

*The Original, Award Winning, Often Imitated,
New and Improved...*

Cindy's
Guide to Living
(cheaply)
in
Champaign-Urbana

2020

(Please see Disclaimer – Updated from 2019 version only up to Entertainment section)

Disclaimer

(August 6, 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected businesses in the Champaign-Urbana area. All but “essential” businesses in the State of Illinois were required to shut down for several months.

We are currently in Phase 4 of the “Restore Illinois” plan to reopen the State. This means most “non-essential” businesses have been allowed to reopen under strict guidelines, including a reduction in the number of patrons allowed at one time. Most businesses have greatly reduced their hours and services; some have been able to offer curbside pickup services; some rearranged their merchandise/seating to accommodate social distancing; some expanded to include outdoor seating areas; and, unfortunately, some have been unable to reopen at all.

I have been working from home since mid-March and am unable to keep up with all the casualties. A few business closings were featured on the local news and I have, sadly, deleted them from these pages. Others drifted quietly into oblivion, with no fanfare, and have gone completely unnoticed by me. I apologize in advance if I have missed a favorite business’ closing and have failed to remove it from this Guide. I strongly suggest contacting businesses before venturing out into the great unknown.

I hope we can continue to move forward to Phase 5, but I am afraid we may return to Phase 3 at some point before this disease has been vanquished. If that happens, I hope it will only be for a brief time. If we continue to follow the guidelines (wear our masks, maintain social distancing, follow handwashing protocol, and stop touching our faces), we will get through this!

My heart goes out to everyone who has been affected by this pandemic.

Light and love,

Cindy



August 2020

Hi!

I want to welcome you to Champaign-Urbana, Urbana-Champaign, C-U, U-C, or Shampoo-Banana...it's all the same place! The twin cities are divided by a single street -- Wright Street -- which runs through the center of campus. If you are west of Wright Street, you are in Champaign, to the east, you are in Urbana.

I developed this handbook back in 1994 in an attempt to help students new to town learn the little secrets the "townies" know about C-U. I know that grad school is a big enough transition without the added stress of being new to a community. I hope this will help ease that stress by giving some ideas about where to go and how to get around town easily.

I am a "townie", born and raised in C-U. I graduated from both Urbana High School and the University of Illinois (in psychology) *decades* ago. I lived in Los Angeles for 11 years, but always considered C-U my home. I returned to town in 1992, to a very fast-growing area -- where miles of cornfields once stood, shopping malls and restaurants now thrive.

When I lived in LA, I could have definitely used a guide such as this. Living with a grad student husband, and only getting paid once a month, we had to learn to budget carefully. I have never completely given up that budget-conscious lifestyle. Thus, most of the places I talk about in this guide are relatively inexpensive, though I do mention (and recommend) some of the more expensive places to go.

This list is primarily comprised of places where I actually shop, eat, and visit. My lists are, as a result, limited. There are many other places besides the ones I include here, and many are just as good, I'm sure. It's all relatively subjective. I also primarily list places off campus, as you are more apt to find the hidden gems on campus yourselves.

I have included other information that may come in handy for new graduate students such as emergency, utility company, and University phone numbers, along with news sources, and some ways to get around town.

I hope you will find the information in this guide useful. This is a wonderful community to live in, with lots of variety, and new businesses starting up all the time. Sometimes these restaurants and businesses only stay around for a short time, and as a result, this guide may be out of date in a matter of months. So, if you like a place, be sure to visit it frequently. Always support your favorite local businesses!

Here is one final money saving tip: Always ask if a business has a STUDENT DISCOUNT. Many businesses are very supportive of our students and offer special discounts on their goods and services to students who show them a student ID card. It may be \$1 or 10%, but it all adds up over time!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me. And if you need help navigating graduate school, check out the Graduate College's New Grad Student Welcome Guide at <https://grad.illinois.edu/gradmap/quick-guide>.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your time in C-U!

Cindy Dodds, Graduate Program Coordinator
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

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Important Phone Numbers

If you are calling a University number from a University phone, you only dial the last 5 digits of the phone number (e.g., to call 333-3640 from a campus phone, you dial 33640.) Unless it is a 300-XXXX number, then you must dial all 7 digits.

When calling an outside line from a campus phone, you need to dial a 9 first, then the number. All local phone numbers within Champaign-Urbana and surrounding area are in the 217 area code. (i.e.: 217-300-8707). As long as the number you are calling from is within the 217 area code, there is no need to dial 217.

Emergency Numbers

If you find yourself in a *life-threatening* emergency (fire, severe accident, robbery, assault, etc.) **always call 911 first!**

***Life-Threatening* Emergency call: 911**
(on campus: 9-911)

METCAD (911 Service for Champaign County) – Non-Emergency contact 333-8911

As graduate students, you can utilize either Carle or OSF hospitals in an emergency. For regular health care, you should first contact **McKinley Health Center** on campus (listed under University Phone Numbers).

Hospitals

Carle Hospital 611 W Park, Urbana	383-3311 Patient Advisory Nurse: 383-3233	carle.org Emergency/Level I Trauma Center	carle.org/locations/Carle-Foundation-Hospital/Emergency-Care
OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center 1400 W Park, Urbana	337-2000	www.osfhealthcare.org Emergency/Level II Trauma Center	www.osfhealthcare.org/heart-of-mary

Champaign

Police non-emergency	351-4545	ci.champaign.il.us/police	police@champaignil.gov
Fire non-emergency	403-7200	champaignil.gov/fire	FireDepartment@champaignil.gov

Urbana

Police non-emergency	384-2320	www.urbanailinois.us/police	PoliceFrontDesk@urbanailinois.us
Fire non-emergency	384-2420	www.urbanailinois.us/fire	

University of Illinois

SIGN UP FOR [ILLINI ALERTS](#)

Police	333-1216	police.illinois.edu	police@illinois.edu
Emergency Dean of Students 5pm-8:30am	333-0500	odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/emergency-dean	helpdean@illinois.edu

Champaign County Sheriff Incidents outside C-U city limits	384-1204	co.champaign.il.us/sheriff	sheriff@co.champaign.il.us
Illinois Road Conditions	800-452-IDOT (4368)	www.idot.illinois.gov	www.gettingaroundillinois.com

24-Hour Hotlines

Crisis Line/Substance Abuse Local suicide prevention hotline	359-4141 or 888-928-5278	rosecrancechampaignurbana.org
Rape Advocacy, Counseling & Education Services	384-4444 or 877-236-3727	www.cu-races.org
Illinois Poison Center	800-222-1222	illinoispoisoncenter.org
National Grad Crisis Line	877-GRAD-HLP	gradresources.org/crisis
Courage Connection Local domestic violence hotline	384-4390 or 877-384-4390	courageconnection.org

University Phone Numbers

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering chbe.illinois.edu			
Cindy Dodds, Graduate Program Coordinator	300-8707	chbe.illinois.edu/directory/profile/dodds	dodds@illinois.edu
Graduate College	333-0035	www.grad.illinois.edu	grad@illinois.edu
International Student & Scholar Services	333-1303	iss.illinois.edu	iss@illinois.edu
Student Benefits Center (Health/Dental)	333-0165	si.illinois.edu	insure@illinois.edu
McKinley Health Center	333-2700	www.mckinley.illinois.edu	
Counseling Center	333-3704	counselingcenter.illinois.edu	
Student Affairs	333-1300	studentaffairs.illinois.edu	
Main Library	333-2290	www.library.illinois.edu	
Technology Services at Illinois Help Desk	244-7000	techservices.illinois.edu/get-help/help-desk	consult@illinois.edu
Division of Campus Recreation	333-3806	www.campusrec.illinois.edu	campusrec@illinois.edu
General Information	333-1000	illinois.edu	

Tenant Unions/Local Utilities (Customer Service Numbers)

Before you put your deposit down to rent a house or apartment, you may want to speak to a **Tenant Union** first. They can give you free information regarding your potential landlord. If you are a student and have paid your SORF fee, contact the campus Off-Campus-Community Living office. If you are a non-student or incoming student, contact the C-U Tenant Union.

Tenant Unions

Off-Campus-Community Living Office 300 Turner Services Building	333-0112	occl.illinois.edu off-campuscommunityliving@illinois.edu
Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union 44 E Main St, Ste 208, Champaign	352-6220	www.cutenantunion.org

After you have rented/purchased your new place, here are some numbers that may come in handy.

Utilities

Illinois American Water Company	800-422-2782	amwater.com/ilaw
Ameren Illinois (Electric/Gas)	800-755-5000	www.ameren.com/illinois

Internet/Cable/Satellite/Land Line Phone Services

AT&T	800-288-2020	www.att.com
Xfinity/Comcast	800-934-6489	www.xfinity.com save \$\$: www.xfinity.com/student
DirecTV (Satellite)	800-531-5000 customer svc 888-777-2454 new service setup	www.directv.com
Dish Network (Satellite)	800-333-3474 customer svc 855-631-8834 new service setup	www.dish.com
Viasat (Satellite)	844-860-5254	www.viasatspecials.com
Mediacom	844-987-3260	mediacomcable.com
i3 Broadband (limited areas)	877-976-0711	i3broadband.com

Cell Phone Companies

There are so many different cell phone companies to choose from that I have decided not to list them. I personally use [Verizon](#) and have been quite happy with them. They give an **18% discount** for being a University of Illinois employee, so if you go with them be sure to mention you work here!

Post Offices 800-ASK-USPS www.usps.com

Campus	
Champaign Station A 302 E Green Street	328-5200
University Station Altgeld Hall, 1st floor 1409 W Greet Street Enter through Wright Street side	367-9890
Champaign	
Champaign Main Post Office 2001 N Mattis Avenue	373-6018
Champaign-Neil Street Station 600 N Neil Street	352-2167
Urbana	
Urbana Post Office 3100 E Tatman Court (on Rte 130 off Rte 150) Southeast Urbana	337-6297 If you receive a package there, they can send it to the Broadway Office if you call them.
Downtown Urbana Post Office 202 S Broadway Avenue	Window Services Only 367-9629

News/TV/Radio

There is a variety of printed news sources in town. You can also find newspaper machines and vendors that sell national papers like the *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, or *New York Times*.

Local Subscription Newspaper Service

The News-Gazette Local news, events, & entertainment. Conservative views.	351-5252 or 800-660-7323	www.news-gazette.com
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Free Papers

You can pick these up around town at local restaurants & stores.

Daily Illini Independent student newspaper YMCA, 1001 S Wright Champaign	337-8300	dailyillini.com	online@dailyillini.com Submit a tip: news@dailyillini.com
The Buzz Alternative Lifestyle Paper YMCA, 1001 S Wright Champaign	337-8300	readbuzz.com	buzz@readbuzz.com
The Public I Alternative News 202 S Broadway #100, Urbana	344-8820	publici.ucimc.org	imc@ucimc.org
Thrifty Nickel On Line Weekly sales/ads	356-4804 850-833-2648	champaign.thriftynickel.com	

Local Television Stations

These stations are all available with basic cable access. With other cable or dish network packages, you can receive 100+ stations, including channels featuring all news; all music; all weather; all sports; home & garden shows; and premium movie stations like HBO, Showtime, Starz, and Cinemax.

National Station	Local Station	Local Channel	Local City Station is Broadcast From	URL
CBS	WCIA	3	Champaign/Springfield/Decatur	www.wcia.com
CBS	WCIX	49	Springfield	www.wcia.com
PBS	WILL	12	University of Illinois - Urbana	will.illinois.edu
ABC	WICD	15	Champaign-Urbana/Danville	newschannel20.com
NBC	WAND	17	Decatur	www.wandtv.com
FOX	WCCU	27	Champaign	www.foxillinois.com
	WRSP	55	Springfield	

Local Radio Stations

You can receive dozens of radio stations in East Central Illinois. I have only listed a very few here. Most have live-streaming options so you can listen while you are on your computer.

FM	Number	Type of music/station	URL
WPCD	88.7	Parkland College/alternative	wpcd.parkland.edu
WEFT	90.1	Community Radio for East Central Illinois	new.weft.org
WREE	92.5	Rewind	rewind925.com
WLRW	94.5	Mix 94.5	www.mix945.com
WHMS	97.5	Lite rock	www.whms.com
WIXY	100.3	Today's Country Favorites	www.wixy.com
WGKC	105.9	Country US	country1059.com
WPGU	107.1	U of I/alternative music	wpgu.com
WKIO	107.9	Classic hits	www.1079wkio.com
AM	Number	Type of music/station	URL
WILL	580	Public Broadcasting/talk/news/weather	will.illinois.edu
WDWS	1400	"NewsTalk1400"/weather/sports	www.news-gazette.com/wdws

Getting Around

I find that many students **Walk** to and around campus...it is free and it is good exercise.

SAFEWALKS	333-1216	Managed by UI Police, provides trained student patrol officers to walk students to on-campus destinations after dark.
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Where walking is good, probably the most efficient way for students to travel on campus and around town is by **Bus**.

C-U Mass Transit District (CU MTD)	384-8188	mtd.org
Main office/bus barn: 1101 E University, Urbana Illinois Terminal: 45 E University, downtown Champaign	Office open 8-5 Mon- Sat Terminal: 7am-6pm M-F, 8am-6pm Sat, 9am-5pm Sun	

As a student, you are entitled to ride the MTD for FREE (OK, you actually pay for this privilege with part of your student fees), including shuttle buses and Saferides. You must present your I-card in order to ride free of charge. Non-students pay \$1.00 a ride, with one free transfer.

Shuttle buses around campus run regularly and often, throughout the school year. **Saferides** is available after normal working hours throughout the school year. Schedules are available: on buses, at Illini Union, at MTD, and on-line.

335 SAFERIDES	265-7433	Runs Aug-May, within set boundaries. Download MTD Connect app to utilize
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Bicycles

Many students also ride **bicycles**. Urbana is listed as a Gold Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (www.bikeleague.org/community) – the only city in Illinois to be given that honor. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the City of Champaign are listed as receiving Silver rankings. There are bike paths all around town. A new riding/hiking trail is under construction to link Urbana to Danville along an old abandoned railroad track. The Kickapoo Rail Trail from Urbana to St. Joseph opened in Summer 2017!

Remember to ride defensively, and watch for other bikes, other vehicles of the 2 or 4+ wheel varieties, and especially pedestrians. You will need to register your bicycle with Campus Parking (see below).

If you are looking to purchase a bike, I have always gone to Durst Cycles. I got my first bike there when I was about 8 years old. Check out their huge “garage sale” every fall. There are several other places in town that sell/repair bikes, as well.

Durst Cycle & Fitness 1201 S Mattis, Champaign 1112 W University, Urbana	352-3300 367-3600	www.durstcycle.com	durstcycle@gmail.com jdurst74@gmail.com
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You can also pick up **used bikes**, which are usually much less expensive than new at:

Police Sales/Auctions -- The Champaign, Urbana, and Campus Police departments hold sales/auctions each year to dispose of impounded/stolen/lost bicycles. Call the police stations for dates. You can get some very good deals on almost new bikes at these events. People line up around the block for a chance to pick up one of these bikes.

Garage Sales and Newspaper Ads -- Look in local papers for sales. If you are patient and are diligent, you can get some real bargains!

If you like to build, work on, or repair your own bike, check out **The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign** (thebikeproject.org, contact@thebikeproject.org) for DIY work space, tools, and a community of like-minded individuals! They also have refurbished bikes for sale.

Motorized Vehicles

Scooters and **motorcycles** are quite popular forms of transportation, especially when fuel costs are high. I strongly suggest, before investing in a 2-wheeled vehicle, that you take the Motorcycle Rider Program (cce.icc.edu/motorcycle). The class is very popular, so you should register early, or try to come in as a walk-in. I began the course once when it was offered through the U of I and soon realized I was not cut out for driving a two-wheeled motorized vehicle; but it did make me a better passenger. If you plan to ride your bike to campus, there are motorcycle-designated parking spaces for rent in most lots. Please note that you do have to register all vehicles parked in University lots (see Parking below).

Driving your car to campus is *not* recommended. It is very hard to find parking on campus; parking meters run \$1.00 for 1 hour; and the cities of Champaign and Urbana, along with Campus Parking, love to give parking tickets (with prices ranging from \$7-\$50 a ticket)! If you are lucky enough to get a University rental spot, it can cost you over several hundred dollars a year. Additionally, you must register your car with Campus Parking. Here are some addresses you may find helpful should you decide to drive anyway.

To obtain a driver's license, so you may legally operate motorized vehicles in the State of Illinois, you must visit:

Office of the Illinois Secretary of State (aka DMV) 2012 Round Barn Center, Champaign	800-252-8980 278-3344	www.cyberdriveillinois.com
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Hours of operation: 8:00am-5:00pm, Tu-Fri (till 5:30pm Tu). 7:30am-12:00noon Sat. If you plan to take a driving "road" test you must arrive at least 2 hours before closing, and you must show a vehicle insurance card.

You must present acceptable identification in order to apply for a license for the first time. For specific details see: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x173.pdf.

If you want shorter lines and wait times, visit the Rantoul (892-8773), Tuscola (253-2813), or Monticello (762-2841) offices! During the academic year, the mobile DMV unit comes to the Illini Union for one day (9:30am-3pm), generally the last Wednesday of the month. It has become quite popular, so prepare for a short wait...but nothing like the main branch.

To register cars, bikes, motorcycles on campus and to purchase annual or daily parking permits:

Division of Campus Parking 1201 W University Avenue, Urbana Located in the parking garage west of the Beckman	333-3530	www.parking.illinois.edu	parkingcomments@illinois.edu
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Zipcar

If you don't want to purchase a vehicle, but don't want to carry a load of groceries on the bus, rent a Zipcar. Become a member for a nominal fee and pay for only the time you use the car - and you don't pay for gas or insurance! There are 10 Zipcars located at various locations around Champaign-Urbana and on campus. Call 1-866-4ZIPCAR or visit www.zipcar.com/universities/university-of-illinois-champaign-urbana for more information. Many of our students use this service regularly and there are University affiliate rates available.

Uber Cars/Taxis

You can download the apps for a [Lyft](#) or [Uber](#) driver to provide you with transportation around town. You can also call one of the many taxicab companies in town. I have used [Arrow](#), (318-9009) and [R&H Cab](#) (721-6095). Arrow is owned by a high school friend of mine and is very reliable!!

Purchasing a Vehicle

If you plan to purchase a car to use while you are here, there are many reputable dealerships in town. You can also find good deals on used cars on-line, in the newspaper, or at some used car lots. But "buyer beware" when purchasing a used car! Make sure you take it on a test drive to see how it runs before you purchase it and then take it to a good mechanic as soon as possible to make sure everything under the hood is as it should be.

If you are in the market for a motorcycle, there are a couple motorcycle dealerships in town that sell new and used bikes and a couple that sell nice used bikes. Again, you can find used motorcycles in the newspaper or on-line. If you need info on repair shops, please contact me. I know a couple good ones.

Please remember if you do decide to purchase a vehicle, you are required by law to purchase insurance, must pay an annual registration fee with the State of Illinois, and have a valid US driver's license.

Car Repair

If you have your own car, chances are you will need something repaired at some point, and regular maintenance to keep it running in tip-top shape. If you purchase a new car, you will probably need to go through the dealership where you purchase the vehicle. It costs more, but many carmakers require new cars be taken to a dealer for warranty/prescribed maintenance and covered repairs.

Here are a few non-dealerships I have used over the years:

Peter B's Automotive www.peterb.com 509 N Lierman Ave, Urbana 367-3821 My friends swear by this place and I will go next time I need any car repairs done. A little pricier, but quality and trust is more important!	Farm & Fleet www.farmandfleet.com 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354 Oil changes, tire rotations, and other minor vehicle repairs. They also sell tires, new auto parts, food, clothes, etc.
Sammy's Auto Electric Service Inc sammysautoelectric.com 1907B W Springer Dr, Champaign 398-3864 Alternators, starters, generators, etc. Custom electrical rebuilding, diagnostics, and installations.	CarX Tire and Auto www.carx.com 601 E University Ave, Champaign 352-0124 906 W Bradley, Champaign 352-9700 2216 S Neil St, Champaign 531-3900 Brakes, exhaust systems, oil changes, tires.

There are many "quickie" oil change places in town. I've used these before:

Jiffy Lube www.jiffylube.com 1201 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 351-5823 1901 S Neil St, Champaign 351-4116	Walmart Tire and Lube Express (tire/oil changes) www.walmart.com 2610 N Prospect, Champaign 352-0700 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6148 505 S Dunlap, Savoy 355-5845
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If you are mechanically inclined, or have very minor repairs to make, here are some places where you can pick up parts for your vehicles. You can also find these items at places like Farm and Fleet, Walmart, and Meijer.

NEW parts

USED parts

Auto Zone www.autozone.com 311 E University Ave, Champaign 352-2522 609 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 356-7068 606 E Main St, Urbana 328-9903	Mack's Auto Recycling www.macks-auto.com 1309 E Kerr, Urbana (auto) 367-6219; 800-252-9148 Used parts, used cars, and repair service available. macksauto@macksrecycling.com They also run Mack's Twin City Recycling at 2808 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana (328-2100) for your household recycling drop-offs.
Advance Auto Parts shop.advanceautoparts.com 403 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 356-7069 805 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-9661 110 N Vine St, Urbana 337-0072	Bill Smith Auto www.billsmithauto.com 3405 N Countryview Rd #200, Urbana 367-5090 Just off Route 45. They also work on and sell used cars.

Shop ‘Till You Drop!

Food Shopping

There are many different places to shop for food in Champaign-Urbana. You can find just about anything you crave!

Grocery Stores

“No-Frill”/ “Warehouse” Grocery Stores

These places are the **cheapest grocery stores** in town! They mainly carry generic, or non-commercial brand name, food items, though they do have good deals on some name brand items. These places are where to go if you are on a budget...or just like to save money. NOTE: At Aldi’s, Save-A-Lot, and Ruler, you will need to bring your own bags and generally have to pay a quarter to use one of their shopping carts (refundable when you place it in the cart return).

Aldi aldi.us 801 W Interstate Dr, Champaign 3102 E University Ave, Urbana 605 N Dunlap Ave, Savoy	Save-A-Lot save-a-lot.com 220 N Broadway, Urbana 384-6885
Ruler Foods www.jaycfoods.com 716 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-7100 2002 W Springfield, Champaign 373-1450	GFS www.gfs.com 502 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-3056

Salt & Light Ministries

(saltandlightministry.org) runs a full grocery store at their Urbana location (1819 S Philo Rd, Urbana 355-5654). It is open to the public and they offer generic and name brand items.

County Market www.mycountymarket.com

County Market stores are probably the next least expensive grocery stores (not including the Super Discount Stores listed later). They generally have good prices on fruit and vegetables, have weekly specials, and have their own delis and bakeries. They also have their own “brands” which are just as good as commercial brands, and are cheaper! Both are open 24 hours.

331 Stoughton St (near campus at Springfield Ave), Champaign 352-4123
 2901 W Kirby Ave (at Duncan Road), Champaign 351-8600

Also owned by the Neimann Foods company, **ValuCheck** (1914 Glenn Park (off Mattis, N of I-72), Champaign 356-8242) is a lower-end store. **Harvest Market**, (2029 S Neil St, Champaign 355-7878) on the other hand, is an upscale store. They offer a restaurant, bakery, deli, bar, cooking education area and more! www.goharvestmarket.com

Schnuck’s schnucks.com

Schnuck's stores are very nice. They tend to be a bit more expensive, but have incredible selections on produce, meat, and bakery items. I also like their meals for \$6 (one entrée, 2 sides – wide variety of items). You can find lower price items on sale.

109 N Mattis (south of I-72 exit), Champaign 351-2600 (6am-midnight)
 200 N Vine St, (corner of Main and Vine), Urbana 337-6016 (24 hours)
 1301 Savoy Plaza Center, Savoy 373-0700 (6am-midnight)

Farmer's Markets

During the summer months and early fall (May-November), there are many outdoor Farmer's Markets that sell fresh produce from local growers. Several of the shopping malls will host these markets in their parking lots at various times during the week, as well as on the Quad, and in some neighborhoods around town. Market at the Square is a Saturday morning (7am-noon) farmer's market located at Lincoln Square in Urbana (urbanamarket.org 384-2319). It is loaded with wonderful finds from the area – baked goods, produce, flowers, etc. They move inside during part of the winter! Check the papers for other locations.

Roadside Produce Stands

You can also find Roadside Produce Stands that sell Indiana melons, sweet corn, and tomatoes toward the end of the summer. Nothing is better than fresh-off-the-farm Illini Double sweet corn or sun-ripe tomatoes, though they can sometimes be expensive. Indiana melons are bigger and sweeter than the ones in the stores from California. They grow it better in the Midwest!! One regular stand is located on Springfield Avenue, west of Mattis, in front of Lil Porgy's BBQ (listed later).

Specialty Shops

Please note that, in general, specialty shops, or shops that carry only one or two main items, are more costly than your super stores or regular grocery stores. Many times, however, they are the only place you can get certain items, and it is, therefore, worth the extra cost.

Organic/International Food Shops

The University of Illinois draws students from all over the world. Several stores in town carry international foods and spices, vegetarian foods, health foods, and gourmet items.

Common Ground Food Co-Op www.commonground.coop 300 S Broadway Lincoln Square, Urbana 352-3347 grocery@commonground.coop Non-profit grocery store that sells local and organic foods. Also vegan, gluten-free, cruelty-free products.	Art Mart shopartmart.com 1705 S Prospect, Champaign 344-7979 Gourmet international foods. They have a bakery, deli, and café, plus a large selection of wines. Catering available.
World Harvest Intl & Gourmet Foods www.worldharvestfoods.com 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655 Over 10K items! Gourmet international foods. Halal and gluten-free items. Natural and organic groceries, health items, and bulk items (granola, spices, etc).	Strawberry Fields www.worldharvestfoods.com/strawberry-fields 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655 Middle Eastern deli, hot foods, sandwiches. Soups. Bakery including vegan and gluten-free items. Coffees, teas, lattes, smoothies, chais. Catering is also available.
Fresh International Market www.freshimarket.com 505 S Neil St, Champaign 607-1665 2020 S Neil St, Champaign 765-464-8618 (Green Onion) I've not been yet, but have been told is great place to shop!	
Far East Grocery www.facebook.com/FarEastGrocery 105 S Fifth, Champaign 352-7137 Looks very unassuming from the outside, but it is an awesome <i>authentic</i> Asian market. Cash only!	AM-KO Oriental Foods & Gifts amkogrocery.com 101 E Springfield, Champaign 398-2922 info@amkogrocery.com Asian neighborhood grocery store and gift shop.
Annapoorna Stores www.annapoornastore.com 505 S Neil St., Suite 11, Champaign 355-5215 annapoornastores@gmail.com Indian grocery store and video rentals. Fresh Indian veggies, sweets and snacks brought from Chicago weekly. They also have frozen snacks available.	El Progreso International Market 510 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 607-1533 El Progreso Latino 1001 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 363-3069 International grocery store including items from Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Central America. Meats, fruits, bakery items.

Butcher Shops

Uof I Meat Science Laboratory meatandeggssales.illinois.edu 1503 S Maryland Dr, Urbana 333-3404 Subscribe to "Meat Mail": meatsalesroom@illinois.edu One of the best kept secrets in town! Only open Tu/Th afternoons and Fri mornings. Awesome freshly cut meats and fresh eggs at great prices.	Old Time Meat and Deli Shoppe www.oldtimemeatanddeli.com 2018 S Neil, Champaign 355-0000 store@oldtimemeatanddeli.com Deli sandwiches. Superior meat/fish/seafood. Amish raised poultry. Local pork products. Great homemade twice baked potatoes!
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Super Discount Stores

Super discount stores have an unbelievably wide variety of items (from food to clothing to toys to electronic equipment to automotive supplies to garden supplies to pet supplies to pharmacies to photo processing...the list goes on and on!) And all have fairly reasonable prices on most items. Some are even open 24 hours for your shopping convenience. The North Prospect corridor is the mega-shopping area for these stores in Champaign, though Savoy is becoming as popular!

These **super discount stores** are **open 24 hours a day** – and **have grocery stores**. Some are now offering to shop for you – you order, arrive a couple hours later, pay, and drive away...and some even *deliver* (for a fee)!

Meijer (One of Cindy's favorite stores!) www.meijer.com 2401 N Prospect, Champaign 353-4000 2500 S Philo Rd, Urbana 365-5200 I like most of their Meijer brand items. Join their MPerks program for even more savings. You can also elect to pickup curbside or use their home delivery service (some fees apply).	Walmart Supercenter www.walmart.com 2610 N Prospect, Champaign 352-0700 (6am-12am) 505 S Dunlap Ave (off S Neil), Savoy 355-5845 (24hr) 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6148 (24hr) The "Great Value" brand is their store brand. Free grocery pickup curbside is available. Next day shipping is available, too, on some items.
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These **super discount stores** have grocery stores, but are **not open 24 hours**:

Target (another favorite!) www.target.com 2102 N Prospect, Champaign 355-3325 If you want to sound more sophisticated, you can pronounce it Tar-jay.	Sam's Club - Member's Only www.samsclub.com 915 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 355-2223 You must be a member to shop here (only \$45/year to join). They sell items in large quantities/bulk.
Costco Wholesale – Member's Only www.costco.com Market Place Mall, Champaign Opening in October 2020.	

Special Discount Stores

These are *super* inexpensive places to shop. Most have packaged food items, and some have frozen and/or refrigerated food, too! Again, most are generic brands, but you will also find name brand items.

Big Lots (I love this place!) www.biglots.com 2004 W Springfield, Champaign 355-1844 They sell "seconds" from the larger department stores – items department stores bought too much of or are closing out. You can find some <i>great</i> deals! It's a different store each week, with new bargains coming in every day.	Dollar General www.dollargeneral.com 2004-B W Springfield, Champaign 351-3013 817 Bloomington Rd, Champaign 903-5300 1506 N Cunningham, Urbana 384-2269 3001 W Bradley Ave, Champaign 689-2317 805 N Lincoln Ave, Ste B, Urbana 328-0683 You have to watch the quality here a little more closely, but can find some bargains.
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Family Dollar www.familydollar.com 1204 N Market, Champaign 355-3797 1110 Philo Rd, Urbana 344-4277 Again, can find some bargains; watch the quality.	Dollar Tree www.dollartree.com 2009 N Prospect, Champaign 560-9036 235 S Mattis, Country Fair, Champaign 305-6004 1303 E Colorado Ave, Urbana 974-7963 1333 Savoy Plaza Center, Suite 3, Savoy 974-7522
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Farm Stores

These stores do not have grocery stores – though they do offer some packaged food items – like bulk packaged candy and nuts. They offer everything from candy to car parts (they even have baby chicks, ducks, and turkeys in the spring)!

Farm and Fleet www.farmandfleet.com 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354 A Midwestern shopping experience!	Rural King - “America’s Farm & Home Store” www.ruralking.com 913 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 403-1011 Free popcorn to munch while you shop!
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Pharmacies (Drug Stores)

Traditionally, pharmacies were for prescription medication services, along with over-the-counter drugs such as aspirin, cold remedies, allergy medication, antiseptics, and personal care items (such as hair care products, deodorant, soap, perfumes, makeup). Nowadays they carry liquor, stationery, back-to-school supplies, greeting cards, holiday decorations, quick to prepare foods and snack items, and groceries like eggs, milk, and bread! Some have photo labs in the stores and are about the only places left where you can have photos developed. Many offer immunizations for flu and pneumonia during the fall.

When purchasing over-the-counter medications and personal care items, you can buy the commercial brands, which tend to be more expensive, or you can get generic or store brands at significantly lower prices. Generic brands are almost identical to the brand names, at least for medications. Patents are granted for new medications, and when the patents run out, other companies are allowed to produce the medications – most times for much less than the original drug.

Note: most of the grocery and super stores have similar items and services as drug stores and are somewhat cheaper. Drug stores tend to be more conveniently located in town (like on busy intersections), and therefore, easier to drop by and pick up something quickly. You are paying a little more for convenience.

Here are the two major chains in town that have many locations.

CVS Drug Stores www.cvs.com

107 W Green (at Neil), Champaign 355-8123
 2102 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 355-3345
 243 S Mattis (at Country Fair shops), Champaign 352-9665
 1818 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-1192
 1111 N Dunlap St, Savoy 351-2123

Also located in Schnuck's grocery stores

Walgreen Drug Stores www.walgreens.com

407 E Green, Champaign (Campus) 344-0121
 1509 S Neil (at Kirby), Champaign 351-1516
 841 Bloomington Rd (at Prospect), Champaign 356-8237
 1713 W Springfield (at Mattis), Champaign 356-2529
 1757 W Kirby, Champaign 351-0665
 2402 Village Green Pl (at Duncan), Champaign 398-2764
 302 E University (at Cunningham), Urbana 344-7201
 1801 S Philo Rd, Urbana 367-5486

Also located in many Carle and Christie Clinic locations

Shopping Malls

Having already addressed the cheaper places to shop, I would be remiss not mentioning some of the more popular, trendy, and somewhat more expensive places to shop. There are several shopping malls located in Champaign-Urbana, and all are on bus routes. Shopping malls are usually enclosed areas that house many separate businesses within their walls; mostly major department stores, trendy clothing and shoe stores, along with specialty stores, and places to eat. Many of the stores are not inexpensive, but have good sales. We also have “strip malls” – open-air shopping malls with stores, generally arranged in a row. I discovered that there are far too many to mention here, with more opening up daily!

Market Place Mall is the largest mall in town. It has clothing and shoe stores, jewelry stores, gift shops, specialty stores, music and bookstores, and a food court. There are several major department stores located in Market Place including Macy's, JC Penney, Dick's/Field and Stream. You can also find other big name stores like: Aéropostale, Bath & Body Works, Footlocker, Gap, Old Navy, Pandora, Pink/Victoria's Secret, Spencer's Gifts, and Yankee Candle.

Market Place Mall

www.marketplacemall.com

2000 N Neil Street (north of I-74), Champaign
356-3928

Market View Shopping Center

Numerous open air shops south of Market Place Mall

There are some smaller malls in town, but no longer have big name department stores. Lincoln Square was one of the first enclosed malls in the US and was THE place to shop when I was growing up here!

Lincoln Square Village www.lincolnsquareurbana.com 300 S Broadway Ave (E on Green), Urbana 367-4092 Common Group Co-op, International Galleries, Art Coop, Amara Yoga, Record Swap	Country Fair Shopping Center Corner of Mattis and Springfield, Champaign 356-3717 Dollar General, Dollar Tree, CVS, Ruler Foods, Big Lots. Starbuck's will be across the street; new places are being built in the parking lot this summer!
Carriage Center South Neil and Devonshire Dr, Champaign Harvest Market, Champaign Outdoors, Ace Hardware, AT& T Store, Haymakers, Moe's, Panchero's	

Strip Malls

Strip malls are springing up all over and are very popular – though again, you are generally paying a little more for convenience. These malls usually house a specialized shop or two, maybe a restaurant, and then smaller shops like a dry cleaner, nail shop, tanning salon, cell phone company, or video gambling cafe. Here are just a few:

Johnstown Center E John Street, Champaign (campus) Fat Sandwich Company, Insomnia Cookies, Asian Taste, The Beach Sun and Spa/Zuma Salon	University Centre 30-40 block of E Green, Champaign Sportsworld, DP Dough, Fasprint, Green Street Café, K-Bowl, Jimmy John's
Katsinis Plaza NE corner of Green and Neil, Champaign Jet's Pizza, Hollywood Liquors, Wing Stop, Cost Cutters	Neil Street Commons 500 S Neil (1 block N of Green), Champaign Golden Harbor, Annapoorna Foods, Fresh Intl Market, Nutrition at Work, School Station
Green Street Galleria SE corner of Green and Neil, Champaign Illini Cellular, Allstate, Impact PT, Hydration Space	Stadium Plaza 1400 S Neil Street (1 block S of Green), Champaign Ye Olde Donut Shoppe, Espresso Royale, Cactus Grill, Subway

Gateway Shoppes at Five Points 202 E University Ave, Urbana Rainbow Garden, Po' Boys, Great Clips, Tricoci University of Beauty, UI Community Credit Union, Wireless Mike's, Panda Express, Panchero's	Schnuck's Urbana Crossing 114 N Vine Street, Urbana Schnuck's, Papa Murphy's Pizza, China Garden, Xinh Xinh Café, Starbuck's
Old Farm Shops (Upscale Shopping) www.oldfarmshops.com Kirby and Mattis Avenues, Champaign Panera Bread, Talbots, Jos A Bank, Glenn Poor's, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Super Wok, TCBY, UPS Store	Village at the Crossing (Upscale Dining) Duncan and Windsor, Champaign Jupiter's at the Crossing, Billy Barooz, Espresso Royale, Rod Sickler Salon & Spa, Blossom Basket, Subway, Amaravti Indian Royal Cuisine, El Patio Mexican Restaurant, Rumberger's Wings
Windsor Galleria (Upscale Dining) 1100 Windsor Road (near Galen), Champaign Sun Singer Wines & Spirits, The New Sweet Indulgence Bakery, Green Jade, Pandamonium Donuts	Shoppes of Knollwood (Upscale Dining) 2200 block of S Neil Street, Champaign Biaggi's, Great Harvest Bread Company, Le Peep, Illini Open MRI, Direct Travel (Suzi Davis)
Round Barn Center Mattis and Springfield Avenues, Champaign Round Barn Banquet Centre, Original Pancake House, Fed Ex, Fitness Center, IL Secretary of State Drivers Facility, Jimmy John's, Jet's Pizza, Good Vibes	Savoy Plaza South Neil Street & Curtis Road, Savoy Buffalo Wild Wings, Marble Slab Creamery, Friar Tuck's (liquors), Savoy 16, Star Karaoke, Schnuck's, Smoky's House BBQ, Dollar Tree, Goodwill Store
The Pines S Philo Road, Urbana (Philo and Windsor) Monical's, Subway, Casa del Mar, Red Bicycle Ice Cream	Hillcrest Center 2000 block of S Neil Street, Champaign Old Time Meat & Deli, B Won Korean, Green Onion, Andy's Barber Shop

Clothing and Accessories

Probably the least expensive places to purchase new clothes/accessories are from the “supercenter discount stores” like **Meijer, Target, and WalMart**. They have nice selections at good prices, and I have purchased a lot of my clothes from these places over the years. For used clothes, check out local **garage sales** for the absolute lowest prices.

Here are some other places for great deals:

Cindy’s Favorite Department Store

You pay a little more for items not on sale, but they have sales almost every week! I have purchased some of my favorite clothes/housewares from here. They also have a Rewards program and Kohl’s cash, which keeps you coming back for more.

Kohl’s
www.kohls.com
 109 Convenience Center Rd, Champaign 352-0431

“Budget” Clothing Stores

There are many budget clothing stores around town. You may have to go through racks of clothing to find just what you want, but it can be worth it!

TJ Maxx tjmaxx.tjx.com 21 E Marketview, Champaign 352-3435 Name brand items for 1/2 price or less! They buy "seconds" from the department stores.	Gordman’s www.gordmans.com 1901 N Market, Champaign 403-1434 Brand name for 1/2 price or less! Also is another store that buys "seconds" from the department stores.
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Used Clothing Stores

Items at these places are donated by the community, then sold for ridiculously inexpensive prices to help support their charitable endeavors. Have accessories, too! They also sell inexpensive furniture, decor and household items.

Goodwill llgi.org 912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870 1201 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 503-6076	Salvation Army Family Thrift Store satruck.org sachampaign.org 2212 N Market, Champaign 373-7825
Salt & Light Ministries saltandlightministry.org 1819 S Philo Rd, Urbana 355-5654 1512 W Anthony Dr, Champaign 355-5654	

Retro Clothing

Dandelion Retro, Vintage & Used Clothing www.dandelionretro.com 100 N Chestnut, Champaign 954-0555 (in the old train station)	Carrie’s Antiques and Jewelry www.facebook.com/Carries-Fabulous-to-Funky-272965539419096 723 S Neil St, Champaign 352-3231 Fabulous to Funky! Vintage clothing and jewelry.
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Consignment Clothing Stores

Consignment stores only take “slightly used” clothes, many of which are designer labels, and offer them at lower prices.

Karen’s Kloset (Women’s clothing) www.karenskloset.com 231 S Mattis (Country Fair), Champaign 355-9395	Plato’s Closet www.platosclosetchampaign.com 41 E Marketview Dr 366-8200
Bella Ruth Vintro Style Boutique antiquesandmore606.com 600 S Staley Rd, Champaign, 351-3488	

Furniture and Home Decor

There are many new and used furniture stores in town. Below are some places you can get decent used furniture for a fraction of the cost of new. You can also check the local papers (Thrifty Nickel, News-Gazette), along with garage sales, auctions, antique stores, and on-line sources such as Craigslist and Facebook local garage sale sites.

Used Furniture Stores

Habitat for Humanity ReStore cuhabitat.org/restore-home/ 119 E University, Champaign 359-0507, 819-5118 info@cuhabitat.org	Goodwill lgi.org 912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870 1201 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 503-6076
Salvation Army Family Thrift Store satruck.org sachampaign.org 2212 N Market, Champaign 373-7825	Salt & Light Ministries saltandlightministry.org 1819 S Philo Rd, Urbana 355-5654 1512 W Anthony Dr, Champaign 355-5654

New Furniture Stores

For inexpensive new furniture, I suggest checking out the “super discount” and “special discount” stores – like Meijer, Target, Big Lots, Walmart, etc. – where you can find bookshelves, futons, chairs, etc.

Below are some other places in town that are a little more expensive:

Beds	Etcetera
Bender's Mattress Factory & Sleep Shop www.bendermattress.com 1206 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 328-1700 tom@bendermattress.com This is where I have purchased my mattresses over the years. Custom made mattresses, family-owned business.	Furniture Row www.furniturerow.com 2711 N Prospect Ave, Champaign Denver Mattress 351-5512 Living 351-5157 Dining/Bedroom 351-5144
Illini Mattress www.illinimattress.com/index.html 514 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign 359-0156 kristin.illinimattress@gmail.com Also family-owned and operated. Open 7 days a week.	Furniture Warehouse www.cufurniturewarehouse.com 126 E University, Champaign 352-0080 cufurniturewarehouse@yahoo.com

High-End Furniture

Here are a couple high end custom-designed furniture places where my family and I have shopped for years.

Carter's Furniture cartersfurniture.com 410 N Vine, Urbana 367-4066 info@cartersfurniture.com I purchased my first-ever custom designed upholstered living room furniture here and love it! Watch for their sales and you can get some great deals.	Kelsey Furniture Company www.kelseyfurniture.com/index.html 215 N Main St, Tuscola 253-2142 kelseyfurniture@yahoo.com Twenty minutes south of Champaign. I bought a leather recliner couch from them in 2000 that I am still using!
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Home Decor

For those little extras that help make a house a home, here are some places to go for wonderful décor items. Of course, you can also find items at the super and special discount stores, but for higher end items at decent prices, these are good places to shop.

New Items

Prairie Gardens www.prairiegardens.com 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532 info@prairiegardens.com In addition to collector's items, they offer framing services, do artificial floral arrangements, sell frames, furniture, plants and flowers!	International Galleries internationalgalleriesurbana.com 118 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 328-2254 InternationalGalleriesUrbana@Gmail.com Art posters, pottery, jewelry, on-site custom framing services, elegant boxes, wind chimes, cards, animal jewelry, figurines, incense, and objects d'art.
Art Mart shopartmart.com 1705 S Prospect, Champaign 344-7979 International foods/coffee, chocolates, kitchen gadgets, cards, party lights, objects d'art, educational toys, etc.	Tuesday Morning www.tuesdaymorning.com 45 E Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-3753 Another store that has department store items at 50%-80% off regular prices.
Michael's www.michaels.com 2109 N Prospect, Champaign 378-8716 Hobby/craft store with do-it-yourself projects, home décor accents, furniture, vases, custom framing, art supplies, etc.	Hobby Lobby www.hobbylobby.com 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924 Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc. Custom framing. Closed Sundays.
TJ Maxx tjmaxx.tjx.com 21 E Marketview, Champaign 352-3435 They not only sell clothing, but great décor items and housewares, too, at great prices.	Gordman's www.gordmans.com 1901 N Market, Champaign 403-1434 Like TJ Maxx, they sell décor items for less than department stores.
Big Lots www.biglots.com 2004 W Springfield, Champaign 355-1844 When I was the wife of a grad student, I almost completely decorated our apartment with items from Pic 'N Save, as they were called in LA back in the day. ☺	

Used/Antique

I personally like hunting antique shops and the resale stores (see Used Furniture), as I like items from by-gone eras. I am not listing all the antique shops here as there are too many local shops, both in town and around the area. You can also find great items at garage sales for very reasonable prices.

Antiques and More Booth www.antiquesandmore606.com 606 S Staley Road, Champaign 351-3488 antiquesandmore606@gmail.com	Second Hand Rose 901 E Main St, Urbana 722-4073, 469-0000 Open limited hours on weekends May thru November.
Crossroads Corner Consignment www.facebook.com/Crossroadscornerconsignment 723 S Neil, Suite 103, Champaign 954-1100	

Home Improvement Stores

These stores are places where you can buy paint, tools, lumber, nails, lawn care products, etc. for your DIY projects!

Menards www.menards.com 620 Town Center Blvd, Champaign 359-6100 Huge store with lumber yard, garden shop...even a grocery and pet food section! I primarily shop here.	Lowe's www.lowes.com 1904 N Prospect, Champaign 373-7300 Huge store with lumber yard & garden shop and very good prices/selections.
Home Depot www.homedepot.com 820 N Bloomington Rd, Champaign 356-2629 Huge store with lumber yard, nursery, etc. Only place you can get Behr paint – which is the best!	Farm and Fleet www.farmandfleet.com 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354 Everything from overalls to paint to car batteries.
Champaign Do It Best Hardware cudib.incomsupply.com 107 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6454 Smaller, limited shop; a little more expensive. But closer to campustown than the Prospect corridor. Have an extensive outdoor garden shop each spring/summer.	Ace Hardware www.acehardware.com 2021 S Neil St, Champaign 355-1580 2811 W Kirby, Champaign 352-7721 The “Helpful Hardware Place”. Smaller shop than Menard’s or Lowe’s.

Electronic Equipment

For electronic items – stereo equipment, TV’s, CD and DVD players – can be found most inexpensively at the “super discount stores”. If you are looking for higher end equipment, here are some places specializing in electronics.

Best Buy www.bestbuy.com 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-8883 Wide selection of name brands at good prices. Home installations available. Their in-store Geek Squad helps with computers.	Glenn Poor’s Audio-Video glennpoors.com 1745 W Kirby, Champaign 356-5456 glennpoors@gmail.com Excellent high-end equipment. They also sell used and demo equipment.
Good Vibes www.gvibes.com 2010 Round Barn Rd, Champaign 351-0909 info@gvibes.com Very knowledgeable staff and excellent high-end equipment. I just bought speakers and a receiver at good prices! Custom installs in home and vehicles. Repairs.	

Electronic Repairs

Glenn Poor’s TV Service www.glennpoorstvservice.com 609 W Springfield, Urbana 367-9686 Can repair just about any home electronic equipment (not computers). My family bought our first TV from them many decades ago.	Radio Doctors Sales and Service www.radio-doctors.com 104 E White St, Champaign 352-2641, 352-3744 RadDoc@SbcGlobal.net Home electronic repairs. Small shop, electronics everywhere! It takes time and it is not inexpensive. Occasionally have used equipment for sale.
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Computer Repairs

Illini Union Tech Zone Repair union.illinois.edu/shop/illini-union-tech-zone Main Level, Southwest Wing, Illini Union 244-7938 iutechzone@illinois.edu	Simplified Computers www.simplifiedcomputers.com 901 S Neil St, Champaign 352-5000 sales@simplifiedcomputers.com They helped my mom, who is completely tech illiterate.
Geek Squad www.geeksquad.com 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-8883 Tech support: 800-433-5778 Chat w/ tech: www.bestbuy.com/services/remotesupport Located in Best Buy. Very helpful, friendly, and patient. Call for Tech support 1st, may be all you need.	

For a Little Bit of Everything

YMCA Dump and Run

Basically, a huge garage sale for charity, the YMCA Dump and Run is the place to go for inexpensive items. It is only held for 2 days at the end of August – usually the first weekend before U of I classes start – at the UI Stock Pavilion, 1402 W Pennsylvania, Urbana. Visit www.universityymca.org/dump_and_run for more information.

Champaign County Humane Society GIANT Garage Sale

Also held once a year – Memorial Day weekend at the end of May – this is their big fundraiser for the animals. They have wonderful donated items at incredibly low prices. The sale lasts 3 days: Friday-Sunday. Come early, come often as there is never enough room to put everything out at once, so it becomes a new sale every day!

www.cuhumane.org/NewsEvents/GIANTGarageSale.aspx

NOTE: In the past, some leftovers from the Giant Sale were sold at Antiques and More on Staley (see Used/antique above)

Bookstores and Libraries

Libraries

If you want to curl up with a good book, probably the cheapest thing to do is to go to the local library and borrow a book *for free*! The U of I boasts **one of the largest public university libraries in the nation**! All registered students have access to the University library services.

<p align="center">U of I Main Library www.library.illinois.edu 1408 W Gregory, Urbana 333-2290</p>

There are also 2 public libraries in C-U. Library cards are free to residents of the city where the library is located. You can also purchase, for a nominal fee, a card that gives you access to the other city's library. You can borrow CD's, videotapes, books. Tax forms are available Jan-April, as well as tax assistance. There are also seminars, story-telling events, etc.

<p align="center">Champaign Public Library www.champaign.org 200 W Green, Champaign 403-2000</p>	<p align="center">Urbana Free Library urbanafreelibrary.org 210 W Green, Urbana 367-4057</p>
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Bookstores

There is only one bookstore on campus and it carries U of I textbooks, trademark items, memorabilia, t-shirts, calendars, class supplies...

<p>Illini Union Bookstore the "Official" U of I bookstore www.bookstore.illinois.edu 809 S Wright Street, Champaign 333-2050 iubstore@illinois.edu</p>

New Age and Comic books

<p>G-Mart www.g-mart.com 205 N Market St, Champaign 356-7733 Customer service: 773-531-4847 duck@g-mart.com Comic books galore!</p>

Used Books

Used bookstores are very popular. You can get older best sellers and out-of-print titles at reasonable prices. If they don't have the book you want, you can even place an order and they will try to find it for you.

<p>Jane Addams Book Shop www.janeaddamsbooks.com 208 N Neil, Champaign 356-2555 info@janeaddamsbooks.com</p>	<p>Priceless Books www.abebooks.com/priceless-books-urbana-il-u.s.a/22278/sf 112 W Main Street, Urbana 344-4037; 689-2925</p>
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Big Corporate Chain Bookstore

<p>Barnes and Noble www.barnesandnoble.com 65 E Marketview Dr, Champaign 355-2045 Café, international newspapers, magazines.</p>
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Miscellaneous

Lookin' Good - Beauty Salons and Spas

Over the years, many students have asked where to go for an inexpensive hair cut in town. There are literally dozens of beauty salons in town where you can get a haircut or style.

Hair Care

While I was the wife of a struggling grad student, I went to Supercuts for inexpensive haircuts and was always happy with the results. Here are some other suggestions:

Cost Cutters Family Hair Care www.signaturestyle.com/brands/cost-cutters 10 E Green (at Neil), Champaign 398-6098 2018 N Prospect, Champaign 355-8443	Great Clips (on-line check-in!) www.greatclips.com 202 E University Ave, Gateway Shoppes, Urbana 328-3011 2023 S Neil St, Carriage Center, Champaign 954-1970 907 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 607-1184
Supercuts (on-line check-in!) www.supercuts.com 918 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-6500 1807 W Kirby Ave, Robeson Plaza, Champaign 352-9106	Borics Hair Care www.signaturestyle.com/brands/borics.html 114 N Vine St, Ste P, Urbana Crossing, Urbana 367-1426 1331 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 359-7332

Beauty Schools

You can also try your luck at a local beauty school, where students perform services under direct supervision of licensed cosmetology instructors. It is probably the least expensive way to go. I had pretty good luck in most of my experiences, both growing up and in my early college years, except for one time in Los Angeles the week before my wedding... ☹

Tricoci University of Beauty Culture www.tricociuniversity.edu 202 E University Ave, Urbana 344-7550
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Full Salon Treatments/Spa

If you are looking to truly pamper yourself, go for a full service salon! They cost more, but are worth it. I am including my personal recommendations here. I would suggest asking friends for references, too.

Timothy John Salon & Spa www.tjsalonandspa.com 404 W Green (east of campus), Urbana 344-4720 Timothyjohnsalon@gmail.com A full service salon. They do cuts, color, facials, mani-pedis, massage, etc. For a great cut/color, ask for my best friend Margaret Fix (tell her I sent you)!	Thrive Salon & Spa www.thrivesalonandspa.com 805 S Neil St (west of campus, a few blocks south of Green), Champaign 403-1153 thrivesalonandspa@gmail.com When I went there, it was called Wingard Salon – under new management with a whole new flair.
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Calling All Pet Lovers

As an animal lover, I thought I would put in a section in for our four-footed friends!

Pet Emergencies

UI Veterinary Medicine Small Animal Clinic	333-5300	vetmed.illinois.edu/vth/	1008 W Hazelwood, Urbana
SportsVet Animal Medical Center	355-1442	sportsvetamc.com/urgentcare	1105 N Dunlap, Savoy
National (ASPCA) Animal Poison Center	888-426-4435	www.aspcapro.org/animal-health/toxicology-poison-control	

Lost Pets

Champaign County Animal Control	333-8911 24-hour 384-3798 M-Sat, 8-5	www.co.champaign.il.us/animalcontrol/animalcontrol.php	animalcontrol@co.champaign.il.us
looking for lost pets/report strays			
City of Urbana Animal Control	333-8911 24-hour	www.urbanailinois.us/animal-control	
to report animals roaming loose/dogs barking to report dead animals in road	Officer on duty M-F 8-4:30 384-2320 ext 364		
City of Champaign Animal Control report strays	333-8911 24-hour 403-4700		
Champaign Public Works for dead animals in road	403-4700 M-F 7:30-4:30	champaignil.gov/public-works/report-a-problem	publicworks@champaignil.gov

Looking to Adopt a Pet?

If you are looking for a **lifelong** companion animal, the best thing to do is to **ADOPT** a pet from a local rescue group...they are the best pets ever! Aren't looking for a pet, but would love to get involved in helping homeless animals while you are in town? These places are always looking for volunteers. You get to help to bring a little joy into their lives, and they into yours! These worthwhile organizations host many fundraising events throughout the year to help the animals that come through their facilities. For other local shelters, check on-line at Petfinder www.petfinder.com.

Champaign County Humane Society (CCHS) 1911 E Main, Urbana	344-PAWS -7297	www.cuhumane.org Adoptees can be viewed at the shelter or online.	adoption@cuhumane.org
CatSnap A no-kill trap/spay, neuter/release and adoption program.	689-0770	www.catsnap.org Adoptees can be viewed at Pet Supplies Plus, PetSmart, or online.	catsnap@catsnap.org
Hospice Hearts Finds loving homes for pets of elderly patients when they can no longer care for them.		www.hospicehearts.org Adoptees can be viewed online.	hospiceheartsanimalrescue@gmail.com

Some local pet stores that support local rescue/adoption groups by allowing pets to be viewed at their facilities:

PetSmart 2017 N Prospect Ave, Champaign	351-9244	www.petsmart.com	
Pets Supplies Plus 2821 W Kirby Ave, Champaign	366-9240	www.petsuppliesplus.com	

Sailfin Pet Shop (720 S Neil, Champaign, 352-1121, www.sailfin.com, sales@sailfin.com) is also a great pet store, especially for fish, small mammals, and exotics. They do not sell cats or dogs. They also have pond supplies and offer custom aquarium installations.

Entertainment

When you're not studying or conducting experiments, you may want to enjoy some of the recreational activities available in Central Illinois. I don't like to spend a lot of money on entertainment. Events such as street dances, hiking, and stargazing are all free of charge. Admission charges usually apply at concerts, movies, museums, etc., but if you are a student, **ALWAYS ASK ABOUT STUDENT DISCOUNTS**, as most places will give discounts to students with school ID cards!

C-U is located almost equal distance from Chicago, IL, Indianapolis, IN, and St. Louis, MO if you are looking for a more metropolitan scene, but there are still a lot of things this immediate area has to offer. Check out the Visit Champaign County site for up-to-the-minute info on what's happening all year round: www.visitchampaigncounty.org.

On Campus

- The [State Farm Center](#) – aka Assembly Hall – is located at the south end of campus, on Florida Ave. It holds a wide variety of events from U of I basketball games, to Broadway productions, to rock, country, Christian, and pop concerts. It also plays host to marching band performances, conventions, and craft shows. Ticket office: 866-455-4641.
- Go Fighting Illini! The U of I has a multitude of [sporting events](#). There is men's football, men's and women's basketball, as well as stellar men's baseball, tennis, golf and gymnastics teams, and women's volleyball, softball, and gymnastics teams! We have track, soccer, wrestling, etc. There are also wheelchair sports, like basketball and track (Superstar marathoners, Tatyana McFadden and Jean Driscoll, are from the U of I). Tickets are available through the State Farm Center ticket office (866-ILLINI-1) or on-line at www.fightingillini.com
- [Krannert Center for the Performing Arts](#) has a world-renown reputation for its symphony concerts, opera, theater productions, dance programs, and international performances.

Indoor Recreation

When the weather outside is not cooperative, here are some fun things to do inside!

Theatre-Live

Theater is alive and well in Central Illinois. There are some wonderful theater groups in town, along with groups at Parkland Community College and the U of I. Most of the local high schools put on performances at least once a year. See the local newspapers for performance announcements.

Virginia Theater www.thevirginia.org 203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063 virginia@champaignparks.com Performing arts center showcasing plays, comedy, and national musical groups. Intimate place to see bands like Styx, Foreigner, REO, Art Garfunkel, Chicago - I was front row for almost all of them!	Station Theatre www.stationtheatre.com 223 N Broadway, Urbana 384-4000 The Celebration Company performs in a quaint historic train station. The number of talented performers in this area is phenomenal! And they are always looking for new talent...
Champaign-Urbana Theater Co cutc.org 117 E University Ave, Champaign 352-4085 manager@cutheatreco.org This volunteer company performs several times a year. Their main stage is the Parkland College Theatre.	Parkland College Theatre theatre.parkland.edu 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2528 theatre@parkland.edu Parkland and UI students, as well as community members participate in their performances.
Zoo Improv www.zooimprov.com SoDo Theater, 114 S Walnut, Champaign contact@zooimprov.com Local improv group with shows for all audiences - family to adult rated! Also available for private events.	C-U Comedy www.cucomedy.com 320 N Neil 202-6023 Held in venues around town and private events jesse@cucomedy.com Host comedy shows at places like Clark Bar, Cackle Shack, and Soma, as well as private events.

Theatre-Movie

Movie theaters are located throughout the area. There are also reduced price movies shown on campus throughout the school year (watch for shows and times in the campus newspaper, the Daily Illini).

Savoy 16 + IMAX (Goodrich Quality Theater) www.gqti.com 232 Burwash, Savoy 355-9718; 355-3456 movie line Multiplex theater with 16 screens and an IMAX theatre (some IMAX shows are in 3D).	AMC Champaign 13 www.amctheatres.com 910 Meijer Dr, Champaign 383-0002 Multiplex theater with 13 screens; one 80-foot “Big D” screen. They also have a bar.
The Art Theater Co-op thearttheater.org 126 W Church, downtown Champaign 355-0068 info@thearttheater.org Foreign films and films by independent filmmakers, not shown anywhere else in town.	Virginia Theater thevirginia.org 203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063 virginia@champaignparks.com Classic film series and home of the famous annual Roger Ebert Overlooked Film Festival!

Movie Rentals/Sales

If you don't feel like fighting the crowds to see a movie, and you've already seen every movie on your 100+ cable channels' On Demand feature and in your NetFlix or Hulu queue, there are only a few places left where you can go to rent DVDs of your favorite movies and TV shows. The local libraries also have some movies you can borrow.

Family Video www.familyvideo.com 1101 N Mattis, Champaign 352-2172 1901 S Philo Rd, Urbana 344-0507 DVD/game rental. Requires free membership – each store operated separately, so not transferable. They also sell used DVDs/ games.	RedBox www.redbox.com Convenient self-service kiosks located either outside or just inside the entrance of some of these local establishments: CVS, County Market, Ruler Foods, Schnuck's, Walgreens, Champaign Meier and Walmart stores, and Thornton's gas station on Mattis in Champaign. Check the website for exact locations.
Disc Replay discreplay.com/champaign.php 2012 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 607-0890 Buy, sell and/or trade gently used DVD movies, video games and systems, electronics, and CDs.	Annapoorna Store for Indian films www.annapoornastore.com 505 S Neil St, Ste 11, Champaign 355-5215 In the Neil Street Commons mall, near Neil and Green

Museums

For a list of interesting places to see in Illinois visit: www.enjoyillinois.com. Here are a few local sites:

<p>Spurlock Museum of World Cultures www.spurlock.illinois.edu 600 S Gregory St, Urbana (campus) 333-2360 spurlock-museum@illinois.edu</p> <p>The museum was built in 2002 and contains over 45,000 world history and cultural artifacts for public viewing. I used to visit it in the late 70's when it was the World Heritage Museum in Lincoln Hall.</p>	<p>Krannert Art Museum and Kinkhead Pavilion www.kam.uiuc.edu 500 E Peabody (at 6th), Campus 333-1861 244-0516 kam@illinois.edu</p> <p>Not to be confused with Krannert Center! Hosts various exhibits of famous artists (like Toulouse-Lautrec, and more recently, William Wegman), as well as U of I faculty/student art.</p>
<p>Orpheum Children's Science Museum orpheumkids.net 346 N Neil, downtown Champaign 352-5895 info@orpheumkids.com</p> <p>Interactive exhibits for children.</p>	<p>Giertz Gallery at Parkland College artgallery.parkland.edu 2400 W Bradley, X Wing, Champaign 351-2485 giertzgallery@parkland.edu</p> <p>Various exhibits and student art shows.</p>
<p>Museum of the Grand Prairie www.museumofthegrandprairie.org Lake of the Woods 950 N Lombard, Mahomet 586-2612</p> <p>Exit 172 off I-74. Exhibits of pioneer life in the heartland.</p>	<p>Homer Lake Interpretive Center www.ccfpd.org/education/interpretive-center-homer-lake Homer Lake Forest Preserve 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer 896-2455</p> <p>Exit 197 off I-74 thru Ogden. Interactive exhibits, live animals, wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>Monticello Railway Museum www.mrym.org 992 Iron Horse Pl, Monticello 762-9011 info@mrym.org</p> <p>Exit 166 off I-72. Old trains, cars, train rides. Various special events including a "Polar Express" ride in November and December. Unfortunately, the "Ghost Train" ride has been suspended indefinitely.</p>	<p>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</p> <p>This site lists other historic museums throughout the State plus on-line collections.</p> <p>Visit: www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Pages/default.aspx (will ask for password, hit cancel to get into site)</p>
<p>The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library www2.illinois.gov/alplm/pages/default.aspx 212 N 6th Street, Springfield 558-8844</p> <p>I-72 to West Clear Lake Avenue Exit. Reported to be one of the largest collections dedicated to the US's favorite President. Exhibit of costumes/props from the movie "Lincoln".</p>	<p>Lincoln Log Cabin and Moore Home Historic Sites www.lincolnlogcabin.org 402 S Lincoln Highway, Lerna 345-1845 hpa.lincolnlog@illinois.gov</p> <p>8 miles south of Charleston (Exit 190A off I-57, to Lincoln Hwy), the reconstructed log home of Lincoln's father and stepmother. 86-acre site, living history farms – portraying life in the 1840s.</p>

Arts & Crafts/Scrapbooking/Fabrics/Party Supplies

I love arts and crafts projects, so I've included some good places to go for these items as well. If you are interested in creating your own cards/scrapbooks, please ask me as I know several Stampin' Up demonstrators (and have a rather large collection of my own stamps and supplies). And, in case you are invited to any costume parties, or want to have one of your own, I've thrown in some party and costume shops here, too.

Hobby Lobby www.hobbylobby.com 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924 Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc. Classes offered.	Prairie Gardens www.prairiegardens.com 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532 info@prairiegardens.com Arts and crafts supplies, stamping and scrapbooking supplies.
Michaels Arts and Crafts www.michaels.com 2109 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 378-8716 Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies. Classes offered.	Art Coop, Inc. www.theartcoop.com 150 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-4562 Art supplies, paints, photographic supplies, workshops, lectures, gallery, etc.
Jo-Ann Fabrics www.joann.com 722 W Town Center Road, Champaign 355-5040 Fabrics, patterns, arts/crafts supplies, sewing supplies, sewing machines, ribbon, beads, lace. Classes offered.	Factory Card and Party Outlet www.partycity.com 2019 N Prospect, Champaign 355-6837 Party supplies, costumes, balloons, etc.
Dallas & Co. www.dallasandco.com 101 E University Ave, Champaign 351-5974 dallas@dallasandco.com Party supplies, costumes, costume rentals, magic kits, balloons, gag gifts, holiday decorations, supplies, etc.	

Gaming

My ex-husband was really big into fantasy role playing games and was one of the first people to ever play *Dungeons and Dragons* back in the day. I never played, but really enjoyed listening to him and our friends play - it was our entertainment. If you are a gamer, here are a couple places you may want to check out.

Titan Games (near campus) www.facebook.com/TitanGamesCU 723 S Neil St, Champaign 607-2317 titangamescu@gmail.com Role playing, board and card game nights.	Dr. G's BrainWorks drgsbrainworks.com 2000 N Neil, Market Place Mall 355-0093 john@drgsbrainworks.com Family Game Days and Chess Cafés.
Gopher Mafia Games www.gophermafia.com 110 E University Ave, Ste I, Urbana 954-0029 Store@GopherMafia.com A home for wayward gamers...	Live Action Games www.facebook.com/LAG217 111 N Market Street, downtown Champaign 359-4263 Buy, sell, trade video games. Classic video games.
Enchantment Alley enchantmentalley.com 123 W Main, Ste 102, Urbana 212-9150 All things magic and fantasy! Gaming, custom printing.	

Escape Rooms

Lab Escape labescape.org 201 Lincoln Square Mall, Urbana 815-683-8193 LabEscape@illinois.edu Created by a UI Physics professor!	Brainstorm Escapes brainstormescapes.com 61 E University, Champaign 693-7678 info@brainstormescapes.com The Conspiracy. Here, it's all a conspiracy...
C-U Adventures in Space & Time cuadventures.com 123 W Main, #104, Urbana 898-7158 302 N Broadway, Urbana 898-7158 info@cuadventures.com	

Dance/Live Music Venues

Live music/dancing venues are abundant in the area. Many campus bars and the Illini Union also host bands, just watch the Daily Illini for information. Some campus bars have dance floors with DJs during the week. During the summer months, the local park districts hold street dances in the downtown areas and in the parks. Check the local papers for times.

Lessons/Dancing

Regent Ballroom www.regentballroom.com 1406 Regency Drive, Savoy 359-5333 office@regentballroom.com Ballroom and other dance styles. Also offer dance lessons.
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Dance Organizations

There are many dance organizations on campus. Here are just a few that I am aware of.

Illini Swing Society* www.cu-swing.org Focuses on various swing style dances such as Lindy Hop and Charleston. Lessons and workshops offered. Hold free weekly dances during the school year and special dances once a month.	Dancing Illini* publish.illinois.edu/dancing Focuses on social ballroom dancing. Offer classes for basic ballroom dances: two-step, cha cha, salsa, swing, waltz, plus bonus dances such as tango and foxtrot. Free open social dances once a month.
Urbana Country Dancers* www.urbana-contra.org Focuses on contra dancing (think square dancing in long lines). Dances are twice a month with special dances a couple times a year. Weekly dances are free, though donations are suggested. Dances are "walked through" before each set. Great live fiddle music!	Illini Folk Dance Society Illinifolkdancesociety.weebly.com Focuses on the enjoyment of international folk dances. Meets on Tuesday or Thursday nights from 8-10pm (sometimes Saturday) at the Illini Union throughout the year. Dances are taught during the first hour. Occasionally perform for the community, but mainly recreational.

*These groups are associated with the University of Illinois through Registered Student Organizations. You should visit the **Registered Student Organizations** website (union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-registered-organizations) for other activities. There are hundreds of groups listed with the Registered Student Organizations, covering many various interest groups, from dancing to sports to social events.

Live Music/Dancing

The Canopy Club (campus) canopyclub.com 708 S Goodwin, Urbana 344-2263 Alternate music scene. Also hosts some well-known national acts from funk to country (I saw both George Clinton & Dirks Bentley there).	The City Center/Fat City Bar & Grill (campus) www.citycenterchampaign.com 505 S Chestnut St, Champaign 954-0556 Located just off Neil and Green, huge indoor stage area, plus beer garden and great food! Books both national and local acts.
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<p>The Clark Bar (near downtown Champaign) www.theclarkbar.com 207 W Clark St, Champaign 355-0510</p> <p>Nestled in an old Champaign neighborhood, in an old stately home, mere blocks from downtown. Open Tuesday-Saturday 5pm-2am. Host a variety of local bands, karaoke and comedy. Also have DJs, drink specials & good food! LGBTQ friendly.</p>	<p>Blackbird blackbirdurbana.com 119 W Main St, Urbana 531-1452 info@blackbirdurbana.com</p> <p>Located in downtown Urbana. Live music almost nightly including a house band, jazz nights, karaoke, DJ nights. Also host bingo. Food from Manolo's Pizza and Empanadas. Full bar.</p>
<p>Goldy's Bar & Grill (Country Fair Shopping Ctr) www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill 123 S Mattis, Champaign 359-2177</p> <p>Sports bar with a little bit of everything: local bands on the weekends; good food; pool tables; gaming machines; bingo; karaoke, DJs; and a beer garden in the summer.</p>	<p>Huber's West End Store www.facebook.com/huberschampaign huberswestendstore.com 1312 W Church St, Champaign 352-0606</p> <p>Small neighborhood pub that serves lite fare and has live local bands on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm.</p>
<p>Boomerang's (Urbana) www.boomerangsbarandgrill.com 1309 E Washington, Urbana 239-7264</p> <p>Acoustic sets, jazz on Tuesdays, BOOM-JAM open stage, Live Jukebox. The Live Karaoke Band is great! The owner is one of the area's guitar superstars who plays with several bands! Great food.</p>	<p>Bunny's Tavern (downtown Urbana) www.bunnystavern.com 119 W Water St, Urbana 367-8175</p> <p>"Best kept secret in downtown Urbana". Free summer parking lot parties are real crowd pleasers! Many Urbana High School reunions start or end at Bunny's! Good bar food, too.</p>
<p>Rose Bowl Tavern (downtown Urbana) 106 N Race St, Urbana 367-7031 www.facebook.com/Rose-Bowl-Tavern-136641079712967</p> <p>Original home of country music in C-U area! Various country-related bands.</p>	<p>Iron Post (downtown Urbana) 120 S Race St, Urbana 337-7678 www.facebook.com/theironpost tinyurl.com/ironpost</p> <p>Hosts a variety of entertainment regularly: jazz, blues, rock, comedy. Some national acts. Outdoor patio to enjoy. Good food, too.</p>

Indoor Sports

My favorite indoor sport is pool. And for those of us who like to eat, drink, and socialize while we play, we join leagues! All of the places below have food and drinks, too. Many bars in town have coin-operated pool tables. The ones I list below have league-level, rent-by-the-hour tables.

Pool Tables

Jupiter's www.jupiterspizza.com 39 E Main St, Champaign 398-5988	Jupiter's at the Crossing jupitersatcrossing.com 2511 Village Green Pl, Champaign 366-8300
Goldy's www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill 123 S Mattis, Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 359-2177	Esquire Lounge esquirelounge.com 106 N Walnut, Champaign 398-5858
Crane Alley www.crane-alley.com 115 E Main, Urbana 384-7526	Illini Union union.illinois.edu/see-and-do/fun/illini-union-rec-room Basement, 1401 W Green, Urbana, 333-2415 iurecroom@illinois.edu

Bowling Lanes

I used to love bowling, but my old knees won't take it now. Here are some great places to have a good time!

Illini Union union.illinois.edu/see-and-do/fun/illini-union-rec-room Basement, 1401 W Green, Urbana, 333-2415 iurecroom@illinois.edu	Western Bowl westernbowl.org 917 Francis, Champaign 359-1678 Cosmic bowling on Friday/Saturday nights!
Old Orchard Lanes www.olderchardinc.com 901 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-5281 Great pizza! Mini-golf in the summer (378-4653) Party packages available for groups.	Arrowhead Lanes arrowheadlanes.com 1401 N McKinley, Champaign 352-5288 Cosmic bowling on Friday/Saturday nights! Indoor black light mini golf course. Party packages.

Campus Recreation Activities

Full-time registered U of I students assessed a "service fee" (which is waived with your RA tuition waiver) have automatic membership and can participate in various programs and activities through Campus Recreation for basically FREE. Rock climbing, hockey, ice skating, aquatics, table tennis, badminton, squash, tennis, soccer ...you name it, they have a program/activity for you!

Outdoor Recreation

You can find fun things to do outside year round, in spite of the change of seasons. Where fall and spring are my favorite times of year, summer and winter hold their own special charms. A walk in the snow on a sunny day can be as invigorating as a stroll in a summer storm!

Outdoor Festivals

I LOVE the outdoor festivals held in C-U! FREE music accompanied by great food and arts...what could be better? There are also many free annual outdoor festivals held in the surrounding areas. A few are listed below.

Boneyard Arts Festival (April 4-7, 2019) 90+ venues throughout Champaign County 40north.org/programs/boneyard Sponsored by the 40North Champaign County Arts Festival, showcases art, music, dancing, and performances in traditional and non-traditional settings in C-U and surrounding towns. Free!	Friday Night Live (Memorial Day to Labor Day) Downtown Champaign 40north.org/programs/friday-night-live Free! Every Friday night from the end of May to beginning of September, from 6-8pm, performances are held at the corners of Neil& Church, Neil & Park, Market & University, Walnut & Chester. All genres.
Urbana Park District Strawberry Jam (Jun 15, 2019) Meadowbrook Park, Urbana www.urbanaparks.org/events/strawberry-jam-2019 "...free concert with an old-fashioned flavor." Music, strawberries and ice cream (while lasts), hayrack rides and guided hikes through the park. 4pm-sunset.	Champaign Park District Street Fest (June/July) Downtown Champaign champaignparks.com/streetfest Free! Local bands from 7pm-midnight. Usually held on portable stages at either Neil Street & Main or Walnut & University Ave
Taste of Champaign (August 16-17, 2019) West Side Park, Champaign champaignparks.com/taste Free music! Arts and crafts vendors. Purchase tickets to sample alcohol and menu items from some of C-U's best known restaurants.	Urbana Sweetcorn Festival (August 23-24, 2019) Downtown Urbana urbanasweetcornfestival.com Free music – some local, some regional and one national headliner each year. Arts and craft vendors, food vendors, car show, and of course, Illini sweet corn!!!!
Pygmalion Festival (Sept 26-28, 2019) Downtown Champaign/campus www.thepygmalionfestival.com info@thepygmalionfestival.com "Foremost boutique indie rock music festivals in the world" coupled with handmade/vintage market. Held in various venues across town.	CU Pride Fest and Parade (Sept 27-29, 2019) One Main Plaza, downtown Champaign www.unitingpride.org/pride-fest-2019 www.facebook.com/UPCenter Family-friendly events, performances and entertainment. Boasts the largest downstate pride parade.
Homer Krazee Days (August 15-17, 2019) Homer, IL www.homersodafestival.com	Amish Country Cheese Festival (Labor Day weekend) Arthur, IL www.arthurcheesefestival.com
Broom Corn Festival (Sept 6-8, 2019) Arcola, IL www.arcolachamber.com/broomcorn-festival	The National Sweetcorn Festival (Aug 29-Sept 2, 2019) Hoopeston, IL www.hoopestonjaycees.org/festival

Parks and Nature Preserves

The State of Illinois has a lot of tourist attractions to offer, especially pertaining to one of our country's most famous presidents, Abraham Lincoln – such as the Lincoln museum and presidential library in Springfield (listed under museums). Check out www.enjoyillinois.com for suggestions.

For those of you who enjoy nature, the State of Illinois has many beautiful state parks you can visit. Check out www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation for information. There are also several local parks and nature preserves where you can hike, fish, bike, boat, and camp. The local parks present free summer concerts. Call for schedules.

Champaign-Urbana Parks

The Champaign Park District (398-2550) has 58 parks with a total of 510 acres. The Urbana Park District (367-1544) has 22 parks. I am listing a few here. Check out their websites for more information regarding parks in your area.

Urbana www.urbanaparks.org	Champaign champaignparks.com
Crystal Lake Park Park and Broadway (1 block N of University) 90 acres. Boats, fishing, picnic areas, playgrounds. Family Aquatic Center (outdoor). Open Memorial Day to Labor Day. 239-SWIM (-7946) Lake House boat rental/room rentals 328-1069 Champaign County Fairgrounds , located adjacent to the park, have events every summer, including the Humane Society Garage Sale in May and the Champaign County Fair in July.	Centennial Park Kirby and Crescent 140 acres. Playgrounds, swimming. Sholem Aquatic Center (outdoor). Open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Pool/water slides. 398-2581 Sledding hill in the winter. Prairie Farm at Centennial Park 2202 W Kirby Ave 398-2583 Free petting zoo with barnyard animals. Open Memorial Day to early August.
Anita Purves Nature Center/Busey Woods North of Crystal Lake Aquatic Center. 384-4062 59-acre preserve. Nice hiking trails.	Hessel Park Kirby and Hessel 26 acres. Tennis courts, playground area, picnic areas.
Meadowbrook Race St, south of Windsor 130 acres. Play area, hiking trail, co-op garden, prairie restoration, outside sculpture garden.	West Side Park University and State 12.7 acres. Playground, fountain, picnicking. Taste of Champaign held every summer.
Indoor Aquatic Center 102 E Michigan (between the Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School) 384-POOL (-7665) Water slide, lap pool during public swim times.	Kaufman Lake 2702 W Springfield Ave 24.2 acre. Fishing, hiking, picnic areas. Ice-skating in winter.
Phillips Recreation Center 505 W Stoughton, Urbana 367-1544 Dance, fitness, community programs. Main Urbana Park District registration location.	Helms Park (campus) 475 S Second St .10 acres. Recreation area with walking paths between Springfield and University Aves.

Central Illinois Area Parks and Recreation Sites

www.stateparks.com/central_illinois_parks.html

Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch www.curtisorchard.com 3902 S Duncan Rd, Champaign 359-5565 Open July 20 – December 23. Pick your own apples, pumpkins. Petting zoo, giant slide, play area from July-Halloween, plus corn maze, wagon rides, and pony rides for children August-Halloween. Watch as they make fresh apple donuts! A general store where you can buy apples, cider, Indian corn, gourds, and pumpkins plus arts and crafts and a café.	Wildlife Prairie State Park wildlifeprairiepark.org 3826 N Taylor Rd, Hanna City (Peoria) 309-676-0998 I-74 west, Exit 82, 2-1/2 miles south, follow signs. irequest@wildlifeprairie.org 2000 acre zoological park. Bison, wolves, cougars, lynx, foxes, black bears, elk, etc, in a restored prairie setting (animals the Pioneers would have come across when coming to Illinois). 1800's Pioneer farmstead. Stay overnight in a cabin or renovated train caboose.
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Allerton Park allerton.illinois.edu 515 Old Timber Rd, Monticello 333-3287 20 minute drive from Champaign. A few miles off I-72, exit 164. allertoninfo@illinois.edu 6000 acre estate. Beautiful formal gardens, statues, & architecture. Can see deer there, too, if you look closely.	Kickapoo State Park www.stateparks.com/kickapoo.html 10906 Kickapoo Park Rd, Oakwood (east of Danville) 442-4915 About 25 miles east of Urbana. Take I-74 East. john.hott@illinois.gov Nice trails. Beautiful river views. Canoe rentals. Camping areas available.
Lake of the Woods www.ccfpd.org/lake-of-the-woods-mahomet-illinois Mahomet 586-3360 10 minutes west of Champaign on I-74, Exit 174 or 173. Beautiful lake and botanical garden. Boating, fishing, hiking, museum, covered bridge, golf course, and picnic areas. Also have carillon with an observation tower.	Moraine View www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/MoraineView.aspx Near LeRoy 309-724-8032 About 40 minutes west of Champaign. I-74 West to LeRoy (exit 149), head north on Hwy 21, follow signs. Nice lake-usually quiet. Can rent boats/swim/fish. Nice hiking trails. Camping areas available.
Homer Lake Forest Preserve ccfpd.org/Preserves/HomerLake.html 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer 896-2455 I-74 east to Rte 49, 5 miles south, follow signs. 80-acre lake on 814 acre preserve with fishing, hiking. Interpretive Center features live animals and displays.	Middle Fork River Forest Preserve www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html 3433 County Rd 2700 E, Penfield 595-5432 5 miles N of Penfield. County Road 2700 E/ Rte 136 1700 acres. Waterfowl Management Area with 3 ponds. Campground, swim beach, hiking trails. First International Dark Sky Park in Illinois!!
Fox Ridge State Park www.stateparks.com/fox_ridge.html 18175 State Park Rd, Charleston 345-6416 Hwy 130 out of Charleston for 8 miles. Follow signs. foxridge@dnrmil.state.il.us 2064 acre park with hills and bluffs. 12 acre lake for fishing, swimming, boating. Hiking and horse trails (bring your own horse) scenic overlooks, picnic areas, wildlife observation, camping.	Walnut Point State Park www.stateparks.com/walnut_point_state_park_in_illinois.html 2331 E County Rd 370 N, Oakland 346-3336 I-57 south to Tuscola (exit 212). Take Hwy 36 east for 15 miles, then south on Hwy 7 for 6 miles. Follow signs. rshafer@dnrmil.state.il.us 59 acre lake supports fishing and ice skating/ice fishing in winter. Hiking, camping, picnic areas.

Just outside of Central Illinois...

Starved Rock State Park www.starvedrockstatepark.org 2678 E 873 rd Rd, Oglesby, IL 815-667-4726 About 2 hours northwest of Champaign. Voted #1 attraction in the State. Camp or sleep in a cabin or rustic lodge. I hear it is breathtaking! Hike, fish, relax. Enjoy waterfalls and canyons in the prairie!!	Shawnee National Forest www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee Harrisburg, IL 618-253-7114 (289K acres between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers) About 3 ½ hours southwest of Champaign (almost to Missouri). Designated Wilderness Areas, scenic drives, historic sites. You may even see bald eagles!
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Just across the Indiana border (Parke County)

About 1 hour's drive from Champaign and well worth the trip! These are my favorites, but you can find others at: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake. Indiana differs from Central Illinois in that there are rolling hills and deep ravines in the parks. Be forewarned: entrance fees are charged at some Indiana parks. And no off-trail hiking is allowed.

Turkey Run State Park www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm 8121 E Park Rd, Marshall, IN 765-597-2635 I-74 east to Crawfordsville; 231 south to 47 Hiking trails; boats; camp or stay at the Inn. Reservations are needed for the Inn 765-597-2211.	Shades State Park www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2970.htm 7751 S 890 W, Waveland IN 765-435-2810 Down the road from Turkey Run. Gorgeous trails; river for canoeing; camping. Absolutely beautiful in the fall!
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Other attractions

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch (open select days Aug-Dec) www.reindeerranch.com 1356 County Road 2900 N, Rantoul, IL 893-3407 reindeerranch@hotmail.com 80 acres. No gate admission. Meet reindeer; go on hay rides for nominal fees. Visit the corn maze in the fall and cut your own tree at Christmas. Visit the gift shop.	Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery www.prairiefruits.com 4410 N Lincoln, Champaign 643-2314 prairiefruits@gmail.com Goat dairy and farmstead creamery. Offer guided tours. In spring, meet baby goats at breakfast. In summer, sign up for Farm to Table dinners.
Travel Historic Route 66 www.enjoyillinois.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/view/route-66 Drive along the "Mother Road" – visit museums, old gas stations, restaurants, visit roadside attractions like Henry's Ra66it Ranch (yes, he has real rabbits!) or the world's largest ketchup bottle.	Visit Amish Country www.illinoisamishcountry.com Arthur/Arcola, IL Horse-drawn buggies, quaint shops, wonderful handcrafted furniture. You can even schedule a meal in an Amish home!
Aikman's Wildlife Adventure (May-Nov) www.aikmanwildlife.com 125 N County Road 425 E, Arcola 268-3500 info@aikmanwildlife.com Drive-thru animal park. Over 150 animals/50 species.	

Astronomy

Stargazing is one of the most inexpensive forms of entertainment around... go just out of town to the country and look up! There are several major meteor showers each year: in August, in October, and potentially spectacular ones in November and December. There are other minor showers throughout the year as well. The Milky Way can also be visible...as long as the clouds cooperate and you aren't near the light pollution!

Staerkel Planetarium www.parkland.edu/Audience/Community-Business/Parkland-Presents/Planetarium 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2446 planetarium@parkland.edu 2 nd largest planetarium in IL! Live-narrated tours/stories of the seasonal night skies over the prairieland; cosmic odysseys with laser lights/music. Public lectures and special events like Pluto-palooza.	
C-U Astronomical Society cuas.org Observatory: 926 County Road 700 E, Tolono 351-2567 cuas@cuas.org Monthly meetings held at Staerkel. Host observatory open houses and Family and Public Skywatches (Saturday of 1 st quarter moon). Dark sky viewing with telescopes at Middlefork Forest Preserve.	Astronomical Society at the U of Illinois uias.astro.illinois.edu c/o Dept of Astronomy, 1002 W Green, Urbana uias@illinois.edu Monthly public observatory open houses are 2 nd Friday of the month, weather permitting. If UI student/faculty, can become member and be allowed to visit the historic UI telescope!
Middle Fork River Preserve www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html 3485 County Rd 2700 E, Penfield 595-5432 5 miles N of Penfield. County Road 2700 E/ Rte 136 www.darksky.org/first-idsp-in-llinois-designated	

Restaurants

Champaign-Urbana has a wide array of restaurants, with a wide variety of foods, at a wide range of prices. For whatever reason, some restaurants only last a year or two, but there are always new ones opening up.

You will probably be spending a lot of time on campus, where you will be discovering your own places to eat. For that reason, most of the restaurants I list here are located off campus. There are many good restaurants in Campustown and I encourage you to try them. I've put asterisks (**) next to the places that I like located on or very near campus.

I am listing many of my favorite places here, listed by the primary type of food they serve. Most places listed are relatively inexpensive or moderately so – easily affordable on a University employee budget. And most have some sort of vegetarian and/or gluten free fare available. Bon Appétit!

Coffee Shops

Coffee seems to be a popular beverage any time of year. There are several coffee shops (that also serve food items) in Champaign-Urbana, with several different venues on campus. You can also find coffee at shops in the malls and "grind your own" at the local grocery stores. I don't drink coffee, but here are a few of the more popular places I've been told about.

Local shops

Caffe Paradiso www.enjoyparadiso.com **801 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 384-6066 enjoyparadiso@gmail.com Coffee, tea, salads, sandwiches, pastries, and desserts!	Cafe Kopi cafe-kopi.com 109 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 359-4266 cafe kopi@gmail.com Serve salads and paninis. Local artist works on display.
Aroma Café & Kitchen www.aroma-cafe.com 118 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 356-3200 Also serve lunch and breakfast all day.	

National shops

Espresso Royale www.espressoroyale.com **UI Library, 1402 W Gregory, Urbana 333-7799 **1117 W Oregon, Urbana 337-6160 **Krannert Art Museum, 500 E Peabody, C 344-2791 **Grainger 1301 W Springfield, C 328-1335 **1411 S Neil, Champaign 351-0928 2401 Village Green Pl, C 352-1998 Though started in California, they are now only found in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.	Starbucks www.starbucks.com **503 E Green St, Champaign 344-8613 **Illini Union Bookstore, 809 S Wright St, C 244-1775 **Illini Union, 1401 W Green, Urbana 300-3152 **701 S Gregory, U 333-8308 Carriage Center, 2011 S Neil St, Champaign 722-3209 2702 N Prospect, Champaign 398-0821 102 N Vine (Main/Vine), Urbana 344-4502 Probably the most famous coffee chain in the world... Also serve food and other drinks.
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Distributors

Walnut Street Tea Company www.walnutstreettea.com 115 S Walnut, downtown Champaign 351-6975 walnutstreettea@gmail.com Specialty store selling coffee, teas, sweets, and novelties. Have local items like toffee and comb honey.	Columbia Street Roastery www.csrcoffee.com 24 E Columbia St, downtown Champaign 352-9713 Sell beans, teas, merchandise. Supply quite a few restaurants in town with their coffees. Hold coffee tasting classes.
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Desserts

My motto: life is uncertain, eat dessert first!! Dessert is my favorite meal. Here are some places to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Frozen Custard – A Midwest favorite (and Cindy's favorite, too!)

Jarling's Custard Cup www.jarlingscustardcup.com **309 W Kirby, Champaign 352-2273 comments@jarlingscustardcup.com A C-U institution! Excellent homemade frozen custard made fresh daily. Special flavor weekly. Also have snowstorms, sundaes, and ice cream cakes.	Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers freddysusa.com/store/champaign 420 W Towncenter Blvd, Champaign 607-1203 Concretes, sundaes, and cones. Also have steakburgers (see Fast Food). It's a combination of Culver's and Steak 'n Shake in one location!
Culver's www.culvers.com 2302 S Neil St, Champaign 352-1699 903 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-8132 201 W University Ave, Urbana 607-1162 Great specialty sundaes and concretes (shakes). New special flavor of the day every day! They also serve other great food. (See Fast Food)	

Ice Cream, Frozen Yogurt, and Sorbets

Red Bicycle Ice Cream www.redbicycleicecream.com 2740 Philo Rd, Suite D, Urbana 607-1233 redbikeIC@gmail.com Wonderful farm fresh, hand crafted, local ice cream, vegan gelato, and sorbet. Unique, one of a kind flavors. Some flavors made with coconut milk. Very yummy!	Oberweis Ice Cream and Dairy Store www.oberweis.com/ice-cream-and-dairy-stores/Champaign 1905 S Neil St, Champaign 568-6444 Relatively new place, but I hear good things about it!
Marble Slab Creamery www.marbleslab.com 1211 Savoy Plaza Ln, Savoy 359-5950 Homemade ice cream mixed with extras while you wait. Shakes and smoothies; yogurt and sorbets. Excellent ice cream cakes.	Cold Stone Creamery www.coldstonecreamery.com **505 E Green, Champaign 367-5555 Homemade ice cream mixed with extras on a marble slab while you wait. Ice cream cakes, shakes, smoothies, yogurt, and sorbets.
Dairy Queen www.dairyqueen.com 911 W University Ave, Urbana 344-4108 1501 Lyndhurst, Savoy 356-3065 3602 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 373-2412 Soft serve ice cream (actually, ice milk). They have yummy novelty treats like buster bars and dilly bars. They also have a full brazier grill.	Baskin Robbins www.baskinrobbins.com **515 S Neil, Champaign 359-7005 404 W University, Urbana 328-3513 31 different flavors of ice cream and frozen yogurt. Now serving vegan and non-dairy flavors. They are also known for their ice cream cakes. Combined with Dunkin Donuts – ice cream AND donuts! Wow!
Steak 'n Shake www.steaknshake.com **1709 S Neil St, Champaign 352-5001 2010 N Prospect, Champaign 398-1606 2009 N Kenyon, Urbana 344-3855 Awesome shakes, freezes...and steakburgers and fries! (See Fast Food)	TCBY (Frozen Yogurt) store.tcby.com/home/oldfarm 1731 W Kirby, Old Farm Shop, Champaign 607-5090 Over a dozen flavors of soft serve frozen yogurt daily and 50+ toppings.

Chocolates and Candies

Fannie May Fine Chocolates www.fanniemay.com **402 S Neil, Champaign 355-5628 Chocolates and confections. Pixies have always been a favorite of my family! Not cheap, but you can get some good deals if you watch for specials and coupons.	Flesor's Candy Kitchen www.flesorscandy.com 101 W Sale St, Tuscola 253-3753 20 minutes south of Champaign on Rte 45 or order on-line. Old-fashioned confectionary and soda fountain. Delicious homemade candies and ice-cream. Food, too!
Rubens Chocolates www.facebook.com/rubenschocolates 1602 University, Urbana 418-7052 Bent Bean, Lincoln Square Village, Urbana Wonderful handmade Belgian chocolate treats in white, milk, or dark chocolate. Sold exclusively at Bent Bean or order on-line.	A Toffee Tale Info: thetoffeelady2@gmail.com 328-1500 Yummy handmade toffees sold at many local shops including Walnut Street Tea Company, World Harvest, Common Ground Co-Op and Art Mart!

Bakeries and Dessert Shops

Probably the cheapest way to get your sweet tooth satisfied is to buy an inexpensive cake mix and a can of frosting, however that requires some effort on your part, not to mention a kitchen. Another inexpensive option would be to purchase something already prepared. Almost every grocery store, discount store, pharmacy, or gas station has a “bakery” section with pre-packaged sweets (like say Twinkies or donuts), and sometimes a frozen section where you can buy frozen cakes and pies. Not bad for every day, but sometimes you just need something special, for a birthday or graduation party, for example.

Cakes and Pies

For reasonably priced, fresh-baked cakes and pies, sweets, bread and rolls.

County Market Bakery www.mycountymarket.com/discover/departments/bakery **331 Stoughton St, Champaign 352-4123 2901 W Kirby Ave (at Duncan Road) 351-8600 Great custom special occasion cakes. Good pies, cookies, breads, donuts, etc. Reasonable prices. For special occasions, this is where my family gets our cakes – my mom orders them with <i>double</i> frosting!	Wal-Mart Super Center Bakery www.walmart.com/ideas/entertaining/Cakes_for_Any_Occasion/43661 2610 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-7659 505 S Dunlap Ave (off S Neil), Savoy 356-6437 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6171 Also will do custom cakes. Other good baked items. (Sam's Club also carries baked goods – but you have to be a member to shop there.)
Meijer Bakery www.meijer.com/shop/en/bakery/c/L2-10309 2401 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 353-4000 2500 Philo Rd, Urbana 365-5200 Call local store for special orders.	Schnuck's Bakery nourish.schnucks.com/departments/bakery-department 109 N Mattis, Chamapaign 351-2600 200 N Vine, Urbana 337-6016 1301 Savoy Plaza Center, Savoy 373-0700 Donuts, bagels, bread and rolls made in store daily.

Specialty Bakeries

For those times you just want to splurge and aren't going to worry about the price.

The New Sweet Indulgence & Espresso Bar www.thenewsweetindulgence.biz 1121 W Windsor, Champaign 352-2433 They supply many of the local restaurants with their awesome desserts! Shhh, it's a secret. Espresso bar, too!	The Cake Artist's Studio www.thecakeartistsstudio.com 1100B W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 403-0900 "Where Cake is Art". Award-winning pastry chef designs custom desserts baked on site.
Cream & Flutter creamandflutter.com 114 N Walnut St, downtown Champaign 355-5400 champaign@creamandflutter.com Known for their gourmet cupcakes, also serve cookies, ice cream, gourmet candies and coffees.	Perkins Family Restaurant www.perkinsrestaurants.com 1214 W University, Champaign 328-3000 Great pies, cookies, and huge muffins. Open 24/7. Great food (see Family Style Restaurants).
Cookies by Design www.cookiesbydesign.com 902 Meijer Dr Suite #2 344-3911 cookiesbydesign113@yahoo.com Cookie bouquets and baskets.	Insomnia Cookies insomniacookies.com **502 E John, Johnstown Center 284-6172 They will even DELIVER cookies to your door Noon-3AM!

Breads and Rolls

Great Harvest Bread Company greatharvestchampaign.com 2149 S Neil Street, Champaign 398-5623 tdburdick@greatharvest.com Locally owned. Variety of breads, sweets, sandwiches baked fresh daily.	The Bread Company on Goodwin thebread.co **706 S. Goodwin, Urbana 383-1007 Locally owned. Great breads and sweets. Authentic Swiss & European cuisine. Also have gourmet pizzas, sandwiches, fondue.
Panera Bread Company www.panerabread.com **616 E Green St, Champaign 344-2528 1765 Kirby (Old Farm Shops), Champaign 355-9885 1903 Convenience Pl, Champaign 239-5000 Fresh breads, bagels, & sweet treats. Also serve excellent sandwiches, soups and salads. Catering.	Pekara Bakery and Bistro pekarabakery.com 116 N Neil St, Champaign 359-4500 811 W Springfield, Champaign 954-1002 pekarabistro@gmail.com Daily bread schedule. Great quiche, bread, salads, soup, desserts. Different menus at each location!

Donuts and Bagels – local shops

Ye Olde Donut Shoppe yeoldedonutshoppe.com 1401 S Neil St, Champaign 359-3311 Been around since 1956!! Call ahead one day for special orders and they will deliver.	Carmella's Crème Donuts 1611 W Springfield, Champaign 531-0024 Good locally baked donuts. Small place. Cash only. Hours: Monday-Saturday 5:30am-4pm; Sunday 5:30am-3pm. Cheaper by the dozen.
Pandmonium Doughnuts pandmoniumdoughnuts.wixsite.com/pandmoniumdoughnuts 1105 Windsor Road, Champaign 630-946-4306 PandmoniumDoughnuts@gmail.com Specialty donuts like birthday cake or Earl Grey tea. Also have truck (see Food Truck).	Industrial Donut www.industrialdonut.com/donuts 501 Commerce Dr, Savoy 607-1323 Behind the Aldi's. Made to order, build your own donuts! They even have bacon as a topping. They serve Columbia Street Roastery coffee.

Donuts and Bagels – national brands

Einstein Bros. Bagels www.einsteinbros.com **1401 W Green St, Illini Union, Urbana 332-3000 **901 W University Ave, Champaign 344-7520 803 W Anthony Drive, Champaign 239-0025 Great bagels and sandwiches.	Dunkin Donuts www.dunkindonuts.com **607 E Green St, Champaign 384-3375 **515 S Neil, Champaign 359-7005 1302 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 359-2786 404 W University, Urbana 328-3513 2006 W Springfield, Champaign 607-1033
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American Food

Americans – or at least many living in the Midwest – love their meat and potatoes! Most eating establishments in town feature a variety of meat selections besides the most popular beef option these days (like chicken and fish) along with something vegetarian or “healthy” on their menus (like salad). Many places also offer gluten-free selections.

Breakfast

Most family-style restaurants offer breakfast items on their menus. Here are a few of my favorite places that specialize in breakfast foods – waffles, pancakes, omelets, etc.

Breakfast/Lunch/Brunch ONLY

The Original Pancake House www.originalpancakehouse.com 1909B W Springfield, Champaign 352-8866 <i>Incredible</i> pancakes, waffles and home fries. My favorites are the pecan waffles and the apple Dutch baby w/hot cinnamon glaze! Very popular, so expect a wait. Pricey.	Le Peep www.lepeep.com 2209 S. Neil, Champaign 352-7599 In the Shoppes of Knollwood shopping mall. Good food, nice atmosphere, little pricey. Everything from pancakes to benedicts to omelets and skillet to sandwiches and salads.
Sammy's Pancake House (also spelled Sammie's) 1206 N Mattis, Champaign 355-3403 Great omelets, skillet, pancakes/crepes/French toast/waffles. I love their Mexican entrees, like carne asada. They also have burgers and salads. Decent prices.	Sam's Café www.facebook.com/samscafechampaign 115 N Walnut St, downtown Champaign 352-7102 Rustic coffee shop/old fashioned diner with good food at decent prices. Hours may fluctuate, but generally 6am-2pm M-F. Cash only.

Open 24/7, so you can have breakfast ANYTIME!

Merry Ann's Diner www.merry-anns.com **701 S Gregory St, Urbana 344-2455 **1510 S. Neil St., Champaign 352-5399 Open 24/7. Traditional diner, great food, good specials, good prices!
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Family Style Restaurants (that also serve awesome breakfasts)

<p>The Apple Dumpling www.facebook.com/dumplin1985 2014 High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-0076</p> <p>An Urbana tradition for 30 years. Great home cooking! Tiny place of 15 tables – and only 3 menu specials each night. Get there early as they will sell out of some items. Sunday buffet = 3 choices of the day & salad bar. Love their chicken and noodles and fried chicken. Closed Mondays.</p>	<p>Urbana Garden Family Restaurant urbanagardenrestaurant.com 810 W Killarney St, Urbana 328-1514 urbanagardenrestaurant@gmail.com</p> <p>Daily specials and all-you-can-eat specials. Great food/good prices. Nice salad bar. Serve breakfast all day. The menu is so varied, you can eat something different 7 days a week and still not get through the entire menu! You can order carry-out and it will be ready for you in 10 minutes!</p>
<p>Bob Evans www.bobevans.com 1813 N Prospect, Champaign 356-1006</p> <p>Famous for their sausage. Great breakfast selections. “Home-style” cooking at decent prices. Salads, sandwiches, dinners – everything I’ve tried is good!</p>	<p>Cracker Barrel Old Country Store www.crackerbarrel.com 2101 N Kenyon Road, Urbana 344-9087</p> <p>Good “home-style” food. Attached to a country store so you can browse after dinner or while waiting to be seated. I love their cornbread and hash brown casserole.</p>
<p>Perkins Family Restaurant www.perkinsrestaurants.com **1214 W University, Urbana 328-3000</p> <p>Huge menu and they serve breakfast all day. Company merged with Marie Callender’s in 2006 – one of my fave LA restaurants. Be prepared for slow service.</p>	<p>Courier Cafe www.couriersilvercreek.com 111 N Race, downtown Urbana 328-1811</p> <p>Great garden (and regular) burgers, veggie quesadillas, appetizers, and a big salad bar. They also have a soda fountain and milkshakes. A bit more pricy, but worth it!</p>

Good Food Fast

I eat a lot of fast food (as my waistline can attest), because it is easy to grab on the way to work or home. Here are my favorite non-traditional burger places:

<p>Taco Bell www.tacobell.com **1003 W University, Urbana 367-2871 **1707 S Neil Street, Champaign 403-9803 1910 W Springfield, Champaign 356-7526 10 E Anthony Dr, Champaign 398-2159</p> <p>Americanized Mexican fast food <i>cheap</i>! Get a whole meal for under \$5!! Open late most nights. 2- 3 am on Fri/Sat (excluding Anthony Dr). Serve breakfast at 7am.</p>	<p>Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) www.kfc.com 2201W Springfield, Champaign 352-0900 410 W University, Urbana 328-3379 Catering: 888-532-3663</p> <p>Just great chicken: original recipe or extra crispy. Also serve side dishes and desserts. I love their coleslaw. Great biscuits, too. Bucket deals or “\$5 fill ups” are the way to go on a budget.</p>
<p>Arby's arbys.com Champaign: 1913 W Springfield Ave 356-0622; 1502 N Prospect 359-0026; 2310 S Neil 398-5677 Urbana: 509 N Cunningham 367-5624</p> <p>Slogan: We have the meats! Finely sliced roast beef sandwiches are what they are known for. Also serve turkey, chicken, brisket, steak, corned beef, and offer Market/Deli Sandwiches (delicious chicken salad) for a little more. Occasionally have fish. Great sides and shakes, too.</p>	<p>Sonic America's Drive-In www.sonicdrivein.com 601 N Mattis, Champaign 356-1230 101 Calvin St, Savoy 359-8901</p> <p>Drive thru or park and eat in your car! Burgers, hot dogs, breakfast sandwiches and burritos. Sides include awesome onion rings and tater tots. They also serve shakes and slushies (ice with favored syrup). Get a cream slushie for the best of both worlds in a huge variety of flavors (I like the watermelon and grape). Very good and inexpensive.</p>

Steak 'n Shake www.steaknshake.com **1709 S Neil St, Champaign 352-5001 2010 N Prospect, Champaign 398-1606 2009 N Kenyon, Urbana 344-3855 Open 24 hours - breakfast in the mornings; lunch all day; late night menu midnight-6am. Steakburgers of all varieties, awesome thin fries, great chili (try the chili mac). Also have hot dogs and salads. Incredible hand-dipped shakes & freezes (See Ice cream above)! Great \$4 menu, plus you can always find coupons. My old high-school hangout.	Culver's www.culvers.com 2302 S Neil St, Champaign 352-1699 903 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-8132 201W University, Urbana 607-1162 Known for their frozen custard (above), they also serve great "Butterburgers" (seared Midwest beef on bun that has been buttered) in a variety of choices. They also offer soups, sandwiches, salads, and dinner selections like pot roast, chicken, and fried cod meals. Daily specials. Eat in or drive-thru. Can get coupons for buy one, get one free baskets or sundaes/concretes.
Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers freddysusa.com/store/champaign 420 W Towncenter Blvd, Champaign 607-1203 Really good steakburgers and fries made with with Freddy's Famous Fry Seasoning. Try it with their special fry sauce. (See Frozen Custard above)	

Big Chain Burger Joints

McDonald's (Mc-E D's) www.mcdonalds.com They are <i>everywhere</i> ! Closest: **616 E Green St, campus 384-4834 Great French fries and now serve breakfast all day! Offer more "healthy" alternatives. They aren't as cheap as they used to be, but based on the long lines at the drive-thru windows, they continue to be one of the most popular fast food chains around.	Burger King (BK) www.bk.com 2110 N Prospect, Champaign 398-7801 2105 W Springfield, Champaign 398-8906 **1106 W University Ave, Urbana 607-1351 1708 Philo Road, Urbana 344-2855 1325 N Dunlap Ave, Savoy 954-1442 A more adult burger place. Flame-broiled burgers, fish, chicken, salads, sides, breakfasts, and value meals.
Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers www.wendys.com **Illini Union 337-4805 505 N Cunningham, Urbana 344-2899 2033 N Prospect, Champaign 355-9484 Wendy's has great variety of items at good prices. Now offer pitas/wrap sandwiches. I love their chili, baked potatoes, and frosties (super thick ice cream drink).	Hardee's www.hardees.com 1806 W Bradley, Champaign 398-5825 Great sourdough bread sandwiches. Huge burgers. Really good charbroiled chicken sandwich. Great breakfast menu including cinnamon-raisin biscuits and biscuits and gravy. (Carl's Jr west of the Rockies)

Barbeque Joints

Lil Porgy's Bar-B-Q www.lilporgysbbq.com 1917 W Springfield, Champaign 398-8575 Excellent hickory-smoked barbecue chicken, ribs, pork, and beef. They cook over wood. Different daily specials. Good prices.	Hickory River Smokehouse hickoryriver.com 1706 N Cunningham, Urbana 337-1656 "Real" Texas barbeque. Great food, a bit pricey. Daily lunch specials. I love their huge Texas taters. Great brisket, too.
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Black Dog Smoke & Ale House www.blackdogsmoke.com 201 N Broadway, Urbana 344-9342 320 N Chestnut, Champaign 954-0465 Many feel this is the best BBQ in town. Always crowded, so expect to wait. Daily specials in addition to their regular menu. Excellent mac and cheese! Pricey!	Wood n Hog BBQ www.woodnhogbarbecue.com 101 W University, Urbana 367-1018 woodnhogbarbecue@gmail.com You might see their mobile catering truck around town and they just opened a brick and mortar shop in the old Lil Porgy's building.
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Sandwich Shops

Po'Boys Restaurant www.poboysurbana.com 202 E University, Urbana 367-2255 60-year-old family-owned restaurant in new location! Great BBQ, sandwiches, individual pizzas. Daily specials. Incredible homemade pies for dessert – they run out fast!	Subway Sandwiches & Salads www.subway.com ** 616 E Green 239-0108 (24 hr); 610 E Daniel (next to Kam's) 383-1033; 701 S Gregory 239-7329 Numerous locations. Bread fresh baked daily. Lots of sandwich varieties. Choose your own condiments. Also offer salads, wraps, and breakfast sandwiches.
Portillos Hot Dogs www.portillos.com 2306 N Prospect, Champaign 207-9000 A Chicagoland fave! Also have great Italian beef.	

On-Campus Gems

Newman Foundation, Newman Res Hall www.sjcnc.org/housing/dining **604 E Armory, Champaign 344-1266 info@sjcnc.org Made from scratch foods served cafeteria-style at excellent prices! A U of I tradition...this place was popular when I went here though the menu is now greatly expanded. Not open to the public during the summer.	Bevier Café beviercafe.illinois.edu 260 Bevier Hall, 905 S Goodwin, Urbana 244-4498 fshn-general@illinois.edu Student-operated café open M-F during academic year/limited summer hours. Only 3-4 main entrees, a couple specials and sides daily – and they can run out early. Open 11:30am-1pm for lunch and “after hours” 1-2:30pm. Excellent food at good prices.
Colonial Room at the Illini Union https://union.illinois.edu/development/colonial-room-lunch-buffet Illini Union 244-4261 CLOSED FOR 2019-20, then moving to Ballroom Lunch buffet 11:30-1:00 M-F only. Menu includes salad bar, deli bar, hot soups, beverage, and dessert, plus delicious house-made hot entrees/sides that change daily. All for \$11.95 (beverages, dessert, and tax included!). Currently open as: Orange on Green 103 & 104 Illini Union Built-to-order sandwiches & bowls; salads and soups. Open 10:30-4:30 M-F.	Spice Box spicebox.illinois.edu Bevier Hall, 905 S Goodwin, Urbana 333-6520 Student-run restaurant held periodically during the fall/spring semesters. Associated with the UI Hospitality Management Program. Reservations required for these special events. Two menu selections: 4-course meal or 2-course options.

Food Trucks

Food trucks have become very popular here over the past 5+ years. Most will show up to the big festivals, Market on the Square, local fundraisers and events, and they even have a regular Food Truck Rally in downtown Urbana. They aren't the cheapest, but are very convenient! Some have set schedules/locations around town - check their websites/Facebook for listings. Note: CASH ONLY.

Cracked www.crackedongreen.com **at Mathews/Springfield (9a-2p, M-F) **619 E Green, Champaign 954-0361 crackedtruck@gmail.com All thing eggs. See website for truck schedule/menu or visit the restaurant on Green St from 8am-2pm daily.	Burrito King www.burritokingmexicangrill.com ** 408 E Green, Champaign 607-0073 **sometimes at Goodwin/Green Downtown Champaign at night Tacos, burritos, quesadillas. I really like their chips and salsa.
Piato To Go piatocafe.com **804 E Main St, Urbana 344-9015 info@piatocafe.com Homemade sauces. Great Hawaiian nachos. Check website for schedule. Or visit their café.	Dragonfire Pizza dragonfirepizza.net 649-2433 info@dragonfirepizza.net Great pizza speedy fast...and HOT! Check website for schedule.
Tacos, Quesadillas...(Orange/Blue trailer) Downtown Champaign at night Near Springfield/Mathews mornings/lunchtime Just as the trailer says...	Pandmonium Doughnuts pandamoniumdoughnuts.wixsite.com/pandamoniumdoughnuts 1105 Windsor Road, Champaign 630-946-4306 PandamoniumDoughnuts@gmail.com See website for schedule of stops. At Urbana's Market on the Square on Saturdays. Or visit brick and mortar store on Windsor. (see Donuts)

Mexican Food

Mexican food is my all-time favorite food, with pizza a close second. I got spoiled living in West Los Angeles where my favorite restaurants served *real authentic* Mexican food! (In my favorite Los Angeles restaurant, *Paco's Tacos*, Mexican women make fresh, handmade tortillas on a special grill and serve them hot to your table. A little trivia: in the movie "Jerry Maguire," Tom Cruise and Renee Zellweger have their first date at Paco's!) Anyway, here are my *local* favorite Mexican places:

<p>Fiesta Café www.fiestacafe.com **216 S 1st, Champaign 352-5902</p> <p>I love their food, especially their chicken/mole tamales and cheese enchiladas. We call the chili con queso dip "crack dip" because it is so addictive and delicious!</p>	<p>Dos Reales www.facebook.com/pages/Dos-Reales-Mexican-Restaurant/100868866625158 1407 N Prospect, Champaign 351-6879</p> <p>Great authentic Mexican food at good prices. I love the Pollo a la Parilla. I think they have the best chips and salsa in town.</p>
<p>Maize Mexican Grill www.maizemexicangrill.com **60 E Green, Champaign 355-6400 Maize at the Station (at the old train station) **100 N Chestnut, Champaign 355-3611</p> <p>The Green St space is tiny. Everything is made in house from scratch. Not your normal fare. Excellent food!</p>	<p>Huaraches Moroleon www.facebook.com/Huaraches-Moroleon-343380985672030 805 Philo, Urbana 344-6772</p> <p>Another tiny place with excellent food...and lots of it! Authentic fare, really good prices. They bring a selection of salsas for your chips.</p>
<p>Toro Loco 1601 N Cunningham, Urbana 344-7855 El Toro II 723 S Neil, Champaign 378-7807 El Toro Bravo 2561 W Springfield, C 351-7024 El Toro at the Fields 3401 Fields S Dr, C 903-4002 eltororestaurante.com</p> <p>All owned by the Fuentes family. Good food, good prices. Different specials each day. Home of the Margarona (combo Corona/Margarita). They deliver!</p>	<p>Casa del Mar www.facebook.com/Casa-Del-Mar-2353893441503807 2870 S Philo Road, Urbana 552-1525</p> <p>Upscale Mexican. Locally owned. Located in the Pines strip mall, near the back. Try the Molcajete - it was wonderful!</p>
<p>Cactus Grill www.cactusgrillchampaign.com **1405 S Neil St, Champaign 351-8226</p> <p>Locally owned. Build your own Tex-Mex burritos, bowls, salads, tacos, and quesadillas. Pick up or delivery – no seating. Super daily specials.</p>	<p>La Bamba www.labambaburritos.com 1905 Glenn Park, Champaign 355-2888 info@labambaburritos.com</p> <p>Another family-run business, the Aguas brothers' motto is "burritos as big as your head!" And it is an accurate description. They also have quesadillas, tacos, nachos.</p>
<p>Panchero's Mexican Grill pancheros.com 102 E University, Ste B, Urbana 367-4000 2009 S Neil St, Champaign 607-5982</p> <p>Build your own burritos, bowls, salads, tacos and quesadillas. Some of the items cost extra, so if you aren't careful, you can end up with a \$10 burrito. Fresh-pressed tortillas. Very tasty.</p>	<p>Moe's Southwest Grill www.moes.com 2041 S Neil St, Champaign 352-6637</p> <p>Another build your own burrito, taco, quesadilla, salad, bowl, nacho place, but they give you free chips and salsa with every order, unlike other b-y-o places. They even offer tofu as a protein choice.</p>
<p>Qdoba Mexican Grill www.qdoba.com **1401 W Green St, Illini Union, Urbana 552-1325</p> <p>Build your own burrito, taco, bowl, nachos, salad or soup. Also serve breakfast burritos. Conveniently located in the Illini Union Food Court.</p>	

Pizza/Italian Food

There are SO many pizza places in town. Italian restaurants tend to be a little expensive so I am listing some of my favorite ones here.

Inexpensive pick-up/delivery chain store pizzas on campus

Papa John's www.papajohns.com **106 E Green St, Champaign 355-5858 + two other locations in town Great specials/coupons/late delivery. Served UI events.	Domino's www.dominos.com several other locations in town Great specials/coupons/late delivery. Served at UI events. Also have good pasta and sandwiches.
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Other on-campus pizzerias

DP Dough www.dpdough.com **33B E Green St, Champaign 365-9663 Great calzones! Have wings, salads and tots, too. Check for daily specials and coupons. Late night delivery, too.	Rosati's Pizza myrosatis.com/urbana 701 S Gregory St Unit H, Urbana 328-2334 Lunch special: one huge slice of thin crust pizza (cheese, pepperoni, sausage or meatza) and a drink for \$5.50. They cater, too. Great Italian food.
Mia Za's Café www.miazas.com **629 E Green St, Champaign 298-3198 Build your own individual pizzas, paninis, salads, and pastas with great, healthy ingredients – or order a classic selection from the menu. Great desserts, too! Also have gluten free menu.	

Inexpensive, but good

Papa Murphy's www.papamurphys.com 114 N Vine St (Urbana Crossing), Urbana 344-7700 1753 W Kirby (Old Farm), Champaign 356-8000 "Take 'N Bake" pizza. They make it fresh to order, you take it home and bake it! Love their Delite pizzas and \$10 Tuesdays specials.	Fazoli's www.fazolis.com 2029 N Prospect, Champaign 356-4820 FAST Italian food and pizza...it's really good and fairly inexpensive! I love their baked pastas. And when you dine in, you get unlimited warm, garlicky-buttered bread sticks.
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Moderately priced pizza - thin

Jupiter's www.jupiterspizza.com 39 E Main, downtown Champaign 398-5988 Jupiter's at the Crossing jupitersatcrossing.com 2511 Village Green Pl (Crossing), Champaign 366-8300 Their pizza is "out of this world"! Awesome specialty pizzas. Downtown offers late night pizza specials and ½ price large pizzas on Tuesdays! They also have soups, salads, and sandwiches. The Crossing has the same great pizza and a larger menu.	Monical's www.monicals.com 205 N Mattis, Champaign 359-3514 2720 S Philo Rd, Urbana 367-5781 They have <i>great</i> thin crust pizza. Their "family pleasers" run about \$21 for 16" 1-topping pizza, family sized salad, and pitcher of pop – easily feeds 4. Other good Italian food and sandwiches at good prices. And they deliver. Be sure to check out their coupons for discounts.
Filippo's of Mahomet www.filipposofmahomet.com 2112a Tin Cup Rd, Mahomet 586-4657 Located in Mahomet, but worth the drive! Family run business since 1970. Small place, limited hours, but really great food! Cash/check only.	

Moderately priced pizza – deep dish

Papa Del's www.papadels.com **1201 S Neil St, Champaign 359-7700 For deep dish pizza, people say it is the best place around. I like their thin crust. Be prepared for <i>at least</i> an hour wait for your pizza <i>after</i> you place your order! Also serve other Italian fare like lasagna, ravioli, and spaghetti, as well as salads and sandwiches. Again, be prepared for a <i>very</i> long wait - special ovens are the secret...and the reason for the wait.	Jet's Pizza jetspizza.com **512 S Neil St, Champaign 352-3333 1907 W Springfield Ave, Champaign 352-9992 I love their 8 corner deep dish pizzas – each slice has its own corner crust! Their Aloha BBQ Chicken is my fave. You can add flavors to your crust, too (I get the turbo crust). They have good thin crust pizzas, sides, subs, and salads, too. And they deliver all over town. Look for coupons for good deals.
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Indian Food

I am a big fan of Indian food, though it is not inexpensive. There are several nice places to choose from in town:

Bombay Indian Grill www.bombayindiangrillchampaign.com **401 E Green St, Champaign 344-3380 Wonderful food! Lunch specials available 11am-3pm. And they cater.	Kohinoor Indian Restaurant and Lounge www.kohinoorchampaign.com 6 E Columbia Ave, Champaign 552-1384 North Indian cuisine. I like their Thali Special combo platters – available for dine in only.
The Himalayan Chimney www.thehimalayanchimney.com 134 W Church St, Champaign 552-1834 Upscale place in downtown Champaign. Great food. I have liked everything I tried.	Sitara Indian Restaurant and Lounge www.facebook.com/SitaraIndianRestaurantlounge/ 114 S Race St, Urbana 607-0378 Housed in an old townie bar - nice booths/bar area. Great food. Love the cheese naan!

Greek/Middle Eastern Food

Zorba's zorbasmchampaignil.com **627 E Green, Champaign 344-0710 I've been eating at Zorba's since 1976! Lunch specials every day. My favorite is the chicken gyros – I get mine with sour cream sauce. Awesome fries and baklava, too.	Jerusalem Middle Eastern Cuisine **601 S Wright St, Champaign 344-8760 Good food, good prices, good selection, no frills. Items like shawarma, falafels, hummus. Run alone by a single man, so service can be a bit slow, but worth the wait.
Niro's Gyros 1007 W University, Urbana 328-6476 nirosgyrosuniversityave.com 2001 W Springfield, Champaign 355-6760 www.champaignnirosgyros.com Opening soon: 401 W Kirby Ave, Champaign Gyros, falafel, hot dogs, Philly steak sandwiches, Italian beef, burgers, chicken and fish. Limited dine-in, but have a drive-thru and delivery.	Super Niro's Gyros supernirosgyros.com 608 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 954-1717 Large, eat-in restaurant with same fare as Niro's Gyro's, but with added specialties like kabob dinners, falafels, fried shrimp, rib eye steak sandwiches, turkey and salmon burgers. You can drive thru or have them deliver! I love their kabob combo – chicken, beef, and kifta kabobs on a huge bed of rice.

Cajun/Southern

J. Gumbo's Cajun Joint www.jgumbosil.com **700 S Gregory, Urbana 337-4840 I love the veggie Bumblebee Stew and Bourbon Street Chicken. They have more delicious spicy items on the menu, too! Wonderful service...they will let you sample a tiny taste of a dish before you order if you ask.	Popeye's Chicken popeyes.com 910 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 954-1650 "Louisiana" cookin'. Known for their fried chicken – both regular and spicy Cajun styles. Also serve fried fish and shrimp. Great sides and extras like jambalaya and red beans and rice.
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Thai, Japanese, Chinese Food

Thai

I love Thai food, though it tends to be a bit pricey. It is that perfect mixture of sweet and spicy. We are lucky to have several places in town; unfortunately, no one serves my favorite dish: Mi Krob. ☹ But chicken satay makes up for it!

The Y Thai & Chinese Eatery universityymca.org/yeatery **1st floor, YMCA, 1001 S Wright, C 337-1500 Great pad thai at good prices. Open 10:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday. Closed during the summer.	Pho Café Thai Kitchen **611B E Green St, Champaign 552-1106 Really tasty Thai and Vietnamese cuisine.
Basil Thai Urbana **701 S Gregory Pl, Urbana 344-8662 Authentic Thai cuisine. I always get their Pad Thai, though I have to get it "no peppers" mild.	Bangkok Thai and Pho 911 **410 E Green Street, Champaign 954-1641 Bangkok Thai and Pho 911 #2: 1104 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 607-5828 Closed Tuesdays.
Siam Terrace www.siamterrace.com 212 W Main, downtown Urbana 367-THAI (-8424) siamterrace@yahoo.com My Thai students said this is the best Thai food in CU.	Thara Thai Pan-Asian Restaurant tharathairestaurant.com 912 1/2 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 378-1986 tharathairestaurant@gmail.com Family owned and operated. Small place, great food.

Chinese

Quick Chinese (Small dine-in, carry-out places)

China Garden www.chinagardenurbanail.com 114 N Vine St, Urbana 367-6588 In Urbana Crossing mall. Good food, good prices. I love their black pepper chicken.	Super Wok www.gosuperwok.com 1737 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 398-0111 In the Old Farm Shops. Good food, good prices. Great chicken angel hair!
Auntie Lee's Chinese Kitchen www.auntieleechampaign.com **49B E Green St, Champaign 693-7928 Formerly Shanghai 1938 Chinese Restaurant. Good food, decent prices. Open from 5pm- 3:30am!	First Wok 1815 Philo Rd, Urbana 344-4500 Really good food, good prices.

Sit-down Chinese

Golden Harbor www.goldenharboronline.com **505 S Neil St, Champaign 398-8988 Authentic Chinese/Taiwan cuisine. Most highly recommended by my Chinese students! No tips; 5% off when pay cash. Massive handwritten menu on wall (both Chinese/English). Food is served family-style.	Rainbow Garden www.rainbow-garden.com 1402 S Neil St, Champaign 398-2670 rainbowgardenurbana.carry-out.com/default.asp 202 E University Ave, Urbana 344-1888 Great food, a bit pricey, but I really like it. Love their pan fried noodle and rice noodle dishes! And as a bonus, they deliver!
Peking Garden www.pekinggardenchampaign.com 206 N Randolph, downtown Champaign 355-8888 Tucked away in the Robeson Building. Great food, good prices. Love their pan fried noodles and lunch specials. They deliver!	

Chinese Buffets

Chinatown Buffet 713 Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-9888 Huge buffet with sushi, seafood, Chinese and American foods (including pizza and ice cream). It always has mixed reviews, but it is hard to have that many items and everything be perfect all the time.	Sunny China Buffet www.sunnychinabuffet.com 1703 Philo Rd, Urbana 367-8883 Smaller buffet, but really good food! You can also order off their extensive menu.
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Japanese/Sushi

Ko-Fusion www.kofusion.com **701 S Gregory, Suite F, Urbana 954-1572 campus@kofusion.com Sushi and stir fry menus. Casual dining with dollar sushi menu and quick affordable meals.	Ko-Fusion www.kofusion.com 1 E Main, downtown Champaign 531-1166 info@kofusion.com Sushi and stir fry menus. Upscale atmosphere. Lunch buffet M-F and dollar sushi Sundays and Mondays.
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Oishi Hibachi Steak House www.oishichampaign.com 2501 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 398-6888 A bit pricey, but nice atmosphere and great food. Can order off menu or sit at one of their hibachi tables, which is a lot of fun.	Sarku Japan www.sarkujapan.com Market Place Mall food court 378-8028 Their specialty is teriyaki chicken, which I like – get double meat for just a little more money.
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Vegetarian Fare

Most restaurants have some vegetarian selections on their menus. Here are a couple vegetarian places that I am aware of.

Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant www.channingmurray.org/redherring **1209 W Oregon, Urbana 367-2340 redherringrestaurant@gmail.com “Voted Best of CU Best Vegetarian Menu Options” Vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free options. Limited hours: 11am-2:30pm M-F; Wednesdays 5-7pm	Strawberry Fields Café www.strawberry-fields.com 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655 There is a small café located in the store. Also sell natural and organic foods.
The Dancing Dog Eatery & Juicery www.dancingdogeatery.com 126 W Main Street, Urbana 552-1344 100% vegan cuisine. In Fall 2017, they are going to begin offering Kosher items.	Common Ground Co-op www.commonground.coop 300 S Broadway (Lincoln Square), Urbana 352-3347 Salad bar, pizzas, soups and sandwiches. In-store seating or grab and go options.

Restaurant/Bars

There are far too many bars to mention in town. Some I have already listed under the Dancing and Indoor Recreation sections, so please refer back to those sections. The places I generally go are **Jupiter’s, Goldy’s, Bunny’s, Boomerang’s** because they have either live music, dancing, and/or pool – plus good food at good prices!

Here are a few more places that have good food. Some are on the pricey side, so I only go there occasionally.

Murphy’s Pub murphyspubuofi.com **604 E Green St, Champaign 344-4372 murphyspubuofi@gmail.com Irish pub. Great burgers and fries. This place has been around since before I was in college! You might even find my initials on one of the tables.	Seven Saints sevensaintsbar.com 32 E Chester St, downtown Champaign 351-7775 7saintsgm@gmail.com Upscale bar with old world atmosphere. Awesome cheese curds appetizer and grilled chicken salad sandwiches.
Esquire Lounge www.esquirelounge.com 106 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 398-5858 Great ribeye sandwiches, Asian dumpling appetizers, and individual sized pizzas. Awesome pineapple margaritas. Can also play pool or enjoy outdoor seating.	DESTIHL Restaurant and Brew Works www.destihl.com 301 N Neil St, Champaign 356-0301 (moving soon to SW Champaign!!) They tout themselves as a “gastrobrewpub”. Microbrewery with craft beers and pub favorites cooked from scratch. Also have a weekend brunch with breakfast fare.
Crane Alley www.crane-alley.com 115 W Main, downtown Urbana 384-7526 They claim to have the largest beer selection in C-U! Also serve burgers and “gastropub style entrees”. Very popular beer tours – taste beers from around the world.	Billy Barooz Pub and Grill www.billybarooz.com 2521 Village Green Pl, Champaign 355-8030 Great place to watch Illini games on TV with other fans. I usually get their deconstructed nachos (all ingredients served separately).

TGI Friday's www.tgifridays.com 103 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 352-8443 Neat place to get appetizers, meals, drinks, and desserts. I love their Jack Daniel's Grill items. A little pricey, though they offer an appetizer deal where you get enough food that can serve as a meal and saves money!	Applebee's applebees.com 2121 N Prospect, Champaign 359-8178 1201 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-1894 Great food, great specials. Love their 2 for \$20 meals. Have a lighter fare menu for those watching their calories.
Chili's Grill and Bar www.chilis.com 1905 N Prospect, Champaign 398-2161 Great Southwestern/Tex-Mex choices along with ribs, steaks, chicken, and seafood. 2 for \$20 meals and lighter fare as well.	Buffalo Wild Wings (aka "B-Dubs" or "BW3") www.buffalowildwings.com 907 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 378-4400 1335 Savoy Plaza Dr, Savoy 356-9464 Sports bar with chicken wings with your choice of 16 sauces from mild to blazin'! Other foods, too.

Out of My Normal Price Range

If you have a special occasion to celebrate, the following places will offer nice atmosphere, along with wine menus and the other niceties a more up-scale restaurant has to offer. Generally, lunches at these places are cheaper than dinners, though sometimes the portions are smaller or they offer a limited menu at lunch. Another way to beat the higher prices is to go for their dinner specials (2-for-1 meals) or look for on-line coupons. There are many more fine dining places in town you may discover while you are here.

Italian Places

Timpone's www.timpones-urbana.com **710 S Goodwin, Urbana 344-7619 Excellent nouveau cuisine, right on campus! They have their own private wine cellar. I love their pizza.	Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano www.biaggis.com 2235 S Neil, Champaign 356-4300 Great bread, wonderful food. This is my mom's favorite place to eat.
Olive Garden www.olivegarden.com 30 E Anthony Dr, Champaign 351-6339 Great food & desserts. Reasonable prices and they have specials all the time. All you can eat soup, salad, and breadsticks is a great deal!	Manzella's Italian Patio Restaurant www.manzellasitalianrestaurant.com **115 S First St, Champaign 352-7624 Family owned & operated for over 50 years! Great pizza and Italian food at reasonable prices.

Steakhouses

<p>The Rib Eye www.theribeyerestaurant.org **1701 S Neil, Champaign 351-9115</p> <p>Known for their impressive salad bar, great steak, and twice baked potatoes. I love their huge fried shrimp and their Sunday/Monday nights Steak for 2 special! Open at 4:30pm during the week; 4:00pm on weekends.</p>	<p>Alexander's Steakhouse alexanderssteak.com 202 W Anthony, Champaign 359-1789</p> <p>Great steaks that you pick out and can cook yourself, if you like. Interesting concept, but I like my meals <i>served</i> to me when I'm eating out! Other great selections, too. Open 4:00pm during the week; 11:00am on weekends.</p>
<p>Hamilton Walker's Steaks, Seafood, Spirits www.hamiltonwalkers.com 201 N Neil Street, Champaign 350-0363</p> <p>They have a nice Sunday brunch menu and an awesome Easter brunch buffet.</p>	<p>Longhorn Steakhouse www.longhornsteakhouse.com 2101 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-9189</p> <p>Excellent food. They also offer specials that are a little different than your normal steakhouse fare.</p>
<p>Outback Steakhouse (yup...Aussie decor!) www.outback.com 2402 N Prospect, Champaign 398-3322</p> <p>They serve beef, and lots of it. Also offer chicken and sea foods. I love their Bloomin' Onion appetizer. Opens at 4:00pm Mon-Thurs; 11:00am Fri-Sun.</p>	<p>Texas Roadhouse www.texasroadhouse.com 204 N Country Fair Dr, Champaign 355-9901</p> <p>A more casual steakhouse. Start off with peanuts in the shell and great rolls with warm cinnamon butter! I love their smothered chicken and prime rib.</p>

Seafood /Fine Dining

<p>Red Lobster (Cin's favorite fancy place to eat!) www.redlobster.com 1901 N Prospect, Champaign 355-2577</p> <p>Great seafood, fish and desserts. They are known for their garlic cheese biscuits. I love their coconut shrimp and shrimp fettuccini!</p>	<p>Silvercreek www.couriersilvercreek.com/silvercreek 402 N Race, Urbana 328-3402</p> <p>Nice atmosphere with great food. They have a nice Greenhouse open for their Sunday brunches from 10am-2:30pm. Owners also manage the Courier Cafe.</p>
<p>Sun Singer Wine & Spirits www.sunsingerwines.com 1115 W Windsor Rd, Champaign 351-1115</p> <p>Wine bar with excellent food and a weekend brunch. Oyster week is the 3rd week of the month – served after 4pm. You can also buy wine and deli fare.</p>	<p>Baxters American Grille "Chop House and Wine Bar" www.baxtersgrille.com 100 Trade Center Drive, Champaign 239-9299</p> <p>Great happy hour appetizer specials! Nice selection of house specials alongside pizzas, wraps, salads, and sandwiches. Occasional live music.</p>
<p>Houlihan's www.houlihans.com/eats-and-drinks/champaign 1900 South First Street, Champaign 819-5005</p> <p>Adjacent to the I-Hotel, just south of the State Farm Center. Happy Apps & Drink Specials. Foods are made from scratch. Veggie/gluten free options. Occasional live music.</p>	