate a consistent flow of funds

Cultivate the relationship

- Visit your banker regularly
- Be clear about your situation and goals



Get to know credit reporting

Lenders may look at both your personal and business credit history.

Credit reports

Aggregate information from many sources

- Payment history
- Credit usage
- Debt load

Credit scores

Use information from your credit records to generate a single number

- Payment history
- Outstanding debt
- How long your credit has been established



Know the Five C's of Credit

Each of the Five C's is important – assess your business in each area.

Credit history

How you've handled past credit obligations may help indicate what a lender may expect in the future.

Collateral

Personal and business assets that may offer a backup source of repayment.

Capital

Personal investment in the business and business assets that can be turned into cash.

Conditions

Everything that affects your ability to repay a loan, including internal and external factors.

Capacity

How your business will generate enough cash to repay the loan and any other commitments.

What potential lenders may look for

Planning for credit success

Be prepared to show a lender that your company has a steady cash flow and effective business plan.

1

Credit purpose

Explain how you will use the money and why the amount you're asking for is realistic.

2

Credit history

Describe your credit profile accurately to ensure there are no surprises.

3

Company finances

Provide cash flow projections to demonstrate your ability to repay the loan.

4

Application details

Ensure your sales and income numbers match what is on the most recent tax return.

Enhance your cash flow

Cash flow helps demonstrate your ability to repay a loan.

1. Accelerate your inflows

- Process invoices quickly
- Offer customers more payment options

2. Monitor your costs

- Track bills and inventory
- Know payroll obligations

3. Watch your outflows

- Manage cash flow with credit
- Take advantage of trade discounts or barter arrangements

4. Cover your taxes

- Set aside funds to cover all your taxes

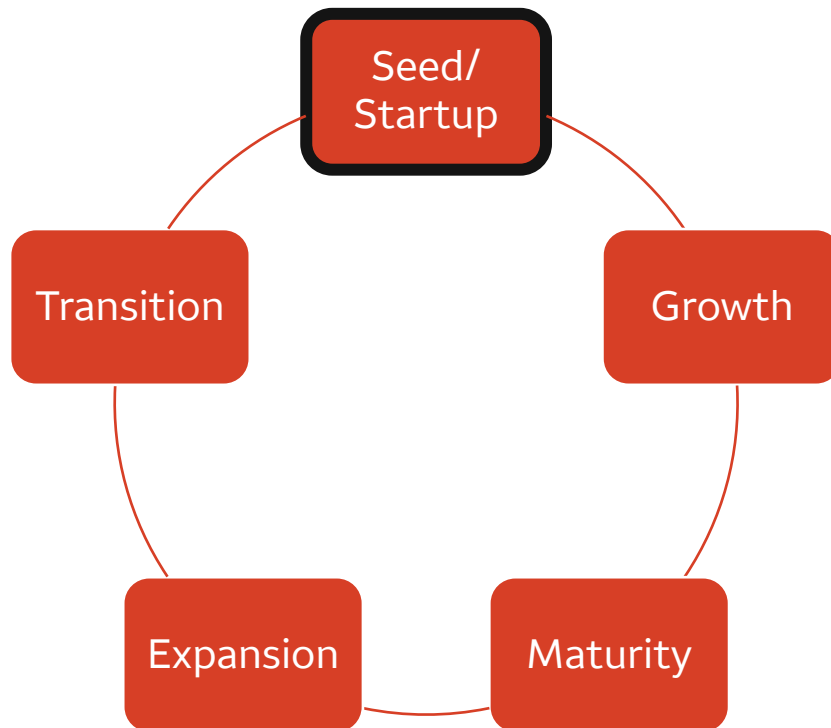
5. Challenge everything

- Are you getting value from every relationship?
- Can you cut expenses?

The business credit lifecycle

Match your business and credit stages: Seed and Startup

Every business is unique, but there are common needs and characteristics when they are at similar stages.

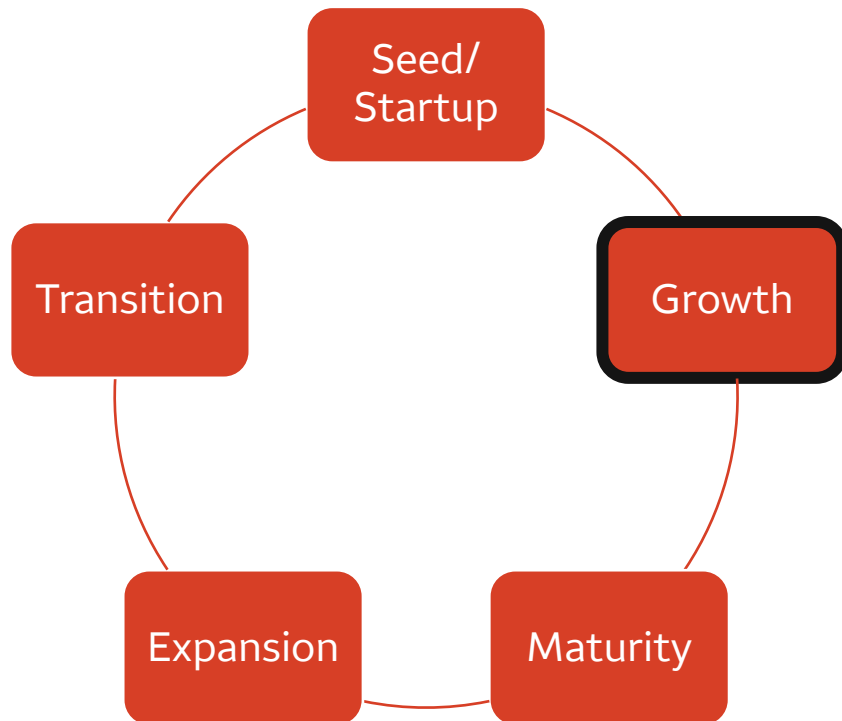


Build a solid foundation for success

- Personal and family assets
- Business credit cards
- Business lines of credit
- Healthcare financing start-up loan
- Micro lenders

Match your business and credit stages: Growth

Every business is unique, but there are common needs and characteristics when they are at similar stages.

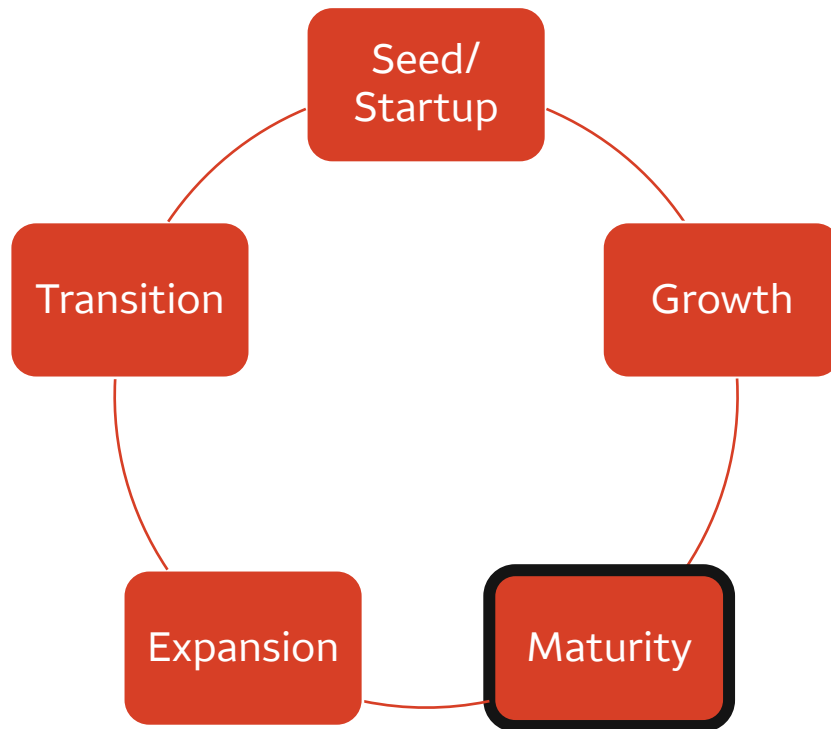


Move a young company forward

- Business lines of credit
- SBA 7(a) and 504 loans
- Refinance and purchase loans secured by commercial real estate
- Commercial real estate equity loans and lines of credit
- Healthcare financing loans

Match your business and credit stages: Maturity

Every business is unique, but there are common needs and characteristics when they are at similar stages.

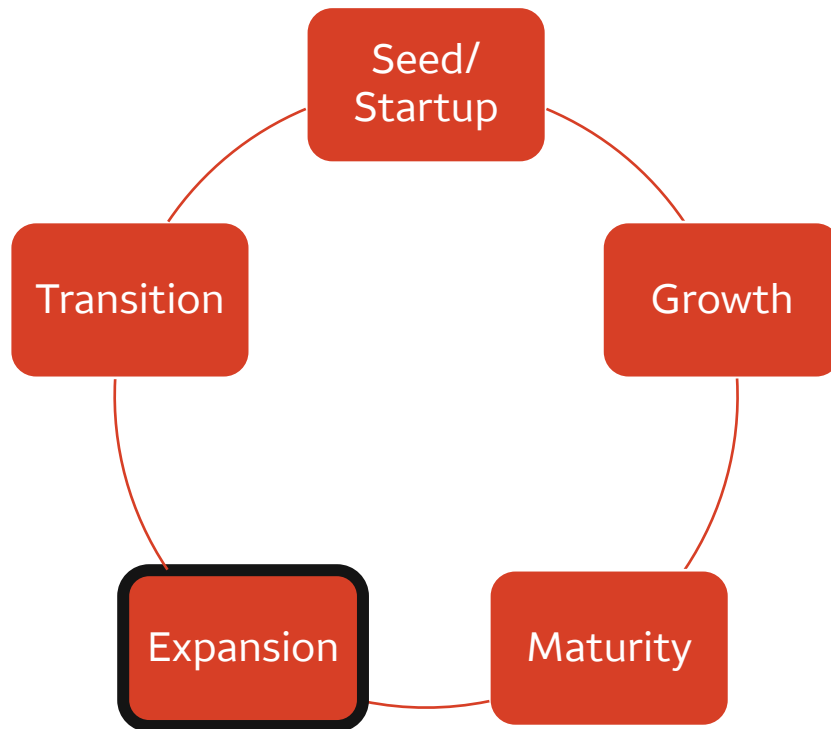


Keep your edge as an established company

- Paying down debt
- Refinancing commercial real estate equity
- Opening a commercial equity line of credit or loan

Match your business and credit stages: Expansion

Every business is unique, but there are common needs and characteristics when they are at similar stages.

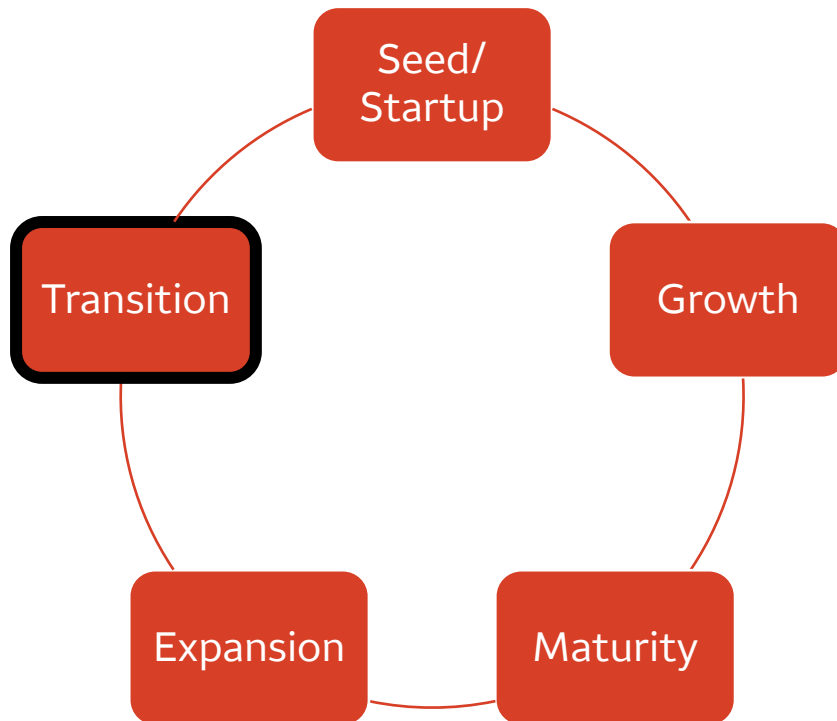


Take a mature business to the next level

- Commercial real estate financing
- SBA 7(a) and 504 loans
- Healthcare financing loans

Match your business and credit stages: Transition

Every business is unique, but there are common needs and characteristics when they are at similar stages.



Plan beyond your involvement

- Paying down debt
- Refinancing commercial real estate equity

Making sense of financing options

Know the language

Understanding your options begins with knowing the language.

Secured

Backed by collateral (cash, equipment, real estate, UCC lien, etc.)

Can be personal or business

Unsecured

Requires no collateral

Depends entirely on your credit and strong cash flow

Find the financing that's right for you

Understanding your options begins with knowing the language.

Credit cards

- Conveniently manage everyday business expenses
- Establish or repair business credit with a business secured credit card

Lines of credit

- Revolving source of funds
- Unsecured

Commercial real estate financing

- Expand your business or purchase new commercial property
- Free up cash
- Borrow against your equity

SBA loans and lines

- May be government-guaranteed
- Variety of purposes and terms
- Fixed or adjustable interest rates

Healthcare financing

- Support for Dentists, Optometrists, Physicians, and Veterinarians
- Line of credit and fixed rate loans with a variety of repayment options

Think creatively to find funding

Alternative lending options may provide funding when you're just getting started and help you build credit.



Free educational resources

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Credit and financing

- Understanding credit
- Securing and using credit



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