

*The Original, Often Imitated...*

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

**2013**

Fall 2013

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 many years ago 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 you ideas where to go and how to easily get around town.

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 stand.

I tend to watch my pennies pretty carefully. 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.

These are the places where I actually shop, eat, and visit. My lists are, as a result, somewhat limited. There are many other places besides the ones I include here, and many are just as good, I'm sure. It's all rather subjective and a matter of which way your tastes run. I have also included other useful information such as emergency phone numbers, utility companies, and even some University numbers, that should come in handy for graduate students.

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 Sometimes these restaurants and businesses only stay around for a short time, and as a result, this guide may be out of date in a matter of months.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! It is always best to support your favorite local businesses!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Enjoy your stay in C-U!

Cindy Dodds, Administrative Coordinator  
Center for Biophysics & Computational Biology

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## Important Phone Numbers

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.: 217-333-1630)

### Emergency Numbers

<b><i>Life Threatening Emergency: 911</i></b> <b>(on campus: 9-911)</b>		
<b>METCAD ( 911 Service for Champaign County) – Non-Emergency contact 333-8911</b>		

<b>Champaign</b>		
Police non-emergency	351-4545	<a href="http://ci.champaign.il.us/departments/police/">ci.champaign.il.us/departments/police/</a>
Fire non-emergency	403-7200	<a href="http://ci.champaign.il.us/departments/fire/">ci.champaign.il.us/departments/fire/</a>
<b>Urbana</b>		
Police non-emergency	384-2320	<a href="http://urbanaillinois.us/police">urbanaillinois.us/police</a>
Fire non-emergency	384-2420	<a href="http://urbanaillinois.us/fire">urbanaillinois.us/fire</a>
<b>University of Illinois</b>		
Police	333-1216	<a href="http://www.dps.illinois.edu">www.dps.illinois.edu</a>
<b>State Police (Pesotum)</b>	265-0050	<a href="http://www.state.il.us/isp">www.state.il.us/isp</a>
<b>Champaign County Sheriff</b>	333-8911	
<b>Road Conditions</b>	1-800-452-IDOT (4368)	<a href="http://www.dot.state.il.us">www.dot.state.il.us</a>
<b>Illinois Poison Center</b>	1-800-222-1222	<a href="http://illinoispoisoncenter.org">illinoispoisoncenter.org</a>
<b>Hospitals</b>		
<b>Carle Hospital</b> 611 W Park, Urbana	383-3311 – Emergency/Level I Trauma Center	<a href="http://www.carle.com">www.carle.com</a>
<b>Presence Covenant Medical Center</b> 1400 W Park, Urbana	337-2131 -- Emergency Room/Level II Trauma Center	<a href="http://www.provena.org/covenant/">www.provena.org/covenant/</a>

It is my understanding that as graduate students, you can utilize either Carle or Presence Covenant (Provena) in an emergency. For regular health care, you should first contact McKinley Health Center on campus (number below).

### University 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 333-1630 from a campus phone, you dial 3-1630.)

<b>Biophysics &amp; Computational Biology</b>	<a href="http://biophysics.illinois.edu">biophysics.illinois.edu</a>
Cindy Dodds, Administrative Coordinator (dodds@illinois.edu)	333-1630
Taekjip Ha, Director (tjha@illinois.edu)	265-0717

Graduate College	333-0035	<a href="http://www.grad.illinois.edu">www.grad.illinois.edu</a>
Div of Campus Recreation	333-3806	<a href="http://www.campusrec.illinois.edu">www.campusrec.illinois.edu</a>
International Student and Scholar Services	333-1303	<a href="http://iss.illinois.edu">iss.illinois.edu</a>
Student Benefits Center (Health/Dental Insurance)	333-0165	<a href="http://www.si.uiuc.edu">www.si.uiuc.edu</a>
McKinley Health Center	333-2701	<a href="http://www.mckinley.illinois.edu">www.mckinley.illinois.edu</a>
Counseling Center	333-3704	<a href="http://www.couns.illinois.edu">www.couns.illinois.edu</a>
Graduate Library	333-0790	<a href="http://www.library.illinois.edu">www.library.illinois.edu</a>

CITES (Campus Info Technologies) Help Desk	244-7000 1-800-531-2531	<a href="http://www.cites.illinois.edu/help">www.cites.illinois.edu/help</a>
General Information	333-1000	<a href="http://illinois.edu">illinois.edu</a>

## Local Utilities (customer service numbers)

Before you put your deposit down to rent a house or apartment, you may want to speak to the **Tenant's Union** ([www.tenantunion.illinois.edu](http://www.tenantunion.illinois.edu)) first. They can give you free information regarding your potential landlord, provided you pay your SORF fee. You can visit their website, their office at 326 Illini Union, or call them at 333-0112.

(For NON-students, you can contact the **Champaign-Urbana Tenant's Union** at 352-6220.)

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

<b>Utilities</b>		
Illinois-American Water Company	1-800-422-2782	<a href="http://www.amwater.com/ilaw">www.amwater.com/ilaw</a>
Ameren IP (Electric/Gas)	1-800-755-5000	<a href="http://www.AmerenIllinois.com">www.AmerenIllinois.com</a>

<b>Phone companies (land lines)</b>		
AT&T	1-800-288-2020	<a href="http://www.att.com">www.att.com</a>
Comcast Communication	1-866-594-1234	<a href="http://www.comcast.com">www.comcast.com</a>
Mediacom	1-866-755-2225	<a href="http://mediacomcc.com">mediacomcc.com</a>

<b>TV</b>		
Comcast Communication (Cable/Broadband)	1-800-934-6489 384-2500	<a href="http://xfinity.comcast.net">xfinity.comcast.net</a>
DirecTV (Satellite TV)	1-800-370-3587	<a href="http://www.directv.com">www.directv.com</a>
Dish Network	1-888-926-5457	<a href="http://www.dish.com">www.dish.com</a>

<b>Post Offices</b>		1-800-ASK-USPS	<a href="http://www.usps.com">www.usps.com</a>
<b>Champaign</b>			
Champaign Main Post Office 2001 N Mattis Avenue		373-6018	
Champaign-Neil Street Station 600 N Neil Street		352-2167	
<b>Urbana</b>			
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.	
Urbana Post Office 202 S Broadway Avenue		Window Services Only 367-9629	
<b>Campus</b>			
Champaign Station A 302 E Green Street		328-5200	
University Station Altgeld Hall, 1st floor. Enter through Wright Street side.		367-9890	

## Pet Emergencies

As an animal lover, I thought I'd put this section in for our four-footed friends!

UI Veterinary Medicine Small Animal Clinic	333-5300	<a href="http://vetmed.illinois.edu/vth/">vetmed.illinois.edu/vth/</a>
Animal Emergency Clinic of Champaign County	359-1977 (6pm-8am M-F, 24 hours weekends and holidays)	<a href="http://www.aecchampaign.com">www.aecchampaign.com</a>
National (ASPCA) Animal Poison Center	1-888-4ANI-HELP (888-426-4435)	<a href="http://www.aspca.org/Home/Pet-care/poison-control">www.aspca.org/Home/Pet-care/poison-control</a>

## For lost pets contact

Champaign County Animal Control (looking for lost pets)	384-3798 (M-Sat, 8-5) 333-8911 (24 hour)	<a href="http://www.co.champaign.il.us/ac/strays.htm">www.co.champaign.il.us/ac/strays.htm</a>
City of Champaign Animal Control and City of Urbana Animal Control	333-8911 (to report barking dogs & animals roaming loose)	

## Looking to Adopt a Pet?

If you are looking for a companion animal, the best place in town to adopt a pet is the local humane society. I adopted several of my pets from CCHS and they are the best pets ever! If you aren't looking for a pet, but would love to get involved in helping homeless animals, CCHS and CatSnap are always looking for volunteers. You get to have contact with wonderful animals, and help to bring a little joy into their lives – while they bring joy to yours. These worthwhile organizations host many fundraising events throughout the year to help the animals that come through their facilities.

<b>Champaign County Humane Society (CCHS)</b> 1911 E Main, Urbana	344-PAWS (-7297)	<a href="http://www.cuhumane.org">www.cuhumane.org</a>
<b>CatSnap</b> Headquartered in Savoy – pets can be viewed at PetSmart daily during even months (Feb, etc) Adoption hours at PetSmart Fri 5-7pm; Sat/Sun 12-2pm or by appointment  A no-kill trap spay/neuter and adoption program.	469-5353 ** You must leave a message	<a href="http://www.catsnap.org">www.catsnap.org</a>
Coming soon: <b>Hospice Hearts Sanctuary</b> Rural Penfield. No-kill shelter. Looks after pets of hospice patients, then finds loving homes when patients pass on.		<a href="http://www.hospicehearts.org">www.hospicehearts.org</a>

For other local shelters, check on-line at Petfinder ([www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)).

PetsMart supports local rescue/adoption groups:

<b>PetSmart</b> 2017 N Prospect Ave, Champaign  PetSmart Luv-A-Pet Adoption Center allows various rescue groups to adopt animals out of their store on a regular basis.	351-9244	<a href="http://www.petsmart.com">www.petsmart.com</a>
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For more information about shelters and adoption, feel free to contact me or any of the numbers above.

## News/TV/Radio

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

### Local Subscription newspaper service

**News Gazette** - Subscription or purchase from newsstands. ([www.news-gazette.com](http://www.news-gazette.com))  
 15 E Main, Champaign 351-5252 or 1-800-660-7323  
 Local news, events, & entertainment. Tends to be on the conservative side of issues.

### Free papers -- you can pick up around town at local restaurants & stores

<b>Daily Illini</b> – Independent student newspaper. ( <a href="http://dailyillini.com">dailyillini.com</a> ) 512 E Green, Champaign 337-8300	<b>Inside Illinois</b> – Faculty/Staff newspaper ( <a href="http://news.illinois.edu/ii">news.illinois.edu/ii</a> ) 507 E Green St. Ste 345, Champaign 333-1085
<b>The Buzz</b> – Alternative Lifestyle Paper ( <a href="http://readbuzz.com">readbuzz.com</a> ) 512 E Green, Champaign 337-3801	<b>American Classifieds</b> - Weekly. Sales/ads. ( <a href="http://champaign.tnol.com">champaign.tnol.com</a> ) 61 E University, Champaign 356-4804
<b>The Public I</b> – Alternative News ( <a href="http://publici.ucimc.org">publici.ucimc.org</a> ) 202 S Broadway #100, Urbana 344-8820	

### Local Television Stations

These stations are all available without cable access. With cable or dish networks, you get 100+ stations, including channels featuring all news; all music; all weather; all sports; home & garden shows; and premium movie stations like HBO.

National Station	Local Station	Local Channel	Local City Station is Broadcast From	URL
CBS	WCIA	3	Champaign/Springfield/Decatur	<a href="http://illinoishomepage.net">illinoishomepage.net</a>
CBS	WCIX	49	Springfield	<a href="http://illinoishomepage.net">illinoishomepage.net</a>
PBS	WILL	12	University of Illinois - Urbana	<a href="http://will.illinois.edu">will.illinois.edu</a>
ABC	WICD	15	Champaign-Urbana/Danville	<a href="http://www.wicd15.com">www.wicd15.com</a>
NBC	WAND	17	Decatur	<a href="http://www.wandtv.com">www.wandtv.com</a>
FOX	WCCU WRSP	27 55	Champaign Springfield	<a href="http://www.foxillinois.com">www.foxillinois.com</a>

### Local Radio Stations

You can receive dozens of radio stations in East Central Illinois. I have only listed a very few here:

FM	Number	Type of music/station	URL
WPCD	88.7	Parkland College/alternative	<a href="http://www.parkland.edu/wpcd">www.parkland.edu/wpcd</a>
WEFT	90.1	Community Radio for East Central Illinois	<a href="http://www.weft.org">www.weft.org</a>
WCFF	92.5	"The Chief", Adult music	<a href="http://www.925thechief.com">www.925thechief.com</a>
WLRW	94.5	"Today's Best Music"	<a href="http://www.mix945.com">www.mix945.com</a>
WHMS	97.5	Lite rock	<a href="http://www.whms.com">www.whms.com</a>
WIXY	100.3	Today's Country Favorites	<a href="http://www.wixy.com">www.wixy.com</a>
WGKC	105.9	Country	<a href="http://www.country1059.com">www.country1059.com</a>
WPGU	107.1	U of I/alternative music	<a href="http://www.wpgu.com">www.wpgu.com</a>
WKIO	107.9	Classic hits	<a href="http://www.1079wkio.com">www.1079wkio.com</a>
AM	Number	Type of music/station	URL
WILL	580	Public Broadcasting/talk/news/weather	<a href="http://will.illinois.edu">will.illinois.edu</a>
WDWS	1400	"NewsTalk1400"/weather/sports	<a href="http://www.wdws.com">www.wdws.com</a>



## Getting Around

I find that many students **walk** to and around campus...it's cheap and it's good exercise. **Roller blades** and **skateboards** are also popular modes of transportation. However, probably the most efficient way to travel on campus (and around town) is by **bus**.

### C-U Mass Transit District (MTD)

([www.cumtd.com](http://www.cumtd.com))

801 E University, Urbana 384-8188 open 8am-5pm Monday - Saturday

As a student, you are entitled to ride the MTD for **free** (you actually pay for this privilege with part of your student fees), including shuttle buses and Niterides. You must present your I-card as your bus pass.

Shuttle buses around campus run regularly and often, throughout the school year. Niterides are available after normal working hours throughout the school year.

Non-students pay \$1.00 a ride, with one free transfer.

Schedules are available: on buses, at Illini Union, at MTD, on-line, and in Biophysics office.

Many students also ride **bicycles**. There are bike paths around campus. Just 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.

## Bicycles

I've always gone to Durst Cycles – I got my first bike there when I was about 8 years old. There are several other places in town that sell/repair bikes as well.

### Durst Cycle & Fitness

([www.durstcycle.com](http://www.durstcycle.com))

1201 S Mattis, Champaign 352-3300

1112 W University, Urbana 367-3600

You can also pick up **used bikes**, which are usually much less expensive than new at:

**Police Auctions** -- The Champaign, Urbana, and Campus Police departments hold auctions each year to get rid of impounded/stolen/lost bicycles. Call the police stations for auction dates. You can get some very good deals on almost new bikes at these auctions.

**Garage sales and newspaper ads** -- Look in local papers for sales. If you are patient and are diligent, you can get some real bargains!

## Motorized Vehicles

**Scooters** and **motorcycles** are quite popular forms of transportation due to higher fuel costs. I strongly suggest before investing in a 2-wheeled vehicle, that you take the Motorcycle Rider Program ([www.mrp.uiuc.edu](http://www.mrp.uiuc.edu)) offered through the University of Illinois. The class is very popular, so you should register early, or try to come in as a walk-in. I began the course several years ago and soon realized I was not cut out for driving a two-wheeled motorized vehicle; but it did make me a better passenger when riding motorcycles. If driving to campus, there are motorcycle-designated parking spaces in most lots, though 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 \$600 a year to park! Additionally, you must register your car with Campus Parking. Here are some addresses you may find helpful should you decide to drive anyway.

### **Division of Campus Parking**

([www.parking.illinois.edu](http://www.parking.illinois.edu))

1110 W Springfield, campus 333-3530

In the Public Safety Building, corner of Goodwin & Springfield

Register cars, bikes, motorcycles. Purchase parking permits.

### **Driver's License Examination Station**

([www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com))

2401 W Bradley, Champaign 278-3344

hours: 8:00am-5:00pm Tu-Fri (till 5:30pm Tu). 7:30am-12:00noon Sat.

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](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x173.pdf).

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.

*\*Hint\** If you want shorter lines and wait times, visit the Rantoul (892-8773), Tuscola (253-2813) or Monticello (762-2841) offices!

### **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! You pay for only the time you use and it includes gas and insurance. There are 10 Zipcars located at various locations around Champaign-Urbana and on campus. Visit [www.zipcar.com/illinois](http://www.zipcar.com/illinois) for more information. Many of our students use this service regularly!

### **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 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 mainly new bikes and one that sells nice used bikes. Again, you can find used bikes in the newspaper or on-line. If you need info on repair shops, please contact me. I used to know a few 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 in running in tip top shape. Recently, I have been taking my car to local dealership where my boyfriend worked. It does cost more, but a lot of car makers require new cars be taken to a dealer for warranty/prescribed maintenance and covered repairs. Here are a few places of the non-dealers I have used over the years:

<b>Farm &amp; Fleet</b> <a href="http://www.farmandfleet.com">www.farmandfleet.com</a> 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354  Where I go for oil changes, tire rotations, and other minor vehicle repairs. They also sell tires, new auto parts, food, clothes, etc.	<b>CarX Auto Service</b> <a href="http://www.carx.com">www.carx.com</a> 601 E University Ave, Champaign 352-0124 906 W Bradley, Champaign 352-9700 2216 S Neil St, Champaign 531-3900  Fix brakes and exhaust systems, oil changes, tires.
<b>Neil Auto Parts &amp; Service</b> 807 N State, Champaign 351-6993  Very small shop in an old section of town. My family used them for years. They don't work on all makes/models, so call first. If it doesn't need fixing, they won't try to talk you into it!	<b>Sammy's Auto Electric Service Inc</b> <a href="http://www.sammysautoelectric.com">www.sammysautoelectric.com</a> 1907B W Springer Dr, Champaign 398-3864  Alternators, starters, generators, etc.

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

<b>Jiffy Lube</b> <a href="http://www.jiffylube.com">www.jiffylube.com</a> 1201 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 351-5823 1901 S Neil St, Champaign 351-4116	<b>Wal-Mart Tire and Lube Express</b> <a href="http://www.walmart.com">www.walmart.com</a> 2610 N Prospect, Champaign 352-0700 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6148 505 S Dunlap, Savoy 355-5845 Oil/tire changes.
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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:

<b>Advance Auto Parts</b> <a href="http://shop.advanceautoparts.com">shop.advanceautoparts.com</a> 403 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 356-7069 805 Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-9661 110 N Vine St, Urbana 337-0072
<b>Auto Zone</b> <a href="http://www.autozone.com">www.autozone.com</a> 311 E University Ave, Champaign 352-2522 609 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 356-7068 606 E Main St, Urbana 328-9903

### USED parts:

<b>Bill Smith Auto</b> <a href="http://www.billsmithauto.com">www.billsmithauto.com</a> 3405 N Countryview Rd, Urbana 367-5090  They sell used cars, too.
<b>Mack's Auto Recycling</b> <a href="http://www.macks-auto.com/macks-auto-recycling">www.macks-auto.com/macks-auto-recycling</a> 1309 E Kerr, Urbana 2808 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana 367-6219 or 1-800-252-9148

## Lookin' Good

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.

### Beauty Salons and Spas

While I was the wife of a struggling grad student, these are the types of places I would go for an inexpensive cut:

<b>Hair care only:</b>	
<b>Cost Cutters Family Hair Care</b> <a href="http://www.costcutters.com">www.costcutters.com</a> 10 E Green (at Neil), Champaign 398-6098 2018 N Prospect, Champaign 355-8443	<b>Hair Cuttery</b> <a href="http://www.haircuttery.com">www.haircuttery.com</a> 24 E Green (E of Neil), Champaign 398-9127
<b>Great Clips</b> <a href="http://www.greatclips.com">www.greatclips.com</a> 803 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 328-2369 Next to Jimmy John's. On-line check-in!	

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 LA the week before my wedding... ☹

<b>Beauty Schools:</b>	
<b>Concept College of Cosmetology/Beau Monde School of Beauty</b> <a href="http://www.conceptcollege.com">www.conceptcollege.com</a> 129 N Race St, Urbana 344-7550	<b>Regency Beauty Institute</b> <a href="http://www.regencybeauty.com">www.regencybeauty.com</a> 517 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 531-9937

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.

<b>For Full Salon Treatments/Spa:</b>	
<b>Timothy John Salon Inc.</b> <a href="http://www.tjsalonandspa.com">www.tjsalonandspa.com</a> 404 W Green, (just east of campus) Urbana 344-4720  A full service salon. They do cuts, styles, color, facials, manicures and pedicures, massage, etc.  Ask for Margaret Fix. Her specialty is hair color.	<b>Wingard Salon</b> <a href="http://wingardsalon.com">wingardsalon.com</a> 805 S Neil St, (west of campus), Champaign 403-1153  They do cuts, styles, color, mani and pedicures.  Ask for Deb Combs. She has been doing my boyfriend's hair for over 20 years and mine for the past 4!

## Shop ‘Til 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

Aldi, Save A Lot, GFS, and Ruler Foods stores are the cheapest in town. They carry *generic* brand food items, and some name brands. So, if you don't have to have a commercial name brand food item, this is where to shop!

<b>Aldi</b> <a href="http://aldi.us">(<a href="http://aldi.us">aldi.us</a>)</a> 701 W Interstate Dr, Champaign 3102 E University, Urbana	<b>Save A Lot</b> <a href="http://save-a-lot.com">(<a href="http://save-a-lot.com">save-a-lot.com</a>)</a> 220 N Broadway, Urbana 384-6885
<b>Ruler Foods</b> <a href="http://www.jaycfoods.com/Pages/ruler_foods.aspx">(<a href="http://www.jaycfoods.com/Pages/ruler_foods.aspx">www.jaycfoods.com/Pages/ruler_foods.aspx</a>)</a> 715 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-7100 2010 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-4850	<b>GFS</b> <a href="http://www.gfs.com">(<a href="http://www.gfs.com">www.gfs.com</a>)</a> 502 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-3056

County Market ([www.countymarket.com](http://www.countymarket.com)) stores are probably the next least expensive grocery stores. They generally have good prices on produce and have weekly specials, their own delis, and bakeries. This is where I do a lot of my grocery shopping.

County Market
331 Stoughton St, Champaign 352-4123
2901 W Kirby Ave (at Duncan Road), Champaign 351-8600
1914 Glenn Park (off Mattis, N of I-72), Champaign 356-8242
1819 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-0210

If you can afford it, Schnuck's ([www.schnucks.com](http://www.schnucks.com)) stores are incredible. They tend to be a bit expensive, but have incredible selections on produce, meat, and bakery items. You *can* find lower price items on sale.

Schnuck's
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)

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. For example, there is a regular Saturday morning farmer's market at Lincoln Square in Urbana ([urbanaininois.us/market](http://urbanaininois.us/market)). Check the news/papers for other locations.

You can also find **roadside 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. And Indiana melons are bigger and sweeter than the ones in the stores from California. They grow it better in the Midwest!! One stand is located on Springfield Avenue, west of Mattis, just in front of Lil Porgy's BBQ (listed later).

## Super Discount Stores

These super-stores have a very wide variety of items, from clothing to electronic equipment to automotive supplies, with fairly reasonable prices on most items. Some are open 24 hours. The North Prospect/Baytowne corridor is the mega-shopping area for these stores, though some are opening up in different areas of C-U and surrounding areas.

These **super discount stores** are **open 24 hours** a day – and have **grocery stores**:

<b>Wal-Mart Super Center</b> <a href="http://www.walmart.com">www.walmart.com</a> 2610 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-0700 505 S Dunlap Ave (off S Neil), Savoy 355-5845 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6148	<b>Meijer</b> (One of Cindy's favorite stores!) <a href="http://www.meijer.com">www.meijer.com</a> 2401 N Prospect, Champaign 353-4000 2500 S Philo Rd, Urbana 365-5200  I do most of my grocery shopping here!
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These **super discount stores** have grocery stores, but are not open 24 hours:

<b>Target</b> <a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a> 2102 N Prospect, Champaign 355-3325	<b>Sam's Club - Member's Only</b> <a href="http://www.samsclub.com">www.samsclub.com</a> 915 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 355-2223  You must be a member to shop here. They sell items in large quantities/bulk.
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These **discount stores** do not have grocery stores – though they do offer some packaged food items. They offer everything from candy to car parts (Rural King has baby chicks and turkeys, too)!

<b>Farm and Fleet</b> <a href="http://www.farmandfleet.com">www.farmandfleet.com</a> 2501 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354  A Midwestern shopping experience!	<b>Rural King - "America's Farm &amp; Home Store"</b> <a href="http://www.ruralking.com">www.ruralking.com</a> 913W Marketview Dr, Champaign 403-1011  Free popcorn to munch while you shop!
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## Special Discount Stores

These are *really, really, really* inexpensive places to shop – they have packaged food items, too!

<b>Big Lots</b> (I love this place!) <a href="http://www.biglots.com">www.biglots.com</a> 2002 W Springfield, Champaign 355-1844  They sell "seconds" from the larger department stores - stuff the larger stores bought too much of or are closing out. Can find some <i>great</i> deals! It's a different store each week, with new bargains coming in every day.	<b>Dollar General</b> <a href="http://www.dollargeneral.com">www.dollargeneral.com</a> 2004-B W Springfield, Champaign 351-3013 817 Bloomington Rd, Champaign 355-6726 1506 N Cunningham, Urbana 384-2269 2016 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-0127  You have to watch the quality here a little more closely, but can find some great bargains. Great place to pick up detergents, toothpaste, etc., very inexpensively.
<b>Family Dollar</b> <a href="http://www.familydollar.com">www.familydollar.com</a> 1204 N Market, Champaign 355-3797 1110 Philo Rd, Urbana 344-4277	<b>Dollar Tree</b> <a href="http://www.dollartree.com">www.dollartree.com</a> 2009 N Prospect, Champaign 351-3143 1333 Savoy Plaza Ctr, Savoy 352-4390

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. A lot of times, however, they are the only place you can get certain items, and it is, therefore, worth the extra cost. Some of those shops are listed below.

## International Food Shops

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

<b>Strawberry Fields</b> <a href="http://www.strawberry-fields.com">www.strawberry-fields.com</a> 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655 West of downtown Urbana, between Main & Springfield Aves. Natural food/health store, bakery, café and caterer.	<b>Common Ground Food Co-Op</b> <a href="http://commonground.coop">commonground.coop</a> 300 S Broadway, Suite 166 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-3347  Non-profit grocery store that sells local/organic foods.
<b>World Harvest Intl &amp; Gourmet Foods</b> <a href="http://www.worldharvestfoods.com">www.worldharvestfoods.com</a> 519 E University Ave, Champaign 356-4444 Corner of University & 6th Streets  Gourmet international foods/café.	<b>Art Mart</b> <a href="http://shopartmart.com">shopartmart.com</a> 127 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 344-7979  Gourmet international foods/café. Also sell educational toys and objects d'art.
<b>The Green Onion</b> <a href="http://www.greenonionmarket.com">www.greenonionmarket.com</a> 2020 S Neil, Champaign 359-5370  Korean/Japanese market.	<b>Far East</b> 105 S Fifth, Champaign 352-7137  Looks kinda scary from the outside, but is an awesome authentic Asian market. Cash only!
<b>Lee's Oriental Foods</b> (next to the County Market on Kirby) 303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949  Korean market/food.	<b>AM-KO Oriental Foods &amp; Gifts</b> <a href="http://amkogrocery.com">amkogrocery.com</a> 101 E Springfield, Champaign 398-2922  Asian market.
<b>Mas Amigos Inc</b> 607 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 384-1315  Mexican Grocery Store. They also have 3 catering trucks and a restaurant (mentioned later).	<b>El Charro Mexican Grocery</b> <a href="http://www.elcharrochampaign.com">www.elcharrochampaign.com</a> 55 E Green St, Champaign 337-6647  Never been inside, but have walked past many times. They serve food, too.
<b>Mirsung Indian Grocery &amp; Fast Food</b> <a href="http://www.mirsung.com">www.mirsung.com</a> 49A E Green St, Champaign 344-2660  Indian grocery. They serve food (deliver, too)!	

## Specialty Foods

<b>Old Time Meat and Deli Shoppe</b> <a href="http://www.OLDTIMEMEATANDDELI.COM">www.OLDTIMEMEATANDDELI.COM</a> 2018 S Neil, Champaign 355-0000  Great deli sandwiches made to order. Superior meat selection. Amish raised poultry.	
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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:

### CVS Drug Stores

([www.cvs.com](http://www.cvs.com))

107 W Green (at Neil), Champaign 355-8123 (open 24 hours) 243 S Mattis (in the Country Fair mall), Champaign 352-9665 1818 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-1192 1111 N Dunlap St, Savoy 531-2123
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### Walgreen Drug Stores

([www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com))

407 E Green, Champaign (Campus) 344-0121 1509 S Neil (at Kirby), Champaign 351-1516 (Open 24 hrs) 841 Bloomington Rd (at Prospect), Champaign 356-8237 1713 W Springfield (at Mattis), Champaign 356-2529 (Open 24 hrs) 2402 Village Green Pl (at Duncan), Champaign 398-2764 302 E University (at Cunningham), Urbana 344-7201 (Open 24 hrs) 1801 S Philo Rd, Urbana 367-5486
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## Shopping Malls

There are several shopping malls are located in Champaign-Urbana, and all are on bus routes. Shopping malls are usually enclosed areas that house many separate businesses within their walls. In general, the major department stores and trendy clothing stores located in malls are not inexpensive – unless you can find things on sale. I will first list the major malls and some of the strip malls in town. Though I discovered, while driving around town to locate the various strip malls, that there are far too many to mention here! I have already addressed the cheaper places to shop – the super discount stores and special discount stores – where I do my shopping, since my dollar goes much farther!

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 Bergner's, Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Victoria's Secret, Coldwater Creek, Edie Bauer, Banana Republic, and Gap.

### Market Place Mall

([www.marketplacemall.com](http://www.marketplacemall.com))

2000 N Neil Street (north of I-74), Champaign 356-2700
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There are some smaller malls in town. 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 no longer has big name department stores, but has a few nice specialty shops and good restaurants. Country Fair, Sunnycrest, and Market View are not enclosed, but have a few stores and places to eat/drink.

<b>Lincoln Square Village</b> <a href="http://www.lincolnsquareurbana.com">www.lincolnsquareurbana.com</a> 300 S Broadway Ave, Urbana 367-4092 Directly east on Green St from campus	<b>Country Fair Shopping Center</b> Corner of Mattis and Springfield, Champaign 356-3717
<b>Market View Shopping Center</b> South of Market Place Mall, Champaign 356-2700	<b>Sunnycrest Mall</b> 1717 S Philo Road, Urbana 384-5787

## Strip Malls

Strip malls are springing up all over and are very popular. They usually house a specialized shop or two, maybe a restaurant, and then smaller shops like a dry cleaners, tanning salon, or a cell phone company. Here are just a few:

<b>Old Farm Shops</b> (Upscale Shopping) <a href="http://www.olderfarmshops.com">www.olderfarmshops.com</a> Kirby and Mattis Avenues, Champaign Panera's, Talbot's, Villardo's, Checkered Moon, Glenn Poor's, Subway, Papa Murphys's Pizza, Super Wok	<b>Windsor Gallery</b> (Upscale Dining) 1100 Windsor Road (near Galen), Champaign Sun Singer Wines & Spirits, The New Sweet Indulgence Bakery, Starcrest Cleaners, Green Jade, pizza place
<b>Village at the Crossing</b> (Upscale Dining) <a href="http://villageatthecrossing.com">villageatthecrossing.com</a> Duncan and Windsor, Champaign Jupiter's, Billy Barooz, Rod Sickler Salon & Spa, Papa Del's, Blossom Basket	<b>Shoppes of Knollwood</b> (Upscale Dining) <a href="http://www.fox-companies.com">www.fox-companies.com</a> 2200 block of S Neil Street, Champaign Biaggi's, Great Harvest Bread Company, Le Peep, Illini Open MRI, Suzi Davis Travel
<b>Round Barn Center</b> 1914 Round Barn Rd (Mattis & Springfield), Champaign Round Barn Banquet Centre, Original Pancake House, Kinko's, Ace Hardware, Gold's Gym, Jerry's IGA	<b>Savoy Plaza</b> South Neil Street & Curtis Road, Savoy Buffalo Wild Wings, Marble Slab Creamery, Friar Tuck's (liquors), Savoy 16, Curves for Women, Babyland, Schnuck's
<b>Hillcrest Center</b> 2000 block of S Neil Street, Champaign Old Time Meat & Deli, Green Onion.	<b>Schnuck's Urbana Crossing</b> 114 N Vine Street, Urbana Schnuck's, Papa Murphy's, Quizno's, Radio Shack
<b>Stadium Plaza</b> 1400 block of S Neil Street, Champaign Subway, Espresso Royale, Cactus Grill	<b>University Centre</b> 30-40 block of E Green, Champaign Jimmy John's, Mirsung, Fasprint
<b>Katsinis Plaza</b> Neil (at Green), Champaign Jet's Pizza, #1 Wok, Hollywood Liquor, Wing Stop	<b>Royal Plaza</b> 500 S Neil, Champaign Golden Harbor, Piccadilly Liquor, Annapoorna Foods, Champagne Audio

## "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!

<b>TJ Maxx</b> <a href="http://www.tjmaxx.com">www.tjmaxx.com</a> 21 E Marketview, Champaign 352-3435  Name brand items for 1/2 price or less! They buys "seconds" from the department stores. They also sell toys, objects d'art, hair and personal items, kitchenware, etc.	<b>Gordman's</b> <a href="http://www.gordmans.com">www.gordmans.com</a> 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, and carries much more than just clothes.
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<b>Dots</b> (Women's clothing) <a href="http://www.dots.com">www.dots.com</a> 2032 N Prospect, Champaign 359-9420  Next door to Target. Nothing is over \$10!	<b>Fashion Bug</b> (Women's clothing) <a href="http://fashionbug.com">fashionbug.com</a> 1901 N Market, Champaign 356-8569  Plus size women's fashion. Located near Kohl's.
<b>Goodwill/Urbana LaBelle Boutique</b> <a href="http://www.llgi.org">www.llgi.org</a> 912 W Anthony, Champaign 359-8729 114A N Vine St, Urbana 789-0400  Slightly used clothes, furniture, etc.	<b>Salvation Army Family Thrift Store</b> <a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org">www.salvationarmyusa.org</a> 2212 N Market, Champaign 373-7825 109 W John St, Champaign 351-0952  Slightly used clothes, furniture, etc.

## Consignment Clothing Stores

Consignment stores only take “slightly used” clothes, many of which are designer labels. They offer exceptional clothing at garage sale prices.

<b>Karen's Kloset</b> (Women's clothing) <a href="http://karenskloset.com">karenskloset.com</a> 231 S Mattis (Country Fair), Champaign 355-9395  They also have jewelry and handbags!	<b>Yours, Mine, and Ours</b> (Children's clothing) 1824 Glen Park, Champaign (next to County Market) 356-0880
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## Used Furniture Stores

There are a lot of 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. For new furniture, you can check out the “super discount” and “special discount” stores for inexpensive furniture such as bookshelves, futons, etc.

<b>Habitat for Humanity ReStore</b> <a href="http://cuhabitat.org">cuhabitat.org</a> 119 E University, Champaign 359-0507  They also sell household items, art, etc.	<b>YMCA Dump and Run</b> (end of August only) <a href="http://www.universityymca.org/dump_and_run">www.universityymca.org/dump_and_run</a> UI Stock Pavilion, 1402 W Pennsylvania, Urbana  They have everything – it is one giant garage sale!
<b>Goodwill/Urbana LaBelle Boutique</b> <a href="http://www.llgi.org">www.llgi.org</a> 912 W Anthony, Champaign 359-8729 114A N Vine St, Urbana 789-0400	<b>Salvation Army Family Thrift Store</b> <a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org">www.salvationarmyusa.org</a> 2212 N Market, Champaign 373-7825 109 W John St, Champaign 351-0952

## Home Improvement Stores

These stores are places where you can buy paint, tools, lumber, nails, lawn care products, etc.

<b>Menards</b> <a href="http://www.menards.com">www.menards.com</a> 620 Town Ctr Blvd, Champaign 359-6100  Huge store with lumber yard, garden shop, etc. - prices competitive with Lowe's. I primarily shop here for the best prices.	<b>Lowe's</b> <a href="http://www.lowes.com">www.lowes.com</a> 1904 N Prospect, Champaign 373-7300  Huge store with lumber yard & garden shop and very good prices/selections. Have a little bigger selection than Menard's, but can cost a bit more.
<b>Home Depot</b> <a href="http://www.homedepot.com">www.homedepot.com</a> 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!	<b>Farm and Fleet</b> <a href="http://www.farmandfleet.co">www.farmandfleet.co</a> 2501 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354  Everything from overalls to paint to car batteries.

<b>Champaign Do It Best Hardware</b> <a href="http://www.doitbest.com">www.doitbest.com</a> 107 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6454  A little more expensive. Have a outdoor garden shop each spring/summer.	<b>True Value Hardware</b> <a href="http://www.truevalue.com">www.truevalue.com</a> 2010 Round Barn Center, Champaign 352-1100  Have equipment rentals like dollies, carts, tools, etc.
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## Electronic Equipment

For electronic items – stereo equipment, TV's, VCR's, CD players, DVD players – here are some of the lesser expensive places specializing in electronics. You can also find these items at your “super discount stores”.

<b>Best Buy</b> <a href="http://www.bestbuy.com">www.bestbuy.com</a> 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-8883  Wide selection of name brands at good prices.	<b>Radio Shack</b> <a href="http://www.radioshack.com">www.radioshack.com</a> 2020 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 359-6521 114 N Vine, Urbana Crossing Mall 384-0211 503 S Dunlap, Savoy (by WalMart) 355-8711  Gadgets & gizmos for the electronically handy.
<b>Good Vibes</b> <a href="http://www.gvibes.com">www.gvibes.com</a> 1501 N Prospect, Champaign 351-0909  Very knowledgeable staff and excellent high end equipment – much more expensive than the other places.	<b>Glenn Poor's Audio-Video</b> <a href="http://glennpoors.com">glennpoors.com</a> 1745 W Kirby, Champaign 356-5456  Nice high end equipment. They also sell used and demo equipment. My family bought our first TV from them decades ago.

## 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.

<b>U of I Main Library</b> <a href="http://www.library.illinois.edu">www.library.illinois.edu</a> 1408 W Gregory, Urbana 333-2290
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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.

<b>Champaign Public Library</b> <a href="http://www.champaign.org">www.champaign.org</a> 200 W Green, Champaign 403-2070	<b>Urbana Free Library</b> <a href="http://urbanafreelibrary.org">urbanafreelibrary.org</a> 210 W Green, Urbana 367-4057
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### Bookstores

There are several bookstores on campus. The following carry U of I textbooks, trademark items, memorabilia, t-shirts, calendars, class supplies...

<b>Illini Union Bookstore –</b> the "Official" U of I bookstore <a href="http://www.uofibookstore.illinois.edu">www.uofibookstore.illinois.edu</a> 810 S Wright Street, Champaign 333-2050	<b>TIS College Bookstore</b> <a href="http://tisbookui.com">tisbookui.com</a> 707 S 6th Street, Champaign 337-4900
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## Support your local businesses!

There are also many popular, locally owned bookstores in town.

### New Age, Comics, Gaming

<b>Insight Metaphysical Bookstore</b> (cool place!) <a href="http://www.insight-books.com">www.insight-books.com</a> 1111 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 352-5683  I've not been to their new shop, but the old place was awesome! They sell new age books, tapes, incense, tarot cards, gemstones, etc.	<b>The Dragon's Table</b> <a href="http://dragons-table.com">dragons-table.com</a> 205 N Market, Champaign 359-0503  Fantasy role playing items, cards, board games, miniatures, gaming tournaments.
<b>G-Mart</b> <a href="http://www.g-mart.com">www.g-mart.com</a> 44 E Main St, Suite 103, downtown Champaign 356-7733  Comic books galore!	<b>Armored Gopher Games</b> <a href="http://armored-gopher.com">armored-gopher.com</a> 1508 N Cunningham Ave, Ste A, Urbana 344-4263(GAMES)  I've never been here, but if you are a gamer, it sounds like the kind of place for you!

### 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.

<b>Jane Addams Book Shop</b> <a href="http://www.janeaddamsbooks.com">www.janeaddamsbooks.com</a> 208 N Neil, Champaign 356-2555	<b>Priceless Books</b> <a href="http://www.abebooks.com/bookseller/PRICELESS">www.abebooks.com/bookseller/PRICELESS</a> 108A W Main Street, Urbana 344-4037
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### Big Corporate Chain Bookstore

There is only one left in town at the moment.

<b>Barnes and Noble</b> <a href="http://www.barnesandnoble.com">www.barnesandnoble.com</a> 65 E Marketview Dr, Champaign 355-2045  Café, international newspapers, magazines.
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And so you don't go in without being forewarned...these are the local adult bookstores (they sell pornographic materials): Illini Arcade; Fantasy's.

### Collectibles and Arts & Crafts

I love shopping for **collectibles and objects d'art**. For the most part, these are places I have been or have had recommended to me in my quest to acquire the largest hippo collection in the world! (Now you know where all my extra money goes...)

### Collectibles

<b>Prairie Gardens</b> <a href="http://www.prairiegardens.com">www.prairiegardens.com</a> 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532  In addition to collector's items, they offer framing services, do artificial floral arrangements, sell frames, furniture, plants and flowers!	<b>International Galleries</b> <a href="http://internationalgalleriesurbana.com">internationalgalleriesurbana.com</a> Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 328-2254  Art posters, pottery, jewelry, on-site custom framing services, elegant boxes, wind chimes, cards, animal jewelry, figurines, incense, and objects d'art.
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<b>Art Mart</b> <a href="http://shopartmart.com">shopartmart.com</a> 127 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 344-7979  International foods/coffee, chocolates, kitchen gadgets, cards, party lights, objects d'art... Separate children store with educational toys, etc.	<b>Tuesday Morning</b> <a href="http://www.tuesdaymorning.com">www.tuesdaymorning.com</a> 214 S Mattis, Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 398-3753  Another store that has department store items at 50%-80% off regular prices.
<b>Pier 1 Imports</b> <a href="http://www.pier1.com">www.pier1.com</a> 2001 N Prospect, Champaign 355-9568  Large store filled with items from all over the world.	

### 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 Stampin' Up scrapbooking, please ask me, I know several demonstrators!

<b>Hobby Lobby</b> <a href="http://www.hobbylobby.com">www.hobbylobby.com</a> 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924  Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc.	<b>Prairie Gardens</b> <a href="http://www.prairiegardens.com">www.prairiegardens.com</a> 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532  Arts and crafts supplies, stamping and scrapbooking supplies.
<b>Michaels Arts and Crafts</b> <a href="http://www.michaels.com">www.michaels.com</a> 2109 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 378-8716  Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies.	<b>Art Coop</b> <a href="http://www.theartcoop.com">www.theartcoop.com</a> 150 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-4562  Art supplies, paints, photographic supplies, etc.
<b>Hancock Fabrics</b> <a href="http://www.hancockfabrics.com">www.hancockfabrics.com</a> 115 Convenience Center Rd (next to Kohl's) 398-1598  Fabrics, patterns, art/sewing supplies, etc.	<b>Jo-Ann Fabrics</b> <a href="http://www.joann.com">www.joann.com</a> 722 Town Center Road, Champaign 355-5040  Fabrics, patterns, arts/crafts supplies, sewing supplies, sewing machines, ribbon, beads, lace. Classes offered.
<b>Dallas &amp; Co.</b> <a href="http://www.dallasandco.com">www.dallasandco.com</a> 101 E University Ave, Champaign 351-5974  Party supplies, costumes and costume rentals, magic kits, balloons, gag gifts, holiday decorations and supplies...	<b>Factory Card and Party Outlet</b> <a href="http://www.partycity.com">www.partycity.com</a> 2019 N Prospect, Champaign 355-6837  Party supplies, costumes, balloons, etc.

## Entertainment

When you're not studying or conducting experiments, you may want to enjoy some of the recreational activities available in the central Illinois area. I don't like to spend a lot of money on entertainment. Events such as street dances and concerts in the park, going to parks/preserves and stargazing are all free of charge. Admission charges usually apply at concerts, museums, theaters, etc., but if you are a student, be sure to ask about discounts, as a lot of places will give discounts to students with school ID cards!

Champaign-Urbana 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.

## 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. Tickets for big name performances are often sold by lottery drawings in attempt to more fairly distribute the better tickets. Ticket office: 333-2923.
- 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 or on-line
- [Krannert Center for the Performing Arts](#) has a world-renown reputation for its symphony concerts, opera, theater productions, dance programs, and international performances.

## Museums

For a list of interesting places to see in Illinois visit: [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com). Here are a few local sites:

<b>Spurlock Museum</b> <a href="http://www.spurlock.illinois.edu"><u>(www.spurlock.illinois.edu)</u></a> 600 S Gregory St, Urbana (campus) 333-2360  Museum of world history and culture. Various exhibits available for public viewing.	<b>Orpheum Children's Science Museum</b> <a href="http://www.orpheumkids.com"><u>(www.orpheumkids.com)</u></a> 346 N Neil, downtown Champaign 352-5895  Interactive exhibits for children.
<b>Parkland Art Gallery</b> <a href="http://www.parkland.edu/gallery"><u>(www.parkland.edu/gallery)</u></a> Parkland College, X Wing 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2485	<b>Krannert Art Museum and Kinkhead Pavilion</b> <a href="http://www.kam.uiuc.edu"><u>(www.kam.uiuc.edu)</u></a> 500 E Peabody (at 6 <sup>th</sup> ), Campus 333-1861 Not to be confused with Krannert Center!
<b>Museum of the Grand Prairie</b> <a href="http://www.museumofthegrandprairie.org"><u>(www.museumofthegrandprairie.org)</u></a> Lake of the Woods, 950 N Lombard, Mahomet 586-2612  Exhibits of pioneer life.	<b>Homer Lake Interpretive Center</b> <a href="http://www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/Attractions/InterpretiveCenter.html"><u>(www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/Attractions/InterpretiveCenter.html)</u></a> Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer 896-2455  Interactive exhibits, live animals, wildlife viewing
<b>Monticello Railway Museum</b> <a href="http://www.mrym.org"><u>(www.mrym.org)</u></a> 992 Iron Horse Pl, Monticello 762-9011 or 877-762-9011  Exit 166 off I-72. Old trains, cars, rides.	<b>Chanute Air Museum</b> <a href="http://www.aeromuseum.org"><u>(www.aeromuseum.org)</u></a> 1011 Pacesetter Dr, Rantoul 893-1613  Old Air Force base, largest museum of kind in IL.
<b>The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum &amp; Library</b> <a href="http://www.alplm.org/home.html"><u>(www.alplm.org/home.html)</u></a> 212 N 6th Street, Springfield 782-5764 or 800-610-2094  Reported to be one of the largest collections dedicated to the US's favorite President.	<b>Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site</b> <a href="http://www.illinoishistory.gov/hs/lincoln_log.htm"><u>(www.illinoishistory.gov/hs/lincoln_log.htm)</u></a> 402 S Lincoln Highway, Lerna, IL 345-1845  8 miles south of Charleston, the reconstructed log home of Lincoln's father and stepmother. 86-acre site, living history farm.



## Theatre-Live

Theater is alive and well in Central Illinois. There are a couple 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.

<b>Virginia Theater</b> <a href="http://www.thevirginia.org">www.thevirginia.org</a> 203 W Park, Champaign 356-9053  Concerts, plays, and movies including the famous annual Roger Ebert Overlooked Film Festival.	<b>Champaign-Urbana Theater Co</b> <a href="http://cutc.org">cutc.org</a> 608 N Cunningham Rd, Urbana 344-3884  Give several performances a year at various locations around town.
<b>Station Theatre</b> <a href="http://www.stationtheatre.com">www.stationtheatre.com</a> 223 N Broadway, Urbana 384-4000  The Celebration Company performs in an historic train station.	<b>Parkland College Theatre</b> <a href="http://theatre.parkland.edu">theatre.parkland.edu</a> 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2528  Parkland and UI students, as well as community members participate in their performances.
<b>Penny Dreadful Players</b> ( <a href="http://www.pdptheater.com">www.pdptheater.com</a> ) U of I non-theatre student group.	

## 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).

<b>Savoy 16 IMAX</b> <a href="http://www.ggti.com">www.ggti.com</a> 232 Burwash, Savoy 355-3456  Multiplex theater with 16 screens and a new IMAX theatre (some shows in 3D).	<b>Carmike 13</b> <a href="http://www.carmike.com">www.carmike.com</a> 910 Meijer Dr, Champaign 359-5687  Completed renovated multiplex theaters, with one 80 foot screen.
<b>Art Theater Co-op</b> <a href="http://www.arttheater.coop">www.arttheater.coop</a> 126 W Church, downtown Champaign 355-0068  Foreign films and films by independent film-makers, not shown anywhere else in town.	

## Movie Rentals

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 queue, here are a few places you can go to rent videotapes of your favorite movies. The local libraries also have videos you can borrow.

<b>That's Rentertainment</b> <a href="http://www.rentertainment.com">www.rentertainment.com</a> 516 E John, Champaign (campus) 384-0977  Independently owned. Boasts the largest selection in town, possibly all of Illinois. On campus; free membership!	<b>Family Video</b> <a href="http://www.familyvideo.com">www.familyvideo.com</a> 1101 N Mattis, Champaign 352-2172 805 N Lincoln Ave, Suite B, Urbana 344-8499 1901 S Philo Rd, Urbana 344-0507  Requires membership.
<b>RedBox</b> <a href="http://www.redbox.com">www.redbox.com</a> Convenient self-service kiosks outside CVS, Walgreens, County Market, Schnuck's, Walmart and Ruler Foods stores.	<b>Lee's Oriental Foods</b> for Chinese, Japanese, & Korean films 303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949  Located next to County Market on Kirby Ave

## 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 the parks. Check the local papers for times.

### Live Music/Dancing

<b>The Canopy Club</b> (campus) <a href="http://canopyclub.com">canopyclub.com</a> 708 S Goodwin, Urbana 344-2263  Alternate music scene. Also hosts some well-known national acts from funk to country.	<b>Fat City</b> (Neil and Green) <a href="http://www.fatcitybarandgrill.com">www.fatcitybarandgrill.com</a> 505 S Chestnut St, Champaign 954-0556  Karaoke Tuesdays. Various bands. Outdoor stage in summer. Serve good food, too!
<b>Memphis on Main</b> (downtown Champaign) <a href="http://memphisonmain.com">memphisonmain.com</a> 55 E Main, Champaign 398-1097  Various bands on weekends. Trivia Tuesdays. Comedy Wednesdays. Karaoke Thursdays. Occasional burlesque shows.	<b>Cowboy Monkey</b> (downtown Champaign) <a href="http://www.cowboy-monkey.com">www.cowboy-monkey.com</a> 6 Taylor St, Champaign 398-2688  Various bands. Tango/Salsa dancing Wednesdays. Retro DJ's on Monday. Open mike on Tuesdays. Outside dancing in summer.
<b>The High Dive</b> (downtown Champaign) <a href="http://thehighdive.com">thehighdive.com</a> 51 Main Street, Champaign 356-0006  Various bands, some national. DJ dance parties most weekends.	<b>Mike N Molly's</b> (downtown Champaign) <a href="http://mikenmollys.com">mikenmollys.com</a> 105 N Market, Champaign 355-1236  Various bands. Other non-music events throughout week.
<b>The Clark Bar</b> <a href="http://theclarkbar.com">theclarkbar.com</a> 207 W Clark St, Champaign 840-1984  Various local bands, DJs, drink specials & food!	<b>Zorba's</b> (campus) 627 E Green, Champaign 344-0710  Live Jazz weekly. Great food, too!
<b>Rose Bowl Tavern</b> (Urbana) 106 N Race St, Urbana 367-7031  Original home of country music in CU area! Various country-related bands.	<b>Boomerang's</b> (Urbana) <a href="http://boomerangbarandgrill.com">boomerangbarandgrill.com</a> 1309 E Washington, Urbana 239-7264  Various bands. Live karaoke house band is fun!

### DJ/Dancing

<b>Chester Street Dance Club</b> (downtown Champaign) <a href="http://www.chesterstreetbar.com">www.chesterstreetbar.com</a> 63-65 E Chester St, Champaign 356-5607  DJ music. The unofficial "gay" bar in C-U. Occasional drag shows and disco party nights. Industrial music Mondays.	<b>Bradley's II Night Club</b> <a href="http://bradleys.webs.com">bradleys.webs.com</a> 1906 W Bradley Ave, Champaign 352-8714  Country nights on Wednesdays and Fridays with free dance lessons. Fridays: live bands or DJ's. Saturdays: Hip Hop Party Night.
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### Lessons/Dancing

**Regent Ballroom**  
[www.regentballroom.com](http://www.regentballroom.com)  
 1406 Regency Drive, Savoy 359-5333  
  
 Ballroom and other dance styles. Lessons.



## Dance Organizations

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

<b>Urbana Country Dancers</b> ( <a href="http://www.urbana-contras.org">www.urbana-contras.org</a> )	<b>Central Illinois English Country Dancers</b> ( <a href="http://www.centralillinoisecd.org">www.centralillinoisecd.org</a> )
<b>Swing Society at the U of I</b> ( <a href="http://www.cu-swing.org">www.cu-swing.org</a> )	<b>Dancing Illini</b> ( <a href="http://publish.illinois.edu/dancing">publish.illinois.edu/dancing</a> )

Many of these groups are associated with the University of Illinois. You should visit the **Registered Student Organizations** website ([union.illinois.edu/involvement/rso](http://union.illinois.edu/involvement/rso)) 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.

## Parks and Nature Preserves

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

For those of you who enjoy nature, the State of Illinois has many beautiful state parks ([dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks](http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks)) you can visit. 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. The Champaign Park District (398-2550) has 58 parks with a total of 510 acres. The Urbana Park District (367-1544) has 22 parks.

## Champaign-Urbana Parks

<b>Urbana</b> ( <a href="http://www.urbanaparks.org">www.urbanaparks.org</a> )	<b>Champaign</b> ( <a href="http://www.champaignparkdistrict.com">www.champaignparkdistrict.com</a> )
<b>Crystal Lake Park</b> Park and Broadway (1 block N of University) 90 acres. Boats, fishing, picnic areas, playgrounds. Outdoor aquatic center open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Champaign County Fairgrounds, located adjacent to the park, have events every summer, including the Champaign County Fair in July, Humane Society Garage Sale in May.	<b>Centennial Park</b> Kirby and Crescent Pool/water slide open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Sledding hill in the winter.
<b>Anita Purves Nature Center/Busey Woods</b> Right next to Crystal Lake Aquatic Center. 59-acre preserve. Nice hiking trails.	<b>Prairie Farm at Centennial Park</b> Kirby Ave 398-2583 Petting zoo with barnyard animals.
<b>Meadowbrook</b> Race St, south of Windsor Play area, hiking trail, co-op garden, prairie restoration.	<b>West Side Park</b> University and State Playground, fountain, picnicking. Taste of Champaign and Arts in the Park events held here every summer.
<b>Indoor Aquatic Center</b> 102 E Michigan (between the Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School) 384-POOL (-7665)	<b>Hessel Park</b> Kirby and Hessel Tennis courts, playground area, picnic areas.
<b>Phillips Recreation Center</b> 505 W Stoughton, Urbana 367-1544 Dance, fitness, community programs. Main Urbana Park District registration location.	<b>Kaufman Lake</b> 2702 W Springfield Ave Fishing, hiking, picnic areas. Ice-skating in winter.

## Central Illinois Area Parks and Recreation Sites

<a href="http://www.stateparks.com/central_illinois_parks.html">www.stateparks.com/central_illinois_parks.html</a>	
<b>Curtis Orchard</b> <a href="http://www.curtisorchard.com">www.curtisorchard.com</a> 3902 S Duncan Rd, Champaign 359-5565 Open August 1 – December 17. Pick your own apples, pumpkins. Petting zoo and pony rides for children through Halloween. Fresh apple donuts and apple cider! A general store where you can buy apples, Indian corn, gourds, and pumpkins plus arts and crafts and a café.	<b>Wildlife Prairie State Park</b> <a href="http://www.wildlifeprairiestatepark.org">www.wildlifeprairiestatepark.org</a> Peoria 309-676-0998 I-74 west, Exit 82, 2-1/2 miles south, follow signs. 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.
<b>Allerton Park</b> <a href="http://allerton.illinois.edu">allerton.illinois.edu</a> 515 Old Timber Rd, Monticello 333-3287 20 minute drive from Champaign. A few miles off I-72, exit 164. 6000 acre estate. Beautiful formal gardens, statues, & architecture. Can see deer there, too, if you look closely.	<b>Kickapoo State Park</b> <a href="http://www.stateparks.com/kickapoo.html">www.stateparks.com/kickapoo.html</a> In Oakwood (east of Danville) 217-442-4915 About 25 miles east of Urbana. Take I-74 East. Nice trails. Beautiful river views. Canoe rentals. Camping areas available.
<b>Lake of the Woods</b> <a href="http://www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/LakeoftheWoods.html">www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/LakeoftheWoods.html</a> Mahomet. 10 minutes west of Champaign on I-74, Exit 174 or 173. Lake to swim in, fishing, museum, and picnic areas.	<b>Homer Lake Forest Preserve</b> <a href="http://www.ccfpd.org/gallery/v/Homer_Lake">www.ccfpd.org/gallery/v/Homer_Lake</a> Near Homer I-74 east to Rte 49, 5 miles south, follow signs. 80-acre lake with fishing, hiking, etc.
<b>Moraine View</b> <a href="http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R3/Moraine.htm">dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R3/Moraine.htm</a> Near LeRoy. 309-724-8032 About 40 minutes west of Champaign. I-74 West to LeRoy (exit 149), head north on Highway 21, follow signs. Nice lake-usually quiet. Can rent boats/swim. Camping areas available.	<b>Middle Fork River Forest Preserve</b> <a href="http://www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html">www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html</a> 217-595-5432 5 miles N of Penfield. County Road 2700 E and Rte 136. Wetland bird conservation area, places to camp.
<b>Fox Ridge State Park</b> <a href="http://www.stateparks.com/fox_ridge.html">www.stateparks.com/fox_ridge.html</a> 18175 State Park Rd, Charleston 217-345-6416 Highway 130 out of Charleston for 7 miles and follow the signs. Hiking, scenic overlooks, picnic, wildlife observation, camping.	<b>Walnut Point State Park</b> <a href="http://www.stateparks.com/walnut_point_state_park_in_illinois.html">www.stateparks.com/walnut_point_state_park_in_illinois.html</a> 3 miles N of Oakland 217-346-3336 I-57 south to Tuscola (exit 212), Highway 36 east for 15 miles, south on Highway 7 6 miles and follow signs. Fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, picnic areas.

## Located in Parke County, Western Indiana

About 1 hour's drive from Champaign and well worth the trip! Indiana has other state parks you may wish to visit. These are my favorites, but you can find others at: [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake).

<b>Turkey Run</b> <a href="http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/turkey.html">www.indianaoutfitters.com/turkey.html</a> 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.	<b>Shades Parks</b> <a href="http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/shades.html">www.indianaoutfitters.com/shades.html</a> Down the road from Turkey Run, Waveland IN 765-432-2810 Gorgeous trails; nice river; camping. Absolutely beautiful in the fall!
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## 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 is very visible...as long as the clouds cooperate!

<b>Staerkel Planetarium</b> <a href="http://www2.parkland.edu/planetarium">www2.parkland.edu/planetarium</a> 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2446 Laser light & music show while viewing stars.	<b>U of I Astronomy Dept</b> <a href="http://uias.astro.illinois.edu">uias.astro.illinois.edu</a> Have occasional campus astronomy events.
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## Indoor Recreation

During our cold winter months, most people want to stay inside where it is warm. My favorite indoor winter (year-round, actually) sport is pool. My second favorite is bowling. 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.

Pool Tables	Bowling Lanes
<b>Jupiter's</b> <a href="http://www.jupiterspizza.com">www.jupiterspizza.com</a> 39 E Main St, Champaign 398-5988 My very favorite place to play pool!	<b>Illini Union</b> <a href="http://union.illinois.edu/funspots/recroom/Default.asp">union.illinois.edu/funspots/recroom/Default.asp</a> Basement, 1401 W Green, Urbana, 333-2415 They also have pool tables/leagues.
<b>Jupiter's at the Crossing</b> <a href="http://www.jupiterspizza.com">www.jupiterspizza.com</a> 2511 Village Green Pl, Champaign 366-8300	<b>Old Orchard Lanes</b> <a href="http://www.oldorchardinc.com">www.oldorchardinc.com</a> 901 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-5283 Good pizza. Mini-golf in the summer.
<b>Esquire Lounge</b> <a href="http://esquirelounge.com">esquirelounge.com</a> 106 N Walnut, Champaign 398-5858	<b>Western Bowl</b> <a href="http://westernbowl.org">westernbowl.org</a> 917 Francis, Champaign 359-1678
<b>Crane Alley</b> <a href="http://www.crane-alley.com">www.crane-alley.com</a> 115 E Main, Urbana 384-7526	<b>Arrowhead Lanes</b> <a href="http://arrowheadlanes.com">arrowheadlanes.com</a> 1401 N McKinley, Champaign 352-5288
<b>Guido's</b> <a href="http://guidosbar.com">guidosbar.com</a> 2 E Main St, Champaign 359-3148	

## Restaurants

Champaign-Urbana has a wide array of restaurants, with many varieties of foods (sometimes in the same restaurant), at many different price ranges. For whatever reason, some restaurants are lucky to last a year or two in town, and there are always new ones opening up to take their places. I've put asterisks (\*\*) next to the places located on or very near campus.

When I first started at the University, I used to only go to the most inexpensive places, but in the past several years have branched out to more moderately priced fare. I've listed several of my favorites, by ethnicity or type of food served, on the following pages. As may be expected, some of the restaurants fall into several categories. I have tried to pick one key category to list them in, with notes about the other menu items offered. Most places have some sort of vegetarian fare available, though I do offer a category for Vegetarians. Bon Appetit!

### 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 personally don't drink coffee, but here are a few of the more popular places in town I've been told about.

<b>Local shops</b>	
<b>Columbia Street Roastery by Herriott's</b> <a href="http://www.csrcoffee.com">www.csrcoffee.com</a> 24 Columbia St, Champaign 352-9713	<b>Cafe Kopi</b> ( <a href="http://www.cafe-kopi.com">www.cafe-kopi.com</a> ) 109 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 359-4266
<b>Caffe Paradiso</b> <a href="http://www.enjoyparadiso.com">www.enjoyparadiso.com</a> **801 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 384-6066	<b>Aroma Cafe</b> ( <a href="http://www.aroma-cafe.com">www.aroma-cafe.com</a> ) 118 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 356-3200
<b>Walnut Street Tea Company</b> 115 S Walnut, downtown Champaign 351-6975	
<b>Chain shops</b>	
<b>Espresso Royale</b> <a href="http://www.espressoroyale.com">www.espressoroyale.com</a> **1402 W Gregory, Urbana 333-7799 **1117 W Oregon, Urbana 337-6160 **602 E Daniel, Champaign 328-1112 **Illini Union, Champaign 328-1335 **500 E Peabody, Champaign 344-2791 **1411 S Neil, Champaign 351-0928 2401 Village Green Pl, C 352-1998	<b>Starbucks</b> ( <a href="http://www.starbucks.com">www.starbucks.com</a> ) **503 E Green St, Champaign 344-8613 2702 N Prospect, Champaign 398-0821 102 N Vine (Main/Vine), Urbana 344-4502

### 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!)

<b>Culver's</b> <a href="http://www.culvers.com">www.culvers.com</a> 903 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-8132 2302 S Neil St, Champaign 352-1699  Great specialty sundaes, shakes. Also serves good burgers, sandwiches, soups, fries, etc. Eat in or drive-thru. Open year round!!	<b>Jarling's Custard Cup</b> <a href="http://www.jarlingscustardcup.com">www.jarlingscustardcup.com</a> **309 W Kirby, Champaign 352-2273  Homemade frozen custard, with a couple flavors daily. Excellent sundaes, shakes, specialty desserts. Open from March to Sunday after Thanksgiving. Eat on the patio or drive-thru.
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## Ice Creams and Frozen Yogurt

<b>Dairy Queen</b> <a href="http://www.dairyqueen.com">www.dairyqueen.com</a> 911 W University Ave, Urbana 344-4108 1501 Lyndhurst, Savoy 356-3065 3602 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 373-2412  Soft serve ice cream (milk actually) and treats, plus full brazier grill. Open year round.	<b>Baskin Robbins</b> <a href="http://www.baskinrobbins.com">www.baskinrobbins.com</a> **515 S Neil, Champaign 359-7005 404 W University, Urbana 328-3513  31 different flavors of ice cream and frozen yogurt. Also ice cream cakes. Shops on Neil/University are combined with Dunkin Donuts! Open all year.
<b>Cold Stone Creamery</b> <a href="http://www.coldstonecreamery.com">www.coldstonecreamery.com</a> **505 S Green, Champaign 367-5555  Homemade ice cream mixed with extras on a marble slab while you wait.	<b>Marble Slab Creamery</b> <a href="http://www.marbleslab.com">www.marbleslab.com</a> 1211 Savoy Plaza Ln, Savoy 359-5950  Homemade ice cream mixed with extras while you wait. Excellent ice cream cakes.

## Chocolates and Candies

<b>Fannie May Candies</b> <a href="http://www.fanniemay.com">www.fanniemay.com</a> **402 S Neil 355-5628  Large variety of chocolates and confections.	<b>Flesor's Candy Kitchen</b> <a href="http://www.flesorscandy.com">www.flesorscandy.com</a> 101 W Sale St, Tuscola 253-3753  Handmade candies. Food & ice cream treats, too!
<b>Rubens Chocolates</b> <a href="http://www.rubenschocolates.com">www.rubenschocolates.com</a> 1602 University, Urbana 281-2973 Bent Bean, Lincoln Square Village, Urbana  Handmade Belgian chocolate treats in white, milk, or dark chocolate.	

## Bakeries and Dessert Shops

Almost all of the grocery stores have a bakery section and most are very good, not to mention much less expensive, than the specialty bakeries. Though, sometimes you just want to splurge and go to a specialty bakery.

## Cakes and Pies

<b>County Market Bakeries</b> <a href="http://www.countymarket.com">www.countymarket.com</a> 1914 Glenn Park 356-8242 2901 W Kirby Ave (at Duncan Road) 351-8600 1819 Philo Road 337-0210  Great custom special occasion cakes. Good pies, cookies, etc. Reasonable prices.	<b>Wal-Mart Super Center Bakery</b> <a href="http://www.walmart.com">www.walmart.com</a> 2610 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-0700 505 S Dunlap Ave (off S Neil), Savoy 355-5845 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6148 (Sam's Club also carries baked goods.)  Also will do custom cakes. Other good baked items. At Super Center locations only. Reasonable.
<b>Intermezzo--Krannert Foyer</b> <a href="http://www.krannertcenter.com/stayawhile/intermezzo">www.krannertcenter.com/stayawhile/intermezzo</a> **500 S Goodwin, Urbana 333-8412  Great cakes, pies, and cheesecakes!	<b>Perkins Family Restaurant</b> <a href="http://www.perkinsrestaurants.com">www.perkinsrestaurants.com</a> 1214 W University, Champaign 328-3000  Great pies, cookies, and muffins. Good food, too. Full menu available at all times. Fairly reasonable.

<b>Sweet Indulgence</b> <a href="http://www.thenewsweetindulgence.biz">www.thenewsweetindulgence.biz</a> 1121 W Windsor, Champaign 352-2433  They supply many of the local restaurants with their awesome desserts! Shhh, it's a secret. Very pricey.	<b>The Cake Artist's Studio</b> <a href="http://www.thecakeartistsstudio.com">www.thecakeartistsstudio.com</a> 1100B W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 403-0900  Custom desserts baked on site. Beautiful wedding cakes. Very pricey.
<b>Cream &amp; Flutter</b> <a href="http://creamandflutter.com">creamandflutter.com</a> 114 N Walnut St, downtown Champaign 355-5400  I've seen, but haven't tasted their beautiful cupcakes. I hear they are wonderful!	<b>Cookies by Design</b> <a href="http://www.cookiesbydesign.com">www.cookiesbydesign.com</a> 510 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 344-3911  Cookie bouquets and baskets. Pricey.
<b>Mirabelle Fine Pastry Inc.</b> 124 W Main, downtown Urbana 384-6460  Pastries, etc., baked fresh on site. Pricey.	

### Breads and Rolls

<b>Panera Bread Company</b> ( <a href="http://www.panerabread.com">www.panerabread.com</a> ) **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.	<b>The Bread Company on Goodwin</b> <a href="http://www.thebreadcompanyurbana.com">www.thebreadcompanyurbana.com</a> **706 S. Goodwin, Urbana 383-1007  Great breads. Also have gourmet pizzas, sandwiches, fondue as well as steak and salmon. We hold our Biophysics happy hours there.
<b>Great Harvest Bread Company</b> <a href="http://www.greatharvest.com">www.greatharvest.com</a> 2149 S Neil Street, Champaign 398-5623  Great variety of breads, baked fresh daily.	<b>Atlanta Bread Company</b> <a href="http://www.atlantabread.com">www.atlantabread.com</a> 1905 S Neil Street, Champaign 356-8040  Bread, sandwiches, salads, etc.

### Donuts and Bagels

<b>Dunkin Donuts</b> <a href="http://www.dunkindonuts.com">www.dunkindonuts.com</a> **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  I hear they have pretty great coffee, too. Also have breakfast sandwiches and ice cream at some locations (see Baskin Robins).	<b>Ye Olde Donut Shoppe</b> Law Bldg, 504 E Pennsylvania, Campus. Open 9-5 M-F 359-3311  Ye Olde closed their shop on Green Street, but you can still find these delicious donuts at the Law School, Espresso Royale, Derald's Catering Truck (at S Mathews), various campus departments, and local CU businesses (like car dealerships). Call ahead one day for special orders and they will deliver.
<b>Carmella's Crème Donuts</b> 1611 W Springfield, Champaign 531-0024  Good locally baked donuts!	

## 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).

### 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

<b>The Original Pancake House</b> <a href="http://www.originalpancakehouse.com">www.originalpancakehouse.com</a> 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! Pricey.	<b>Sammy's Pancake House</b> 1206 N Mattis, Champaign 355-3403  Great omelets, skilletts, and pancakes/crepes/French toast/waffles. I love their Mexican entrees, like carne asada meals. Have burgers and salads. Good prices, too.
<b>Le Peep</b> <a href="http://www.lepeep.com">www.lepeep.com</a> 2209 S. Neil, Champaign 352-7599  In the Shoppes of Knollwood shopping mall. Good food, nice atmosphere, little pricey.	<b>Sam's Café</b>  115 N Walnut St, downtown Champaign 352-7102  Hours may fluctuate. Rustic coffee shop with good food at decent prices.

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

<b>Merry Ann's Diner</b> **701 S Gregory St, Urbana 344-2455 **1510 S. Neil St., Champaign 352-5399 One Main, downtown Champaign 531-1160  Open 24/7. Traditional diner, with good food.	<b>International House of Pancakes</b> <a href="http://ihop.com">ihop.com</a> **308 E Green, Champaign 351-6972  Tons of different types of pancakes. Also have good regular meals on the menu.
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#### Weekend Breakfast ONLY – and awesome lunch/dinner buffets the rest of the week!

<b>Ryan's</b> <a href="http://www.ryans.com">www.ryans.com</a> 1004 W Anthony Dr, Champaign 352-7403  Incredible all-you-can-eat weekend breakfast buffet. Different lunch and dinner menus daily. My fave buffet!	<b>Home Town Buffet</b> <a href="http://www.hometownbuffet.com">www.hometownbuffet.com</a> 2306 N Prospect, Champaign 355-9429  Incredible all-you-can-eat weekend breakfast buffet. Different lunch and dinner menus daily.
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#### Family Style Restaurants (that also serve breakfast)

<b>The Apple Dumpling</b> 2014 High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-0076  An Urbana tradition. <i>Great</i> home cooking! Tiny place with maybe 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.	<b>Urbana Garden Family Restaurant</b> <a href="http://urbanagarden.com">urbanagarden.com</a> 810 Killarney St, Urbana 328-1514  Nightly specials and all-you-can-eat specials. Good food/good prices. Salad bar, good desserts. Serve breakfast all day. Great broasted chicken! We eat here a lot.
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<b>Bob Evans</b> <a href="http://www.bobevans.com">www.bobevans.com</a> 1813 N Prospect, Champaign 356-1006  Famous for their sausage. Great breakfast selections. "Home-style" cooking.	<b>Cracker Barrel Old Country Store</b> <a href="http://www.crackerbarrel.com">www.crackerbarrel.com</a> 2101 N Kenyon Road, Urbana 344-9087  Good "home-style" food. Attached to a country store so you can browse after dinner or while waiting to be seated.
<b>Perkins Family Restaurant</b> <a href="http://www.perkinsrestaurants.com">www.perkinsrestaurants.com</a> **1214 W University, Urbana 328-3000  Huge variety of menu choices, and they serve breakfast all day. Also has an on-site bakery where you can buy whole pies or slices. Be prepared for slow service.	<b>Courier Cafe</b> <a href="http://www.couriersilvercreek.com/couriercafe">www.couriersilvercreek.com/couriercafe</a> 111 N Race, downtown Urbana 328-1811  Great garden (and regular) burgers, veggie quesadillas, appetizers, and a big salad bar. They also have a soda fountain.
<b>Taffie's</b> <a href="http://taffiesrestaurant.com">taffiesrestaurant.com</a> 301 S Mattis Ave, Champaign 359-4201  Good prices, good food. Typical diner fare/atmosphere.	

### Good Food Fast

<b>Taco Bell</b> <a href="http://www.tacobell.com">www.tacobell.com</a> **1003 W University, Urbana **1707 S Neil Street, Champaign Other Champaign locations: 1910 W Springfield, 2000 N Neil, 10 E Anthony Dr  Americanized Mexican fast food <i>cheap!</i> You can eat a whole meal for around \$2!! Open late most nights.	<b>Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC)</b> <a href="http://www.kfc.com">www.kfc.com</a> 2201 W Springfield, Champaign 352-0900 410 W University, Urbana 328-3379 1321 N Dunlap, Savoy 356-1861 (w/ A&W root beer shop)  Just great chicken: fried, extra crispy, BBQ, Tender Roast. Also serve side dishes - my favorite is their coleslaw.
<b>Arby's</b> <a href="http://arbys.com">arbys.com</a> Champaign: 1913 W Springfield Ave 356-0622; 1502 N Prospect 359-0026; 2310 S Neil 398-5677 Urbana: 509 N Cunningham 367-5624  Finely sliced roast beef sandwiches are what they are known for. They also serve sliced turkey, grilled or fried chicken, fish and offer Market/Deli Sandwiches for a little more.	<b>Sonic America's Drive-In</b> <a href="http://sonicdrivein.com">sonicdrivein.com</a> 601 N Mattis, Champaign 356-1230 101 Calvin St, Savoy 359-8901  Drive thru or park and eat in your car! Burgers, hot dogs, breakfast sandwiches and burritos. They also serve shakes and slushies (ice with favored syrup). You can get cream slushies for the best of both worlds in a huge variety of flavors (I like the watermelon). Very good and inexpensive.

### Big Chain Burger Joints

<b>McDonald's (Mc-E D's)</b> <a href="http://www.mcdonalds.com">www.mcdonalds.com</a> They are <i>everywhere!</i> Closest: 1605 S Neil, Champaign  They have great French fries! Are now offering more "healthy" alternatives, as well. 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. Kids love McE Ds!	<b>Burger King (BK)</b> <a href="http://www.bk.com">www.bk.com</a> Champaign: 2110 N Prospect 398-7801; 2105 W Springfield 398-8906 1708 Philo Road, Urbana 344-2855 1325 N Dunlap Ave, Savoy 954-1442  A more adult burger place. Flame-broiled burgers made to order - not pre-prepared. They also have fish & chicken sandwiches and onion rings, too.
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<b>Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers</b> <a href="http://www.wendys.com">www.wendys.com</a> **608 S Sixth, Campus 344-2133 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).	<b>Hardee's</b> <a href="http://www.hardees.com">www.hardees.com</a> **1703 S Neil, Champaign 355-0946 1806 W Bradley, Champaign 398-5825  Great sourdough bread sandwiches. Huge burgers. Great breakfast menu including cinnamon-raisin biscuits and biscuits and gravy.
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## Barbeque Joints

<b>Lil Porgy's Bar-B-Q</b> <a href="http://www.lilporgysbbq.com">www.lilporgysbbq.com</a> 1917 W Springfield, Champaign 398-8575 101 W University, Urbana 367-1018  Excellent hickory-smoked barbecue chicken, ribs, pork, and beef. They cook over wood. Different daily specials. Good prices.	<b>Hickory River Smokehouse</b> <a href="http://hickoryriver.com">hickoryriver.com</a> 1706 N Cunningham, Urbana 337-1656  “Real” Texas barbeque. Great food, but a bit pricey. I love their huge Texas taters smothered in BBQ sauce, sour cream, cheese, and onions for around \$4.
<b>Black Dog Smoke &amp; Ale House</b> 201 N Broadway, Urbana 344-9334 2 <sup>nd</sup> location in downtown Champaign to open in 2014  Many feel this place is the best in town. A bit pricey.	

## Sandwich Shops

<b>Subway Sandwiches &amp; Salads</b> <a href="http://www.subway.com">www.subway.com</a> **616 E Green and numerous locations throughout C-U. On Campus: next to Kam's.  Good foot long submarine sandwiches (can also get 3” and 6” subs). Bread fresh baked daily. Lots of sandwich varieties and you choose your own condiments. Also offer salads and breakfast sandwiches.	<b>Steak 'n Shake</b> <a href="http://www.steaknshake.com">www.steaknshake.com</a> **1709 S Neil St. 352-5001, Champaign 2010 N Prospect, Champaign 398-1606 2009 N Kenyon, Urbana 344-3855  Open 24 hours. Steakburgers, fries, chili, hand-dipped shakes & freezes are their specialties. They have several meals under \$4. My old high-school hangout.
<b>Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches</b> <a href="http://www.jimmyjohns.com">www.jimmyjohns.com</a> Campus: **43 E Green 344-6200, **601 E Green 344-4443, **807 S Lincoln 328-3100 & numerous other locations around town  Freaky fast delivery! 8” subs with fixin's or plain slims.	<b>Silver Mine Subs</b> <a href="http://www.silverminesubs.com">www.silverminesubs.com</a> **612 E Daniel, Champaign 328-5000  They deliver, too – until 3am! Cold and hot subs, soups and salads.
<b>Derald's Catering Truck</b> on Mathews on campus: **near Noyes 637-0144 to order ahead  The <i>best</i> fish sandwiches in town - on Friday's only. Has good sandwiches & breakfast items all week. Also sells Ye Olde Donuts, chips, coffee, pop, etc.	<b>Sea Boat</b> <a href="http://theseaboat.com">theseaboat.com</a> **403 W Kirby, Champaign 355-9933  Excellent catfish sandwiches and southern cooking! They have the best macaroni & cheese I have ever tasted (sorry, Mom!). And they deliver. Pricey, but worth it.

## On-Campus Gems

<p><b>Newman Foundation</b>, Newman Res Hall (<a href="http://www.sjcnc.org/menu.aspx">www.sjcnc.org/menu.aspx</a>) **604 E Armory, Champaign 344-0732</p> <p>Cafeteria-style at excellent prices! A U of I tradition...it was popular when <i>I</i> went here!</p>	<p><b>Bevier Café</b> (<a href="http://beviercafe.illinois.edu">beviercafe.illinois.edu</a>) 260 Bevier Hall, Urbana 244-4498</p> <p>Student-operated café open M-F. Only 3-4 main entrees, a couple specials and sides daily – and they can run out early. Excellent food at good prices.</p>
<p><b>Illini Union Ballroom</b> (<a href="http://www.housing.illinois.edu">www.housing.illinois.edu</a>) 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor NE corner, Illini Union</p> <p>Lunch buffet 11:30-1:30 M-F only. Menu includes salad bar, deli bar, hot soups, beverage, and dessert. Plus hot entrees/sides that change daily. All for \$11.50 (tax included). Over the summer, meals are held in the Colonial Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor from 11:30-1 M-F.</p>	<p><b>Spice Box</b> (<a href="http://spicebox.illinois.edu">spicebox.illinois.edu</a>) Bevier Hall 333-6520</p> <p>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.</p>

## 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! (My favorite Los Angeles restaurant, *Paco's*, makes fresh, handmade tortillas on a special grill and serves 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><b>Fiesta Café</b> (<a href="http://www.fiestacafe.com">www.fiestacafe.com</a>) **216 S 1st, Champaign 352-5902</p> <p>I love their food, especially their chicken/mole tamales and cheese enchiladas.</p>	<p><b>Dos Reales</b> (<a href="http://www.dosrealeschampaign.com">www.dosrealeschampaign.com</a>) 1407 N Prospect, Champaign 351-6879</p> <p>Great authentic Mexican food at good prices. I love the Pollo a la Parilla.</p>
<p><b>Toro Loco</b> 1601 N Cunningham, Urbana 344-7855 <b>El Toro II</b> 723 S Neil, Champaign 378-7807 <b>El Toro Bravo</b> 2561 W Springfield, C 351-7024 (<a href="http://eltororestaurante.com">eltororestaurante.com</a>)</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><b>Mas Amigos</b> (<a href="http://masamigoschampaign.com">masamigoschampaign.com</a>) 1106 W University, Urbana 344-6711</p> <p>Authentic Mexican. They also have 3 catering trucks in town, plus a Mexican grocery store on North Cunningham in Urbana. And they deliver, too!</p>
<p><b>Cactus Grill</b> (<a href="http://www.cactusgrillchampaign.com">www.cactusgrillchampaign.com</a>) **1405 S Neil St, Champaign 351-8226</p> <p>Burritos, bowls, salads, tacos and quesadillas for pick up or delivered to your door! You build your own meal. I love their honey grilled chicken burritos. Super daily specials, too.</p>	<p><b>La Bamba</b> (<a href="http://www.labambaburritos.com">www.labambaburritos.com</a>) 1905 Glenn Park, Champaign 355-6600</p> <p>Their motto: "burritos as big as your head!" And it is a pretty accurate description.</p>
<p><b>Chili's Grill and Bar</b> (<a href="http://www.chilis.com">www.chilis.com</a>) 1905 N Prospect, Champaign 398-2161</p> <p>Southwestern – Not really Mexican, but close... Great turkey burgers and black bean burgers and appetizers, too.</p>	<p><b>Maize Mexican Grill</b> (<a href="http://www.maizemexicangrill.com">www.maizemexicangrill.com</a>) **60 E Green, Champaign 355-6400</p> <p>I have not yet eaten here, but I have heard rave reviews. The space is super tiny, but heard they have plans to move to a larger place soon. I can't wait to try their food!</p>

## Pizza/Italian Food

Pizza is my second favorite food. There are many pizzas places in town. I am listing my personal favorites here. Italian food always tends to be a little expensive. I've listed the inexpensive ones here and list the more expensive places a little later.

<b>Monical's</b> <a href="http://www.monicalspizza.com">www.monicalspizza.com</a> Champaign: **103 W Kirby 356-4243; 205 N Mattis 359-3514; 2720 S Philo Rd, Urbana 367-5781  They have <i>great</i> thin crust pizza. And other good Italian food at good prices. And they deliver.	<b>Jupiter's</b> <a href="http://www.jupiterspizza.com">www.jupiterspizza.com</a> 39 E Main, downtown Champaign 398-5988, 2511 Village Green Pl (at the Crossing), Champaign 366-8300  Their pizza is "out of this world"... Have billiards at both locations and a game room at the Crossing.
<b>Papa Del's</b> <a href="http://www.papadels.com">www.papadels.com</a> **206 Green, Champaign 359-7700 2510 Village Green Pl, Champaign 359-5500  For <b>deep dish</b> crust pizza, one of the best places around. Be prepared for at least an hour wait for your pizza!! The Crossing location is pick-up/delivery only. Also have other Italian fare and sandwiches.	<b>Jet's Pizza</b> <a href="http://jetspizza.com">jetspizza.com</a> **512 S Neil St, Champaign 352-3333  I love their 8 corner deep dish pizzas – each slice has its own corner crust! Their BBQ Chicken is my fave. You can add flavors to your crust, too (I get the turbo: butter, garlic & parmesan cheese). They have good sides, too. They deliver!
<b>Papa Murphy's</b> <a href="http://www.papamurphys.com">www.papamurphys.com</a> 114 N Vine St, Urbana (Schnuck's Crossing) 344-7700 and at Old Farm Shops, Champaign 356-8000  "Take 'N Bake" pizza. They make it fresh to order, you take it home and bake it! Really good! We get the Delite pizza – less fat and calories, but lots of flavor.	<b>Fazoli's</b> <a href="http://www.fazolis.com">www.fazolis.com</a> 2029 N Prospect, Champaign 356-4820  FAST Italian food and pizza...it's really good and inexpensive! When you dine in, you get unlimited breadsticks.
<b>Za's</b> <a href="http://zasitaliancafe.com">zasitaliancafe.com</a> 2006 W Springfield Ave, Champaign 355-4990, 1905 N Neil, Champaign 356-5347  Individual pizzas, hot sandwiches, salads, and pastas made to order. Great desserts, too! Drive-thru or dine-in	<b>Mia Za's Café</b> <a href="http://www.miazas.com">www.miazas.com</a> **629 E Green St, Champaign 352-2697  Similar concept to Za's (make your own or order their specials) with the great, healthy food ingredients.
<b>Sbarro</b> <a href="http://www.sbarro.com">www.sbarro.com</a> **Illini Union food court (basement) Market Place Mall food court  Inexpensive Italian food fast!	

## Cajun

A couple Cajun places have opened up. Both are very good and if you ask for mild, it is not all that spicy.

<b>J. Gumbo's Cajun Joint</b> <a href="http://www.jgumbos.com">www.jgumbos.com</a> **700 S Gregory, Urbana 337-4840  I love the veggie Bumblebee Stew and Bourbon Street Chicken. I've tried several other items that are tasty, too! They will let you sample a bite before you order if you are worried about it being too spicy.	<b>Louie's Dixie Kitchen and BBQ</b> <a href="http://www.louiesbbq.com">www.louiesbbq.com</a> 1104 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 954-0301  Cajun and Creole restaurant. Everything I tried was good. Homemade dressings, sauces, and desserts. They have music occasionally as well.
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## Middle Eastern/Indian/Greek Food

We have a number of Middle Eastern and Indian places in town. These are just a few I've tried.

<b>Bombay Indian Grill</b> <a href="http://bombaygrillcu.com">bombaygrillcu.com</a> **401 E Green, Champaign 344-3380 **302 S 1st St, Champaign 398-8400  Fine dining/buffet at the 1st Street location. A little pricey, but very tasty food!	<b>Jerusalem Middle Eastern Cuisine</b> **601 S Wright St, Champaign 398-9022  Good food, good prices, good selection. Items like schwarma, falafels, hummus...and right on campus, too. I haven't been for awhile – heard it is now lunch only.
<b>Zorba's</b> **627 E Green, Champaign 344-0710  <i>Excellent gyros! My favorite is the chicken gyros with sour cream. They also have other Greek/American specialties. Awesome fries and baklava. Lunch specials every day. I've been eating at Zorba's since my college days, though it has been completely remodeled after a fire a few years ago.</i>	<b>Niro's Gyros</b> 1007 W University, Urbana 328-6476 <a href="http://nirosgyrosuniversityave.com">nirosgyrosuniversityave.com</a> 2001 W Springfield, Champaign 355-6760 <a href="http://nirosgyroschampaign.com">nirosgyroschampaign.com</a>  Also have hot dogs, Italian beef, burgers, and chicken. Limited dine-in, but have drive-thru and delivery at both locations.

## 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: Mi Krob. ☹

<b>The Y Thai Eatery</b> **1st floor, YMCA, 1001 S Wright, C 344-5040  Excellent Thai food at good prices. I get the tofu pad thai. Only open 10:30am-2:30pm, Monday-Friday.	<b>Basil Thai Urbana</b> <a href="http://basil-thai.com">basil-thai.com</a> **701 S Gregory Pl (between Oregon & Nevada) 344-8662  Authentic Thai cuisine. I always get their Pad Thai.
<b>Siam Terrace</b> <a href="http://urbanasiamterrace.com">urbanasiamterrace.com</a> 212 W Main, downtown Urbana 367-8424  My Thai students said this is the best Thai food in CU.	<b>Nitaya Thai Restaurant</b> 134 W Church, downtown Champaign 359-5540  Good nouveau cuisine, in a funky atmosphere.
<b>My Thai</b> <a href="http://www.mythaichampaign.com">www.mythaichampaign.com</a> 2312 W Springfield, Champaign 351-8424  Serve Thai and sushi.	

### Chinese

Chinese cuisine is immensely popular and there are so many places from which to choose. Here are my favorites:

<b>#1 Wok</b> **12 E Green St, Champaign 356-4700  Dine-in, take-out only. Recommended for their chicken angel hair stir-fry, and they did not disappoint.	<b>Golden Harbor</b> **505 S Neil St, Champaign 398-8988  <i>Authentic Chinese cuisine. Highly recommended by my Chinese students.</i>
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<b>Rainbow Garden</b> <a href="http://www.rainbow-garden.com">www.rainbow-garden.com</a> **1402 S Neil St, Champaign 398-2670 202 E University Ave, Urbana 344-1888  Great food, though a bit pricey, and they deliver. Love their pan fried noodle and rice noodle dishes!	<b>FlatTop Grill</b> <a href="http://www.flattopgrill.com">www.flattopgrill.com</a> **607 S Sixth St, Campus 344-3200  “Create your own stir-fry”. They have a create your own breakfast that I have yet to try...
<b>Super Wok</b> <a href="http://www.gosuperwok.com">www.gosuperwok.com</a> 1737 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 398-0111  Dine-in or carry out. They also have great angel hair stir-fry, and have good prices.	<b>Peking Garden</b> <a href="http://www.pekinggardenchampaign.com">www.pekinggardenchampaign.com</a> 206 N Randolph, downtown Champaign 355-8888  Great food. And they have pan fried noodles, too (not everyone does)!
<b>Ichiban Chinese Buffet &amp; Sushi Bar</b> <a href="http://ichibanchampaign.com">ichibanchampaign.com</a> 105 N Mattis, Champaign 398-5650  Wonderful buffet plus sushi bar. When I went, there was a prime rib from which you could carve your own portion. That was worth the price of dinner alone!	<b>Chinatown Buffet</b> 713 Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-9888  As the name implies, this is a <i>huge</i> buffet of not only Chinese fare, but sushi and American as well. You can have a steak grilled to order or create your own stir fry.

## Japanese

<b>Kamakura Japanese Restaurant</b> <a href="http://www.kamakurajapaneserestaurant.com">www.kamakurajapaneserestaurant.com</a> **715 S Neil, Champaign 351-9898  Excellent Japanese food. Sit in the restaurant or at the teppan bar. A bit pricey, but worth it. I love their yakisoba, tempura, and teriyaki!	<b>Sarku Japan</b> <a href="http://www.sarkujapan.com">www.sarkujapan.com</a> Market Place Mall food court 378-8028  Their specialty is teriyaki chicken, which they wok up in front of you.
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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.

<b>Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant</b> <a href="http://www.channingmurray.org/redherring.html">www.channingmurray.org/redherring.html</a> **1209 W Oregon, Urbana 367-2340  “Voted Best Vegetarian Menu Options in Best of CU for 2012.” Vegan food night Thursdays 5-8pm.	<b>Strawberry Fields Café</b> <a href="http://www.strawberry-fields.com">www.strawberry-fields.com</a> 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655  There is a small café located in the store.
<b>Common Ground Co-op</b> <a href="http://commonground.coop">commonground.coop</a> 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, so I will mention the ones that also serve great food and where I have actually eaten. The food can be a bit pricey at these places, so I only enjoy on occasion.

<b>Applebee's</b> <a href="http://applebees.com">applebees.com</a> 2121 N Prospect, Champaign 359-8178 1201 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-1894  Good food, great specials. I love their Oriental Chicken salad. They also have meals under 550 calories and Weight Watchers selections.	<b>TGI Friday's</b> <a href="http://www.tgifridays.com">www.tgifridays.com</a> 103 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 352-8443  Neat place to get appetizers, meals, drinks, and desserts. I love their Jack Daniel's Grill items and their Tuscan Spinach Dip appetizer. A little pricey, but worth it. Check out the Chief Illiniwek mural while you are there.
<b>Esquire Lounge</b> <a href="http://www.esquirelounge.com">www.esquirelounge.com</a> 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.	<b>Seven Saints</b> <a href="http://sevensaintsbar.com">sevensaintsbar.com</a> 32 E Chester St, Champaign 351-7775  Upscale bar with old world atmosphere. Awesome cheese curds appetizer and grilled chicken salad sandwiches.
<b>Billy Barooz Pub and Grill</b> <a href="http://www.billybarooz.com">www.billybarooz.com</a> 2521 Village Green Pl, Champaign 355-8030  Great place to watch Illini games on TV! I usually get their deconstructed nachos (all ingredients separate).	<b>Hooters</b> <a href="http://www.hooters.com">www.hooters.com</a> 1706 S State St, Champaign 355-7682  OK, not my fave place, but guys love it. When Harrison Ford's plane needed emergency service and he came into town to eat, he was spotted at Hooters!
<b>Murphy's Pub</b> **605 E Green St, Champaign 344-4372  Irish pub fare – so burgers and fries. This place has been around since before I was in college. You might even find my initials on a table if you look hard enough. Service is a bit slow.	

## 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 coupons (on-line or in the ad section of the paper).

## Steakhouses

<b>The Rib Eye</b> <a href="http://www.theribeyerestaurant.org">www.theribeyerestaurant.org</a> **1701 S Neil, Champaign 351-9115  Known for their impressive salad bar, great steak, and twice baked potatoes. I love their huge fried shrimp. Sunday/Monday nights: Steak for Two special.	<b>Alexander's Steakhouse</b> <a href="http://www.mercedesrestaurants.com/alexanders-steakhouse">www.mercedesrestaurants.com/alexanders-steakhouse</a> 202 W Anthony, Champaign 359-1789  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! ;-)
<b>Outback Steakhouse</b> (yup...Aussie decor!) <a href="http://www.outback.com">www.outback.com</a> 2402 N Prospect, Champaign 398-3322  They serve beef, and lots of it. Also offer chicken and sea foods. I love their Bloomin' Onion appetizer.	<b>Texas Roadhouse</b> <a href="http://www.texasroadhouse.com">www.texasroadhouse.com</a> 204 N Country Fair Dr, Champaign 355-9901  A more casual steakhouse. Start off with peanuts in the shell and great rolls! I love their smothered chicken.



<b>Longhorn Steakhouse</b> <a href="http://www.longhornsteakhouse.com">www.longhornsteakhouse.com</a> 2101 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-9189  Excellent food. They also offer specials that are a little different than your normal steakhouse fare.	<b>Prairie Fire Steak House</b> <a href="http://prairiefirechampaign.com">prairiefirechampaign.com</a> 100 Trade Centre Dr, Champaign 353-5333  Relatively new place in town. I love their beef stroganoff and their southwestern menu is good, too.
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## Seafood

<b>Red Lobster</b> (Cin's favorite fancy place to eat!) <a href="http://www.redlobster.com">www.redlobster.com</a> 1901 N Prospect, Champaign 355-2577  Great seafood, fish and desserts. They are known for their garlic cheese biscuits. I love their coconut shrimp and shrimp fettuccini!	<b>Ko-Fusion</b> <a href="http://www.kofusion.com">www.kofusion.com</a> 1 E Main, downtown Champaign 531-1166 **campus location opening in 2014  "Organic meats, wild-caught seafood, local produce." Really good food, neat atmosphere.
<b>Silvercreek</b> <a href="http://www.couriersilvercreek.com/silvercreek">www.couriersilvercreek.com/silvercreek</a> 402 N Race, Urbana 328-3402  Nice, quiet place with good food. Sunday brunch. Owners also manage the Courier Cafe.	<b>Milo's Restaurant</b> <a href="http://milosurbana.com">milosurbana.com</a> 2870 S Philo, Urbana 344-8946  Good food. Sunday brunch.
<b>Radio Maria</b> <a href="http://www.radiomariarestaurant.com">www.radiomariarestaurant.com</a> 119 N Walnut, Champaign 398-7729  Very eclectic selection of Nouveau cuisine. Small place, so be prepared to wait.	

## Upscale Italian Places

<b>Timpone's</b> <a href="http://www.timpones-urbana.com">www.timpones-urbana.com</a> **710 S Goodwin, Urbana 344-7619  Excellent nouveau cuisine, right on campus! Their own wine cellar, too. I love their pizza.	<b>Biaggi's</b> <a href="http://www.biaggis.com">www.biaggis.com</a> 2235 S Neil, Champaign 356-4300  Great breads, good food. Nouveau-style portions. My mom's favorite fancy place to eat.
<b>Olive Garden</b> <a href="http://www.olivegarden.com">www.olivegarden.com</a> 30 E Anthony Dr, C 351-6339  Great food & desserts. Reasonable prices. All you can eat soup, salad, and breadsticks is a great deal!	<b>Great Impasta</b> <a href="http://www.greatimpastarestaurant.com">www.greatimpastarestaurant.com</a> 156 C Lincoln Square, Urbana 359-7377  The best Italian in town according to former faculty members! Entrance on <i>exterior</i> of northeast corner of mall.
<b>Manzella's Italian Patio Restaurant</b> <a href="http://www.manzellasitalianrestaurant.com">www.manzellasitalianrestaurant.com</a> **115 S First St, Champaign 352-7624  Family owned & operated. Great Italian food at reasonable prices. And they deliver!	<b>Minnecci's</b> <a href="http://www.minnecisristorante.com">www.minnecisristorante.com</a> **Corner of 1 <sup>st</sup> and Springfield, Champaign 352-4425 2501 Village Green, Champaign 366-9225  Very popular place. Opened 2 <sup>nd</sup> location in 2013.