

If you are eligible for and have received a social security number (SSN), getting a cell phone in the U.S. should be easy. Call or visit the website of any cell phone provider.

If you are not eligible for a social security number, you may have difficulty getting a monthly cell phone plan, but you can get a prepaid plan. Most prepaid cell phone plans do not require a social security number. The table below can help you decide which company offers the best alternative for your needs. Also visit [this article](#) for helpful information on choosing a pre-paid cell phone plan.

Provider Name	SSN Required for Monthly Plan	Prepaid Plan Available	Additional Information
AT&T	Yes	Yes	
OIT	No	No	To purchase a monthly p
Sprint	No	No	To purchase a monthly p
T-Mobile	Yes	Yes	
University Mobile	No	No	
Verizon	No	Yes	To purchase a monthly p

1. AT&T

(1-866-246-4852 or wireless.att.com)

You cannot get a monthly plan because a SSN is required for the credit application. You may, however, purchase a pre-paid plan on the Web or at a AT&T store.

2. Sprint

(1-800-SPRINT1 or www.sprint.com).

You can get a cell phone with your passport if you do not have a SSN. You need to go to a Sprint store in person.

3. T-Mobile

(1-800-T-MOBILE or www.t-mobile.com)

You cannot sign up for a monthly cell phone plan without a SSN, but can get pre-paid accounts.

4. **University Mobile**

(1-800-853-4133 or universitymobile.com)

A SSN is not required to purchase cell phone plans.

5. **Verizon**

(1-800-922-0204 or verizonwireless.com)

To purchase a monthly cell phone plan, you can fax a copy of the visa and student ID, and pay a \$400 deposit. You should go in person to a Verizon store because locating the correct department (Credit and Activation) by phone can be difficult. Also, you can get prepaid service with no SSN.

6. **OIT**

(1-614-292-8648 or units.osu.edu)

To purchase a monthly cell phone plan, you can use your OSU ID number that begins with 999 or 997. OIT will require you to pay for six months of service in advance, if you have no prior credit history.