

*The Original, Often Imitated...*

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

**2015**

August 2015

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 ideas about 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.

This list is comprised of most of the places where I actually shop, eat, and visit. My lists are, as a result, limited, so I do list other places I know of that might be of interest. 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 Sometimes these restaurants and businesses only stay around for a short time, and as a result, this guide may be out of date in a matter of months.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 & Quantitative Biology

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## Important Phone Numbers

If you are calling a University number from a University phone, you only dial the last 5 digits of the phone number (e.g., to call 333-1630 from a campus phone, you dial 31630.) Unless it is a 300-XXXX number, then you must dial all 7 digits. When calling an outside line from a campus phone, you need to dial a 9 first, then the number. All local phone numbers within Champaign-Urbana and surrounding area are in the 217 area code. (i.e.: 217-333-1630). As long as the number you are calling from is within the 217 area code, there is no need to dial 217.

### University Phone Numbers

<b>Biophysics &amp; Quantitative Biology</b>		<a href="http://biophysics.illinois.edu">biophysics.illinois.edu</a>
Cindy Dodds, Administrative Coordinator		333-1630 (dodds@illinois.edu)
Graduate College	333-0035	<a href="http://www.grad.illinois.edu">www.grad.illinois.edu</a>
Division 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)	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://counselingcenter.illinois.edu">counselingcenter.illinois.edu</a>
Student Affairs	333-1300	<a href="http://studentaffairs.illinois.edu">studentaffairs.illinois.edu</a>
Graduate Library	333-2290	<a href="http://www.library.illinois.edu">www.library.illinois.edu</a>
Technology Services at Illinois Help Desk	244-7000	<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>

### Emergency Numbers

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

<p><b>Life Threatening Emergency call: 911</b>  <b>(on campus: 9-911)</b></p> <p><b>METCAD ( 911 Service for Champaign County) – Non-Emergency contact 333-8911</b></p>
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It is my understanding that as graduate students, you can utilize either Carle or Presence Covenant Hospitals in an emergency. For regular health care, you should first contact **McKinley Health Center** on campus (number above).

<b>Hospitals</b>		
<b>Carle Hospital</b> 611 W Park, Urbana	383-3311	<a href="http://www.carle.com">www.carle.com</a> Emergency/Level I Trauma Center
<b>Presence Covenant Medical Center</b> 1400 W Park, Urbana	337-2131	<a href="http://www.provena.org/covenant/">www.provena.org/covenant/</a> Emergency Room/Level II Trauma Center
<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://urbanaininois.us/police">urbanaininois.us/police</a>
Fire non-emergency	384-2420	<a href="http://urbanaininois.us/fire">urbanaininois.us/fire</a>
<b>University of Illinois</b>		
Police	333-1216	<a href="http://www.dps.illinois.edu">www.dps.illinois.edu</a>
Emergency Dean of Students	333-0500	<a href="http://odos.illinois.edu/emergency">odos.illinois.edu/emergency</a> (5pm-8:30am)

<b>Champaign County Sheriff</b>	384-1204	<a href="http://www1.co.champaign.il.us/SHERIFF/HOME.PHP">www1.co.champaign.il.us/SHERIFF/HOME.PHP</a> (for incidents outside C-U city limits)
<b>Illinois Poison Center</b>	800-222-1222	<a href="http://illinoispoisoncenter.org">illinoispoisoncenter.org</a>
<b>The Prairie Center</b>	356-7576	<a href="http://www.prairie-center.com">www.prairie-center.com</a> Local alcohol/substance abuse hotline
<b>Road Conditions</b>	800-452-IDOT	<a href="http://www.dot.state.il.us">www.dot.state.il.us</a>

## 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://aspcapro.org/poison">aspcapro.org/poison</a>

## Lost Pets

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 *lifelong* companion animal, the best thing to do is to ADOPT a pet from a local rescue group...they are the best pets ever! If you aren't looking for a pet, but would love to get involved in helping homeless animals while you are in town, 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. For other local shelters, check on-line at Petfinder ([www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)).

<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 Pet Supplies Plus or on the web. A no-kill trap spay/neuter and adoption program.	469-5353 Leave a message	<a href="http://www.catsnap.org">www.catsnap.org</a>
Coming soon: <b>Hospice Hearts</b> Rantoul A no-kill shelter. Looks after the pets of hospice patients and finds loving homes when the patients pass on. Affiliated with CatSnap.		<a href="http://www.hospicehearts.org">www.hospicehearts.org</a>

Here are the local pet stores that support our local rescue/adoption groups, by allowing pets up for adoption to be viewed in their facilities.

<b>PetSmart</b> 2017 N Prospect Ave, Champaign	351-9244	<a href="http://www.petsmart.com">www.petsmart.com</a>
<b>Pets Supplies Plus</b> 2821 W Kirby Ave, Champaign	366-9240	<a href="http://www.petsuppliesplus.com">www.petsuppliesplus.com</a>

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

## Tenant's Unions/Local Utilities (Customer Service Numbers)

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

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

### Tenant's Unions

University of Illinois at U-C 326 Illini Union	333-0112	<a href="http://www.tenantunion.illinois.edu">www.tenantunion.illinois.edu</a>
Champaign-Urbana Tenant's Union	352-6220	<a href="http://www.tenantunion.illinois.edu/hoursnonstudents.html">www.tenantunion.illinois.edu/hoursnonstudents.html</a>

### Utilities

Illinois-American Water Company	800-422-2782	<a href="http://www.amwater.com/ilaw">www.amwater.com/ilaw</a>
Ameren IL (Electric/Gas)	800-755-5000	<a href="http://www.ameren.com/illinois">www.ameren.com/illinois</a>

### Phone Companies (Land Lines/Internet)

AT&T	800-288-2020	<a href="http://www.att.com">www.att.com</a>
Xfinity Comcast	866-594-1234	<a href="http://www.comcast.com">www.comcast.com</a>
Mediacom	866-755-2225	<a href="http://mediacomcc.com">mediacomcc.com</a>

### Cable/Satellite Services

Xfinity (Cable/Broadband/Email/Voice)	866-594-1234 384-2500	<a href="http://xfinity.comcast.net">xfinity.comcast.net</a>
DirecTV (Satellite)	800-531-5000	<a href="http://www.directv.com">www.directv.com</a>
Dish Network (Satellite)	888-434-0112	<a href="http://www.dish.com">www.dish.com</a>

### Cell Phone Companies

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

### Post Offices 800-ASK-USPS (www.usps.com)

<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
<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

## 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*, *Wall Street Journal*, *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 these 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, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Champaign 337-8350	<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://myamericanclassifiedsads.com">myamericanclassifiedsads.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	<b>Thrifty Nickel On Line</b> – sales/ads ( <a href="http://champaign.tnol.com">champaign.tnol.com</a> ) Used to be weekly paper, now just on-line

### 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>
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 US	<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. 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 in order to ride free of charge.

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 the Biophysics office.

## Bicycles

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.

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

**Scoters** 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 that you can rent, and you do have to register all vehicles parked in University lots (see Parking below).

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

#### **Division of Campus Parking**

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

1201 W University Avenue, campus 333-3530

In the parking garage west of the Beckman Institute, across from Perkins Restaurant

Register cars, bikes, motorcycles. Purchase parking permits.

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

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

2012 Round Barn Center, Champaign (opening August 2015)

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.

During the academic year, the mobile DMV unit comes to the Illini Union for one day (9:30am-3pm). It is generally the last Wednesday of the month.

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!

#### **Uber Cars/Taxis**

Relatively new to the area, you can call for an [Uber](http://uber.com) driver to provide you with transportation around town. You can also call one of the many taxi cab companies in town. I have used several companies including: R&H Cab (721-6095) and Safeway (637-1573).

#### **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 new and used bikes and one that sells nice used bikes. Again, you can find used motorcycles in the newspaper or on-line. If you need info on repair shops, please contact me. I know a 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 it running in tip top shape. Recently, I have been taking my car to local dealership. 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 non-dealerships I have used over the years:

<p><b>Farm &amp; Fleet</b> (<a href="http://www.farmandfleet.com">www.farmandfleet.com</a>) 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354</p> <p>Where I go for oil changes, tire rotations, and other minor vehicle repairs. They also sell tires, new auto parts, food, clothes, etc.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Fix brakes and exhaust systems, oil changes, tires.</p>
<p><b>Neil Auto Parts &amp; Service</b> 807 N State, Champaign 351-6993</p> <p>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!</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Alternators, starters, generators, etc. Custom electrical rebuilding, diagnostics, and installations.</p>

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

<p><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</p>	<p><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.</p>
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If you are mechanically inclined, or have very minor repairs to make, here are some places where you can pick up parts for your vehicles. You can also find these items at places like Farm and Fleet, WalMart, and Meijer.

NEW parts	USED parts
<p><b>Advance Auto Parts</b> (<a href="http://shop.advanceautoparts.com">shop.advanceautoparts.com</a>) 403 N Mattis Ave, Champaign 356-7069 805 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-9661 110 N Vine St, Urbana 337-0072</p>	<p><b>Bill Smith Auto</b> (<a href="http://www.billsmithauto.com">www.billsmithauto.com</a>) 3405 N Countryview Rd, Urbana 367-5090</p> <p>Just off Route 45. They can also work on your car or sell you a used one.</p>
<p><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</p>	<p><b>Mack's Auto Recycling</b> (<a href="http://www.macks-auto.com">www.macks-auto.com</a>) 1309 E Kerr, Urbana (auto) 367-6219 Used parts, used cars and repair service available. They also run <b>Mack's Twin City Recycling</b> at 2808 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana 328-2100 for your household recycling drop-offs.</p>

# Shop ‘Till You Drop!

## Food Shopping

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

### Grocery Stores

#### “No-Frill”/ “Warehouse” Grocery Stores

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

<b>Aldi</b> <a href="http://aldi.us">(aldi.us)</a> 701 W Interstate Dr, Champaign 3102 E University, Urbana	<b>Save-A-Lot</b> <a href="http://save-a-lot.com">(save-a-lot.com)</a> 220 N Broadway, Urbana 384-6885
<b>Ruler Foods</b> <a href="http://www.jaycfoods.com">www.jaycfoods.com</a> 716 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-7100 2002 W Springfield, Champaign 373-1450	<b>GFS</b> <a href="http://www.gfs.com">www.gfs.com</a> 502 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-3056

### County Market ([www.countymarket.com](http://www.countymarket.com))

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

331 Stoughton St (near campus at Springfield Ave), Champaign 352-4123
312 W Kirby Ave (near campus west of Neil) Champaign 352-0019 (small store; no bakery/deli)
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

### Schnuck’s ([www.schnucks.com](http://www.schnucks.com))

If you can afford it, Schnuck's stores are really nice. 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.

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

### Farmer's Markets

During the summer months and early fall (May-November), there are many outdoor Farmer's Markets that sell fresh produce from local growers. Several of the shopping malls will host these markets in their parking lots at various times during the week, as well as on the Quad, and in some neighborhoods around town. For example, there is a regular Saturday morning farmer's market at Lincoln Square in Urbana ([urbanaininois.us/market](http://urbanaininois.us/market)). It is always crowded and loaded with wonderful finds from the area – baked goods, produce, flowers, etc. Check the news/papers for other locations.

### Roadside Produce Stands

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

**Super Discount Stores**

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

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

<p><b>Meijer (One of Cindy's favorite stores!)</b>  <a href="http://www.meijer.com">www.meijer.com</a>                  2401 N Prospect, Champaign 353-4000                  2500 S Philo Rd, Urbana 365-5200</p> <p>I do most of my grocery shopping here. I buy their Meijer brand foods a lot and am addicted to their diet grape soda pop!</p>	<p><b>Walmart 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</p> <p>Walmarts are everywhere! The “Great Value” brand is their store brand.</p>
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These **super discount stores** have grocery stores, but are **not open 24 hours**:

<p><b>Target</b>  <a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a>                  2102 N Prospect, Champaign 355-3325</p> <p>I love Target! (pronounced as Tar-jay, if you want to sound sophisticated).</p>	<p><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</p> <p>You must be a member to shop here (only \$45/year to join). They sell items in large quantities/bulk.</p>
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**Farm Stores**

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

<p><b>Farm and Fleet</b>  <a href="http://www.farmandfleet.com">www.farmandfleet.com</a>                  2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354</p> <p>A Midwestern shopping experience!</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Free popcorn to munch while you shop!</p>
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**Special Discount Stores**

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

<p><b>Big Lots (I love this place!)</b>  <a href="http://www.biglots.com">www.biglots.com</a>                  2004 W Springfield, Champaign                  355-1844</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><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</p>	<p><b>Dollar Tree</b>  <a href="http://www.dollartree.com">www.dollartree.com</a>                  2009 N Prospect, Champaign 351-3143                  1303 E Colorado Ave, Urbana 344-2576                  1333 Savoy Plaza Center, Suite 3, Savoy 352-4390</p>

## Specialty Shops

Please note that, in general, specialty shops, or shops that carry only one or two main items, are more costly than your super stores or regular grocery stores. 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 these 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. I haven't shopped in all these places, but thought I would list them for my international students.

<p><b>Strawberry Fields</b> (<a href="http://www.strawberry-fields.com">www.strawberry-fields.com</a>) 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655</p> <p>Reopened in July 2015 under new management. Natural food/health store, bakery, café and caterer.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Non-profit grocery store that sells local/organic foods.</p>
<p><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 &amp; 6th Streets</p> <p>Gourmet international foods/café.</p>	<p><b>Art Mart</b> (<a href="http://shopartmart.com">shopartmart.com</a>) *moving soon to 1705 S Prospect, Champaign</p> <p>Gourmet international foods/café/wines. Also sell educational toys and objects d'art.</p>
<p><b>The Green Onion</b> 2020 S Neil, Champaign 359-5370</p> <p>Korean/Japanese/Chinese market.</p>	<p><b>Far East Grocery</b> 105 S Fifth, Champaign 352-7137</p> <p>Looks kinda scary from the outside, but is an awesome authentic Asian market. Cash only!</p>
<p><b>Lee's Oriental Foods</b> (next to the County Market on Kirby) 303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949</p> <p>Korean market/food.</p>	<p><b>AM-KO Oriental Foods &amp; Gifts</b> (<a href="http://amkogrocery.com">amkogrocery.com</a>) 101 E Springfield, Champaign 398-2922</p> <p>Asian market.</p>
<p><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</p> <p>Indian grocery. They serve food (deliver, too)!</p>	<p><b>Annapoorna Stores</b> (<a href="http://www.annapoornastore.com">www.annapoornastore.com</a>) 505 S Neil St., Suite 11, Champaign 355-5215</p> <p>Indian Groceries and video rentals.</p>
<p><b>Mas Amigos Inc</b> 607 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 384-1315</p> <p>Mexican Grocery Store. They also have several catering trucks around town.</p>	<p><b>El Charro Mexican Grocery</b> (<a href="http://www.elcharrochampaign.com">www.elcharrochampaign.com</a>) 55 E Green St, Champaign 337-6647</p> <p>Authentic Mexican restaurant and grocery store.</p>

## Butcher Shops

<p><b>Uof I Meat Science Laboratory</b> (<a href="http://meatandeggssales.illinois.edu">meatandeggssales.illinois.edu</a>) 1503 S Maryland Dr, Urbana 333-3404</p> <p>One of the best kept secrets in town! Only open Tu/Th afternoons and Fri mornings. Awesome freshly cut meats and fresh eggs at great prices.</p>	<p><b>Old Time Meat and Deli Shoppe</b> (<a href="http://www.oldtimemeatanddeli.com">www.oldtimemeatanddeli.com</a>) 2018 S Neil, Champaign 355-0000</p> <p>Great deli sandwiches made to order. Superior meat selection. Amish raised poultry.</p>
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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 (at Country Fair shops), Champaign 352-9665  
 1818 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-1192  
 1111 N Dunlap St, Savoy 531-2123

### 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

## Shopping Malls

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

Market Place Mall is the largest mall in town. It has clothing and shoe stores, jewelry stores, gift shops, specialty stores, music and bookstores, and a food court. There are several major department stores located in Market Place including Bergner’s, Macy’s, and JC Penney. You can also find other big name stores like: Aéropostale, Bath & Body Works, Banana Republic, Edie Bauer, Footlocker, Gap, Old Navy, Pandora, and Victoria’s Secret.

### Market Place Mall

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

2000 N Neil Street (north of I-74), Champaign  
 356-2700

There are some smaller malls in town, but they are dying out. Lincoln Square was one of the first enclosed malls in the US and was THE place to shop when I was growing up here! These malls no longer have big name department stores. 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 – though again, you are generally paying a little more for convenience. These malls usually house a specialized shop or two, maybe a restaurant, and then smaller shops like a dry cleaners, tanning salon, or a cell phone company. Here are just a few:

<b>Old Farm Shops</b> (Upscale Shopping) <a href="http://www.oldfarmshops.com">www.oldfarmshops.com</a> Kirby and Mattis Avenues, Champaign  Panera Bread, Talbots, Vilardo's, Checkered Moon, Glenn Poor's, Subway, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Super Wok, TCBY, UPS Store	<b>Village at the Crossing</b> (Upscale Dining) Duncan and Windsor, Champaign  Jupiter's, Billy Barooz, Papa Del's, Minneci's, Espresso Royale, Wedge Tequila Bar and Grill, Aroma Curry House, Rod Sickler Salon & Spa, Blossom Basket, Subway
<b>Windsor Galleria</b> (Upscale Dining) 1100 Windsor Road (near Galen), Champaign  Sun Singer Wines & Spirits, The New Sweet Indulgence Bakery, Starcrest Cleaners, Green Jade, Station 6 Pizza	<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, BodyN'Sole
<b>Stadium Plaza</b> 1400 block of S Neil Street, Champaign  Subway, Espresso Royale, Cactus Grill, Amanos Pizza	<b>Schnuck's Urbana Crossing</b> 114 N Vine Street, Urbana  Schnuck's, Papa Murphy's, China Garden, Radio Shack
<b>Hillcrest Center</b> 2000 block of S Neil Street, Champaign  Old Time Meat & Deli, Green Onion.	<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 – newly renovated, new stores soon!</b> 500 S Neil, Champaign  Golden Harbor, Annapoorna Foods
<b>Coming soon:</b> Green Street Plaza, corner of Green and Neil	<b>Gateway Shoppes at Five Points</b> 202 E University Ave, Urbana Rainbow Garden, Po' Boys, City Girl Frozen Yogurt, Great Clips

## YMCA Dump and Run

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

## Champaign County Humane Society GIANT Garage Sale

Also held once a year – Memorial Day weekend at the end of May – this is their big fund raiser for the animals. They have wonderful donated items at incredibly low prices. The sale lasts 3 days: Friday-Sunday. Come early come often as there is never enough room to put everything out at once, so it becomes a new sale every day! It is held in Kessler Hall at the Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana. [www.cuhumane.org/NewsEvents/GIANTGarageSale.aspx](http://www.cuhumane.org/NewsEvents/GIANTGarageSale.aspx)

## Cindy’s Favorite Department Store

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

<p><b>Kohl’s</b>  <a href="http://www.kohls.com">www.kohls.com</a>                  109 Convenience Center Rd, Champaign 352-0431</p>
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## “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!

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

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

<p><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</p>	<p><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</p>
<p><b>Connections</b>  <a href="http://courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store">courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store</a>                  120 Lincoln Square Mall 384-2158</p>	

## Consignment Clothing Stores

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

<p><b>Karen’s Kloset</b> (Women’s clothing)  <a href="http://karenskloset.com">karenskloset.com</a>                  231 S Mattis (Country Fair), Champaign 355-9395</p>	<p><b>Yours, Mine, and Ours</b> (Children’s clothing)                  1824 Glen Park, Champaign (next to County Market) 356-0880</p>
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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 and Facebook local garage sale sites.

<p><b>Habitat for Humanity ReStore</b>  <a href="http://cuhabitat.org">(<a href="http://cuhabitat.org">cuhabitat.org</a>)</a>                  119 E University, Champaign 359-0507</p>	<p><b>Connections</b>  <a href="http://courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store">(<a href="http://courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store">courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store</a>)</a>                  120 Lincoln Square Mall 384-2158</p>
<p><b>Goodwill/Urbana LaBelle Boutique</b>  <a href="http://www.llgi.org">(<a href="http://www.llgi.org">www.llgi.org</a>)</a>                  912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870                  114A N Vine St, Urbana 607-5257</p>	<p><b>Salvation Army Family Thrift Store</b>  <a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org">(<a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org">www.salvationarmyusa.org</a>)</a>                  2212 N Market, Champaign 373-7825                  109 W John St, Champaign 351-0952</p>

## New Furniture Stores

For inexpensive new furniture, I suggest checking out the “super discount” and “special discount” stores – like Meijer, Target, Big Lots, Walmart, etc. – where you can find bookshelves, futons, chairs, etc. I have not yet purchased furniture at the stores below, but these *relatively* inexpensive places have mattresses, couches, recliners, dressers, dining room tables, beds, etc. The furniture *should* last you until at least the end of graduate school...and perhaps beyond.

<p><b>Bender’s Mattress Factory &amp; Sleep Shop</b>  <a href="http://www.bendermattress.com">(<a href="http://www.bendermattress.com">www.bendermattress.com</a>)</a>                  1206 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 328-1700</p> <p>My family and I buy all our mattresses here!                  Custom made mattresses, family-owned business.</p>	<p><b>Furniture Row</b>  <a href="http://www.furniturerow.com/">(<a href="http://www.furniturerow.com/">www.furniturerow.com/</a>)</a>                  2711 N Prospect Ave, Champaign                  Denver Mattress 351-5512                  Sofa Mart 351-5157                  Oak Express/Bedroom Expressions 351-5144</p>
<p><b>Illini Mattress</b>  <a href="http://www.illinimattress.com">(<a href="http://www.illinimattress.com">www.illinimattress.com</a>)</a>                  514 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign 359-0156</p>	<p><b>This Is It Furniture</b>  <a href="http://thisisitfurniturediscount.com">(<a href="http://thisisitfurniturediscount.com">thisisitfurniturediscount.com</a>)</a>                  Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 351-5102</p>
<p><b>Mattress Boss</b>  <a href="http://themattressboss.com">(<a href="http://themattressboss.com">themattressboss.com</a>)</a>                  1102 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 607-2072</p>	<p><b>Furniture Warehouse</b>  <a href="http://www.cufurniturewarehouse.com">(<a href="http://www.cufurniturewarehouse.com">www.cufurniturewarehouse.com</a>)</a>                  126 E University, Champaign 352-0080</p>

## Home Improvement Stores

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

<p><b>Menards</b>  <a href="http://www.menards.com">(<a href="http://www.menards.com">www.menards.com</a>)</a>                  620 Town Ctr Blvd, Champaign 359-6100</p> <p>Huge store with lumber yard, garden shop, etc. - prices competitive with Lowe's. I primarily shop here for the best prices.</p>	<p><b>Lowe's</b>  <a href="http://www.lowes.com">(<a href="http://www.lowes.com">www.lowes.com</a>)</a>                  1904 N Prospect, Champaign 373-7300</p> <p>Huge store with lumber yard &amp; garden shop and very good prices/selections. Have a little bigger selection than Menard's, but can cost a bit more.</p>
<p><b>Home Depot</b>  <a href="http://www.homedepot.com">(<a href="http://www.homedepot.com">www.homedepot.com</a>)</a>                  820 N Bloomington Rd, Champaign 356-2629</p> <p>Huge store with lumber yard, nursery, etc. Only place you can get Behr paint – which is the best!</p>	<p><b>Farm and Fleet</b>  <a href="http://www.farmandfleet.co">(<a href="http://www.farmandfleet.co">www.farmandfleet.co</a>)</a>                  2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354</p> <p>Everything from overalls to paint to car batteries.</p>
<p><b>Champaign Do It Best Hardware</b>  <a href="http://www.doitbest.com">(<a href="http://www.doitbest.com">www.doitbest.com</a>)</a>                  107 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6454</p> <p>Smaller, limited shop; a little more expensive. Have an outdoor garden shop each spring/summer.</p>	<p><b>Round Barn True Value Hardware</b>  <a href="http://www.truevalue.com">(<a href="http://www.truevalue.com">www.truevalue.com</a>)</a>                  2010 Round Barn Center, Champaign 352-1100</p> <p>Smaller, limited shop; a little more expensive. Have equipment rentals like dollies, carts, tools, etc.</p>

## Electronic Equipment

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

<p><b>Best Buy</b> (<a href="http://www.bestbuy.com">www.bestbuy.com</a>) 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-8883</p> <p>Wide selection of name brands at good prices.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Gadgets &amp; gizmos for the electronically handy.</p>
<p><b>Good Vibes</b> (<a href="http://www.gvibes.com">www.gvibes.com</a>) 1501 N Prospect, Champaign 351-0909</p> <p>Very knowledgeable staff and excellent high end equipment – much more expensive.</p>	<p><b>Glenn Poor’s Audio-Video</b> (<a href="http://glennpoors.com">glennpoors.com</a>) 1745 W Kirby, Champaign 356-5456</p> <p>Excellent high end equipment. They also sell used and demo equipment.</p>

## Electronic Repairs

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

<p><b>Illini Union Tech Zone Repair</b> (<a href="http://union.illinois.edu/shop/illini-union-tech-zone">union.illinois.edu/shop/illini-union-tech-zone</a>) Main Level, Southwest Wing, Illini Union 244-7938</p> <p>For Apple computer repairs, email: <a href="mailto:miutechzonerepair@illinois.edu">mailto:miutechzonerepair@illinois.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Simplified Computers</b> (<a href="http://www.simplifiedcomputers.com">www.simplifiedcomputers.com</a>) 901 S Neil St, Champaign 352-5000</p> <p>They helped out my mom, who is completely tech illiterate.</p>
<p><b>EP Computer</b> 1604 S Neil St, Champaign 61820 351-7888</p> <p>Fairly quick repairs, reasonable prices.</p>	<p><b>Geek Squad</b> (<a href="http://www.geeksquad.com">www.geeksquad.com</a>) 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-8883</p> <p>Located in Best Buy. Very helpful, friendly, and patient.</p>

## Bookstores and Libraries

### Libraries

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

<p><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</p>
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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> 809 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>Armored Gopher Games</b> <a href="http://armored-gopher.com">armored-gopher.com</a> 1508 N Cunningham Ave, Ste A, Urbana 344-4263(GAMES)  If you are a gamer, this is a place for you!
<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!	

### 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> 112 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 by accident...these bookstores sell only pornographic materials: Illini Arcade; Fantasy's.

## Collectibles and Arts & Crafts

When you want to dress up your new home a bit, here are some places where you can go for wonderful décor items. Of course, you can also find items at the super and special discount stores, but for higher end items at decent prices, these are good places to shop.

### Collectibles

<p><b>Prairie Gardens</b> (<a href="http://www.prairiegardens.com">www.prairiegardens.com</a>) 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532</p> <p>In addition to collector's items, they offer framing services, do artificial floral arrangements, sell frames, furniture, plants and flowers!</p>	<p><b>International Galleries</b> (<a href="http://internationalgalleriesurbana.com">internationalgalleriesurbana.com</a>) Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 328-2254</p> <p>Art posters, pottery, jewelry, on-site custom framing services, elegant boxes, wind chimes, cards, animal jewelry, figurines, incense, and objects d'art.</p>
<p><b>Art Mart</b> (<a href="http://shopartmart.com">shopartmart.com</a>) Moving soon to: 1705 S Prospect, Champaign</p> <p>International foods/coffee, chocolates, kitchen gadgets, cards, party lights, objects d'art... Separate children store with educational toys, etc.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday Morning</b> (<a href="http://www.tuesdaymorning.com">www.tuesdaymorning.com</a>) 241 S Mattis, Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 398-3753</p> <p>Another store that has department store items at 50%-80% off regular prices.</p>
<p><b>Pier 1 Imports</b> (<a href="http://www.pier1.com">www.pier1.com</a>) 2001 N Prospect, Champaign 355-9568</p> <p>Large store filled with items from all over the world.</p>	<p><b>Hobby Lobby</b> (<a href="http://www.hobbylobby.com">www.hobbylobby.com</a>) 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924</p> <p>Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc.</p>
<p><b>TJ Maxx</b> (<a href="http://www.tjmaxx.com">www.tjmaxx.com</a>) 21 E Marketview, Champaign 352-3435</p> <p>They not only sell clothing, but great décor items and housewares, too, at great prices.</p>	<p><b>Gordman's</b> (<a href="http://www.gordmans.com">www.gordmans.com</a>) 1901 N Market, Champaign 403-1434</p> <p>Like TJ Maxx, they sell décor items for less than department stores.</p>

### Arts & Crafts/Scrapbooking/Fabrics/Party Supplies

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

<p><b>Hobby Lobby</b> (<a href="http://www.hobbylobby.com">www.hobbylobby.com</a>) 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924</p> <p>Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc.</p>	<p><b>Prairie Gardens</b> (<a href="http://www.prairiegardens.com">www.prairiegardens.com</a>) 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532</p> <p>Arts and crafts supplies, stamping and scrapbooking supplies.</p>
<p><b>Michaels Arts and Crafts</b> (<a href="http://www.michaels.com">www.michaels.com</a>) 2109 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 378-8716</p> <p>Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies.</p>	<p><b>Art Coop</b> (<a href="http://www.theartcoop.com">www.theartcoop.com</a>) 150 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-4562</p> <p>Art supplies, paints, photographic supplies, etc.</p>

<p><b>Hancock Fabrics</b>  (<a href="http://www.hancockfabrics.com">www.hancockfabrics.com</a>)  115 Convenience Center Rd (next to Kohl's)  398-1598</p> <p>Fabrics, patterns, art/sewing supplies, etc.</p>	<p><b>Jo-Ann Fabrics</b>  (<a href="http://www.joann.com">www.joann.com</a>)  722 Town Center Road, Champaign 355-5040</p> <p>Fabrics, patterns, arts/crafts supplies, sewing supplies, sewing machines, ribbon, beads, lace. Classes offered.</p>
<p><b>Dallas &amp; Co.</b>  (<a href="http://www.dallasandco.com">www.dallasandco.com</a>)  101 E University Ave, Champaign 351-5974</p> <p>Party supplies, costumes and costume rentals, magic kits, balloons, gag gifts, holiday decorations and supplies...</p>	<p><b>Factory Card and Party Outlet</b>  (<a href="http://www.partycity.com">www.partycity.com</a>)  2019 N Prospect, Champaign 355-6837</p> <p>Party supplies, costumes, balloons, etc.</p>

## 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:

#### Hair Care Only

<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> (on-line check-in!) <a href="http://www.greatclips.com">www.greatclips.com</a> 803 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 328-2369 202 E University Ave, Urbana 328-3011	<b>Supercuts</b> <a href="http://www.supercuts.com">www.supercuts.com</a> 918 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-6500 1807 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 352-9106

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

#### Beauty Schools

<b>Concept College of Cosmetology</b> <a href="http://www.conceptcollege.com">www.conceptcollege.com</a> 202 E University Ave, Urbana 442-9329	<b>Regency Beauty Institute</b> <a href="http://www.regencybeauty.com">www.regencybeauty.com</a> 517 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 531-9937
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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.

#### For Full Salon Treatments/Spa

<b>Timothy John Salon Inc.</b> <a href="http://www.tjsalonandspa.com">www.tjsalonandspa.com</a> 404 W Green (east of campus), Urbana 344-4720  A full service salon. They do cuts, styles, color, facials, manicures and pedicures, massage, etc. For a great cut/color, ask for my friend Margaret Fix (tell her I sent you!)	<b>Blondi's at The Salon House</b> <a href="http://www.thesalonhouse.com">www.thesalonhouse.com</a> Unit D, 2918 Crossing Cr (near Windsor and Duncan), Champaign 841-1766  Deb Combs has been cutting my boyfriend's hair for over 20 years.
<b>My Salon</b> 907 Arrow Rd #2 (off Prospect and Kirby) Champaign 359-8310  Hair and nails at reasonable prices. The fabulous Mark Wickenburg owns the shop and has done my hair for over a year now. Very intimate and friendly place. Note: they only take checks/cash. No credit cards.	<b>Wingard Salon</b> <a href="http://wingardsalon.com">wingardsalon.com</a> 805 S Neil St (west of campus, a few blocks south of Green), Champaign 403-1153  They do cuts, styles, color, perms, mani and pedicures.

## 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, movies, museums, theaters, etc., but if you are a student, be sure to ask about discounts, as most 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: 333-3470.
- Go Fighting Illini! The U of I has a multitude of [sporting events](#). There is men's football, men's and women's basketball, as well as stellar men's baseball, tennis, golf and gymnastics teams, and women's volleyball, softball, and gymnastics teams! We have track, soccer, wrestling, etc. There are also wheelchair sports, like basketball and track (Superstar marathoners, Tatyana McFadden and Jean Driscoll, are from the U of I). Tickets are available through the State Farm Center ticket office (866-ILLINI-1) or on-line at [www.fightingillini.com](http://www.fightingillini.com).
- [Krannert Center for the Performing Arts](#) has a world-renown reputation for its symphony concerts, opera, theater productions, dance programs, and international performances.

### 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:

<p><b>Spurlock Museum</b> (<a href="http://www.spurlock.illinois.edu">www.spurlock.illinois.edu</a>) 600 S Gregory St, Urbana (campus) 333-2360</p> <p>The museum was built in 2002 and contains over 45,000 world history and cultural artifacts for public viewing. I used to visit it in the late 70's when it was the World Heritage Museum in Lincoln Hall.</p>	<p><b>Krannert Art Museum and Kinkhead Pavilion</b> (<a href="http://www.kam.uiuc.edu">www.kam.uiuc.edu</a>) 500 E Peabody (at 6<sup>th</sup>), Campus 333-1861</p> <p>Not to be confused with Krannert Center! Hosts various exhibits of famous artists (like Toulouse-Lautrec, and most recently, William Wegman), as well as U of I faculty/student art.</p>
<p><b>Orpheum Children's Science Museum</b> (<a href="http://www.orpheumkids.com">www.orpheumkids.com</a>) 346 N Neil, downtown Champaign 352-5895</p> <p>Interactive exhibits for children.</p>	<p><b>Giertz Gallery at Parkland College</b> (<a href="http://artgallery.parkland.edu">artgallery.parkland.edu</a>) Parkland College, X Wing 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2485</p>
<p><b>Museum of the Grand Prairie</b> (<a href="http://www.museumofthegrandprairie.org">www.museumofthegrandprairie.org</a>) Lake of the Woods, 950 N Lombard, Mahomet 586-2612</p> <p>Exhibits of pioneer life in the heartland.</p>	<p><b>Homer Lake Interpretive Center</b> (<a href="http://www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/Attractions/InterpretiveCenter.html">www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/Attractions/InterpretiveCenter.html</a>) Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer 896-2455</p> <p>Interactive exhibits, live animals, wildlife viewing.</p>

<p><b>Monticello Railway Museum</b>  <a href="http://www.mrym.org">www.mrym.org</a>                  992 Iron Horse Pl, Monticello 762-9011 or 877-762-9011</p> <p>Exit 166 off I-72. Old trains, cars, train rides. Various special events including a “Polar Express” ride in November and December. Unfortunately, the “Ghost Train” ride has been suspended indefinitely.</p>	<p><b>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</b> site lists other historic museums throughout the State plus on-line collections.</p> <p>Visit:  <a href="http://www.illinois.gov/iHPA/About/Pages/Resources.aspx">www.illinois.gov/iHPA/About/Pages/Resources.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum &amp; Library</b>  <a href="http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/Pages/default.aspx">www.illinois.gov/alplm/Pages/default.aspx</a>                  212 N 6th Street, Springfield 558-8934</p> <p>Reported to be one of the largest collections dedicated to the US’s favorite President. Exhibit of costumes/props from the movie “Lincoln”.</p>	<p><b>Lincoln Log Cabin and Moore Home Historic Sites</b>  <a href="http://www.illinois.gov/iHPA/Experience/Sites/Central/Pages/Lincoln-Log.aspx">www.illinois.gov/iHPA/Experience/Sites/Central/Pages/Lincoln-Log.aspx</a>                  402 S Lincoln Highway, Lerna, IL 345-1845</p> <p>8 miles south of Charleston, the reconstructed log home of Lincoln’s father and stepmother. 86-acre site, living history farms – portraying life in the 1840s.</p>

**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.

<p><b>Virginia Theater</b>  <a href="http://www.thevirginia.org">www.thevirginia.org</a>                  203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063</p> <p>Concerts, plays, and movies including the famous annual Roger Ebert Overlooked Film Festival.</p>	<p><b>Champaign-Urbana Theater Co</b>  <a href="http://cutc.org">cutc.org</a>                  117 E University Ave, Champaign 352-4085</p> <p>Give several performances a year at various locations around town.</p>
<p><b>Station Theatre</b>  <a href="http://www.stationtheatre.com">www.stationtheatre.com</a>                  223 N Broadway, Urbana 384-4000</p> <p>The Celebration Company performs in an historic train station.</p>	<p><b>Parkland College Theatre</b>  <a href="http://theatre.parkland.edu">theatre.parkland.edu</a>                  2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2528</p> <p>Parkland and UI students, as well as community members participate in their performances.</p>
<p><b>Penny Dreadful Players</b>                  U of I non-theatre student group.</p>	

**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).

<p><b>Savoy 16 + IMAX</b> (Goodrich Quality Theater)  <a href="http://www.gqti.com">www.gqti.com</a>                  232 Burwash, Savoy 355-3456</p> <p>Multiplex theater with 16 screens and a new IMAX theatre (some IMAX shows are in 3D).</p>	<p><b>Carmike 13</b>  <a href="http://www.carmike.com">www.carmike.com</a>                  910 Meijer Dr, Champaign 866-0710</p> <p>Newly renovated multiplex theaters, with one 80-foot “Big D” screen.</p>
<p><b>The Art Theater Co-op</b>  <a href="http://www.arttheater.coop">www.arttheater.coop</a>                  126 W Church, downtown Champaign 355-0068</p> <p>Foreign films and films by independent film-makers, not shown anywhere else in town.</p>	

## 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, there are only a few places left where you can go to rent DVDs of your favorite movies and TV shows. The local libraries also have some movies you can borrow.

<p><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</p> <p>DVD/game rental. Requires free membership – each store operated separately, so not transferable. They also sell used DVDs/ games.</p>	<p><b>RedBox</b>  <a href="http://www.redbox.com">www.redbox.com</a></p> <p>Convenient self-service kiosks located either outside or just inside the entrance of these local establishments: CVS, County Market, Meijer, Ruler Foods, Schnuck's, Walgreens, and Walmart stores, and Thornton's gas station on Mattis in Champaign.</p>
<p><b>Lee's Oriental Foods</b>          for Chinese, Japanese, &amp; Korean films          303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949</p> <p>Located next to County Market on Kirby Ave</p>	<p><b>Annapoorna Store</b>          for Indian films          505 S Neil St, Ste 11, Champaign 355-0995</p> <p>In the Royal Plaza Mall, near Neil and Green</p>

## Dance/Live Music Venues

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

### Live Music/Dancing

<p><b>The Canopy Club</b> (campus)  <a href="http://canopyclub.com">canopyclub.com</a>          708 S Goodwin, Urbana 344-2263</p> <p>Alternate music scene. Also hosts some well-known national acts from funk to country (I saw both George Clinton &amp; Dirks Bentley there).</p>	<p><b>The City Center/Fat City Bar &amp; Grill</b> (campus)  <a href="http://www.fatcitybarandgrill.com">www.fatcitybarandgrill.com</a>          505 S Chestnut St, Champaign 954-0556</p> <p>Located just off Neil and Green, huge indoor stage area opened in 2015, plus beer garden and great food! Books both national and local acts.</p>
<p><b>Memphis on Main</b> (downtown Champaign)  <a href="http://memphisonmain.com">memphisonmain.com</a>          55 E Main, Champaign 398-1097</p> <p>Various bands on weekends from classic rock to metal to country. Trivia Tuesdays. Comedy Wednesdays. Karaoke Thursdays. Occasional burlesque and comedy shows.</p>	<p><b>Cowboy Monkey</b> (downtown Champaign)  <a href="http://www.cowboy-monkey.com">www.cowboy-monkey.com</a>          6 Taylor St, Champaign 398-2688</p> <p>Various bands from hiphop to metal Thurs-Saturday. Trivia Sunday, Margarita Monday + DJ, Open Mike Tuesdays, Tango/Salsa dancing Wednesdays. Outside seating in summer.</p>
<p><b>The High Dive</b> (downtown Champaign)  <a href="http://thehighdive.com">thehighdive.com</a>          51 Main Street, Champaign 356-2337</p> <p>Variety of national bands: indie, rock, hiphop, dance. DJ dance parties/hip hop most weekends and some late nights during the week. Occasional 80s DJ nights.  <b>NOTE:</b> There have been some recent incidents of violence/shootings, so stay vigilant if you go.</p>	<p><b>Mike N Molly's</b> (downtown Champaign)  <a href="http://mikenmollys.com">mikenmollys.com</a>          105 N Market, Champaign 355-1236</p> <p>Touted as “not a music venue, primarily” but they host a lot of bands! Live Improv/Karaoke Mondays, Reggae Night Tuesdays, Trivia/Grim Nights Wednesdays. Midnight DJ on weekends.</p>

<p><b>The Clark Bar</b> (near downtown Champaign) (<a href="http://theclarkbar.com">theclarkbar.com</a>) 207 W Clark St, Champaign 355-0510</p> <p>Nestled in old Champaign mere blocks from downtown. Open Tuesday-Saturday 5pm-2am. Host a variety of local bands. Also have DJs, drink specials &amp; food! Gay friendly.</p>	<p><b>Goldy's Bar &amp; Grill</b> (Country Fair Shopping Ctr) (<a href="http://www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill">www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill</a>) 123 S Mattis, Champaign 359-2177</p> <p>Sports bar with a little bit of everything: local bands on the weekends; good food; pool tables; gaming machines; and a beer garden in the summer. Really nice bartenders, too.</p>
<p><b>Boomerang's</b> (Urbana) (<a href="http://boomerangbarandgrill.com">boomerangbarandgrill.com</a>) 1309 E Washington, Urbana 239-7264</p> <p>Various bands; various styles. The Live Karaoke Band is great. The owner is one of the area's guitar superstars who plays with several local bands! Also have great food available.</p>	<p><b>Bunny's</b> (downtown Urbana) (<a href="http://bunnystavern.com">bunnystavern.com</a>) 119 W Water St, Urbana 367-8175</p> <p>"Best kept secret in downtown Urbana". Free summer parking lot parties are real crowd pleasers! Many Urbana High School reunions start or end at Bunny's!</p>
<p><b>Rose Bowl Tavern</b> (downtown Urbana) 106 N Race St #1, Urbana 367-7031</p> <p>Original home of country music in CU area! Various country-related bands.</p>	<p><b>Iron Post</b> (downtown Urbana) 120 S Race St, Urbana 337-7678</p> <p>Hosts a variety of entertainment regularly: jazz, blues, rock, comedy. Good food, too.</p>

### DJ/Dancing

<p><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</p> <p>DJ music. The unofficial "gay" bar in C-U. Occasional drag shows and disco party nights. Industrial music Mondays.</p>	<p><b>Bradley's II Night Club</b> (<a href="http://bradleys.webs.com">bradleys.webs.com</a>) 1906 W Bradley Ave, Champaign 352-8714</p> <p>DJ music. Free country dance lessons from 8-9pm on Wed/Fri. Wednesday: country until midnight, then anything goes til 2am. Friday: DJ or live band. Saturday: Hip Hop Party Night.</p>
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### Lessons/Dancing

<p><b>Regent Ballroom</b> (<a href="http://www.regentballroom.com">www.regentballroom.com</a>) 1406 Regency Drive, Savoy 359-5333</p> <p>Ballroom and other dance styles. Lessons.</p>
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### Dance Organizations

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

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

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

## 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 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 ([www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/Pages/default.aspx)) 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

There are many, many parks in Champaign-Urbana. I am listing some of the ones I have been here. Check out their websites for more information regarding parks in your area.

Urbana ( <a href="http://www.urbanaparks.org">www.urbanaparks.org</a> )	Champaign ( <a href="http://champaignparks.com">champaignparks.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> North of 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>	
<p><b>Curtis Orchard &amp; Pumpkin Patch</b>  <a href="http://www.curtisorchard.com">www.curtisorchard.com</a>            3902 S Duncan Rd, Champaign 359-5565            Open July 20 – December 20.            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 (open 8/29-11/1).</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Prairie State Park</b>  <a href="http://wildlifeprairiepark.org">wildlifeprairiepark.org</a>            3826 N Taylor Rd, Hanna City (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.</p>
<p><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, &amp; architecture. Can see deer there, too, if you look closely.</p>	<p><b>Kickapoo State Park</b>  <a href="http://www.stateparks.com/kickapoo.html">www.stateparks.com/kickapoo.html</a>            10906 Kickapoo Park Rd, Oakwood (east of Danville) 442-4915            About 25 miles east of Urbana. Take I-74 East. Nice trails. Beautiful river views. Canoe rentals. Camping areas available.</p>
<p><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. Beautiful lake and botanical garden. Boating, fishing, hiking, museum, covered bridge, golf course, and picnic areas. Also have Hi-Tower Bell Carillon with an observation tower.</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>Homer Lake Forest Preserve</b>  <a href="http://ccfpd.org/Preserves/HomerLake.html">ccfpd.org/Preserves/HomerLake.html</a>            2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer 896-2455            I-74 east to Rte 49, 5 miles south, follow signs.            80-acre lake on 814 acre preserve with fishing, hiking. Interpretive Center features live animals and displays.</p>	<p><b>Middle Fork River Forest Preserve</b>  <a href="http://www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html">www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html</a>            3485 County Rd 2700 E, Penfield. 595-5432            5 miles N of Penfield. County Road 2700 E and Rte 136.            1700 acres. Waterfowl Management Area with 3 ponds. Campground, swim beach, hiking trails.</p>
<p><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 345-6416            Highway 130 out of Charleston for 8 miles. Follow the signs. 2064 acre park with hills and bluffs. 12 acre lake for fishing, swimming, boating. Hiking and horse trails (bring your own horse) scenic overlooks, picnic areas, wildlife observation, camping.</p>	<p><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>            2331 E County Rd 370 N, Oakland 346-3336            I-57 south to Tuscola (exit 212). Take Highway 36 east for 15 miles, then south on Highway 7 for 6 miles. Follow signs. 59 acre lake supports fishing and ice skating/ice fishing in winter. Hiking, camping, picnic areas.</p>

### 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). These areas differ from Central Illinois in that there are rolling hills and deep ravines in the parks. Be forewarned: entrance fees are charged at some Indiana parks. And no off-trail hiking is allowed.

<p><b>Turkey Run State Park</b>  <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm">www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm</a>            8121 E Park Rd, Marshall, IN 765-597-2635            I-74 east to Crawfordsville; 231 south to 47.            Hiking trails; boats; camp or stay at the Inn.            Reservations are needed for the Inn 765-597-2211.</p>	<p><b>Shades State Park</b>  <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2970.htm">www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2970.htm</a>            7751 S 890 W, Waveland IN            765-432-2810            Down the road from Turkey Run. Gorgeous trails; river for canoeing; camping. Absolutely beautiful in the fall!</p>
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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 also very visible...as long as the clouds cooperate and you aren't near the light pollution!

<p><b>Staerkel Planetarium</b>  <a href="http://www2.parkland.edu/planetarium">www2.parkland.edu/planetarium</a>          2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2446</p> <p>Live-narrated tours/stories of the seasonal night skies over the prairieland; cosmic odysseys with laser lights/music. Also offer public lectures the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month and special events like Pluto-palooza.</p>	
<p><b>CU Astronomical Society</b>  <a href="http://cuas.org">cuas.org</a>          Observatory: 926 County Road 700 E, Tolono 351-2567          Monthly meetings held at Staerkel. Host observatory open houses and Family and Public Skywatches (Saturday of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter mon). Dark sky viewing with telescopes at Middlefork Forest Preserve.</p>	<p><b>Astronomical Society at the U of Illinois</b>  <a href="http://uias.astro.illinois.edu">uias.astro.illinois.edu</a>          c/o Dept of Astronomy, 1002 W Green, Urbana</p> <p>Host bi-weekly club meetings. Monthly public observatory open houses are 1st Friday of the month, weather permitting. Members are allowed access to the U of I telescope, located at the south end of the Quad behind Foellinger Auditorium.</p>

## 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
<p><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!</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>Jupiter's at the Crossing</b>  <a href="http://www.jupiterspizza.com">www.jupiterspizza.com</a>          2511 Village Green Pl, Champaign 366-8300</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>Goldy's</b>          123 S Mattis, Country Fair Shopping Ctr,          Champaign 359-2177</p>	<p><b>Western Bowl</b>  <a href="http://westernbowl.org">westernbowl.org</a>          917 Francis, Champaign 359-1678</p>
<p><b>Esquire Lounge</b>  <a href="http://esquirelounge.com">esquirelounge.com</a>          106 N Walnut, Champaign 398-5858</p>	<p><b>Arrowhead Lanes</b>  <a href="http://arrowheadlanes.com">arrowheadlanes.com</a>          1401 N McKinley, Champaign 352-5288</p>
<p><b>Crane Alley</b>  <a href="http://www.crane-alley.com">www.crane-alley.com</a>          115 E Main, Urbana 384-7526</p>	
<p><b>Guido's</b>  <a href="http://guidosbar.com">guidosbar.com</a>          2 E Main St, Champaign 359-3148</p>	

## 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 only last a year or two, but there are always new ones opening up to take their places.

You will probably be spending a lot of time on campus. Most of the restaurants I list here are off campus, but there are many good restaurants in Campustown with varying price ranges, and I encourage you to try them. I've put asterisks (\*\*) next to the places that I like located on or very near campus.

I used to only go to the most inexpensive places, but now include more moderately priced fare in my budget. 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 list them by one key category, with notes about the other menu items they offer. Most places have some sort of vegetarian and/or gluten free 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 don't drink coffee, but here are a few of the more popular places I've been told about.

Local shops	
<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>Cafe Kopi</b> ( <a href="http://www.cafe-kopi.com">www.cafe-kopi.com</a> ) 109 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 359-4266
<b>Walnut Street Tea Company</b> 115 S Walnut, downtown Champaign 351-6975	<b>Columbia Street Roastery</b> ( <a href="http://www.csrcoffee.com">www.csrcoffee.com</a> ) 24 E Columbia St, downtown Champaign 352-9713
<b>Caffe Paradiso</b> ( <a href="http://www.enjoyparadiso.com">www.enjoyparadiso.com</a> ) <b>**801 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 384-6066</b>	
Chain shops	
<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 **809 S Wright St (Illini Union Bookstore) 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>Jarling's Custard Cup</b> ( <a href="http://www.jarlingscustardcup.com">www.jarlingscustardcup.com</a> ) **309 W Kirby, Champaign 352-2273  A C-U institution! 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.	<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!!
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**Ice Creams and Frozen Yogurt**

<p><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</p> <p>Soft serve ice cream (milk actually) and treats, plus full brazier grill. Open year round.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>31 different flavors of ice cream and frozen yogurt. Also ice cream cakes. These shops are combined with Dunkin Donuts! Open all year.</p>
<p><b>Cold Stone Creamery</b>  <a href="http://www.coldstonecreamery.com">www.coldstonecreamery.com</a>                  **505 E Green, Champaign 367-5555</p> <p>Homemade ice cream mixed with extras on a marble slab while you wait.</p>	<p><b>Marble Slab Creamery</b>  <a href="http://www.marbleslab.com">www.marbleslab.com</a>                  1211 Savoy Plaza Ln, Savoy 359-5950</p> <p>Homemade ice cream mixed with extras while you wait. Excellent ice cream cakes.</p>
<p><b>City Girl Yogurt (Frozen Yogurt)</b>  <a href="http://www.citygirlyogurt.com">www.citygirlyogurt.com</a>                  202 E University Ave, Urbana</p> <p>In Gateway Shoppes at Five Points. Self-serve frozen yogurt – 12 varying flavors a day with amazing array of toppings. Priced by the ounce.</p>	<p><b>TCBY (Frozen Yogurt)</b>  <a href="http://store.tcby.com/home/oldfarm">store.tcby.com/home/oldfarm</a>                  1731 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 607-5090</p> <p>Old Farm Shops. Over a dozen flavors daily and 50+ toppings. WaffleCone Wednesday: all you can fit in a waffle cone for \$2.99. Other tasty treats.</p>
<p><b>Cocomero (Frozen Yogurt)</b>                  **709 S Wright St, Champaign 328-3888</p> <p>Self-serve frozen yogurt. Kinda pricey.</p>	

**Chocolates and Candies**

<p><b>Fannie May Fine Chocolates</b>  <a href="http://www.fanniemay.com">www.fanniemay.com</a>                  **402 S Neil 355-5628</p> <p>Chocolates and confections. Pixies have always been a favorite of my family!</p>	<p><b>Flesor’s Candy Kitchen</b>  <a href="http://www.flesorscandy.com">www.flesorscandy.com</a>                  101 W Sale St, Tuscola 253-3753</p> <p>Old-fashioned confectionary. Delicious home- made candies, sweets, and ice-cream made in store!</p>
<p><b>Rubens Chocolates</b>  <a href="http://www.rubenschocolates.com">www.rubenschocolates.com</a>                  1602 University, Urbana 418-7052                  Bent Bean, Lincoln Square Village, Urbana</p> <p>Wonderful handmade Belgian chocolate treats in white, milk, or dark chocolate. Sold exclusively at Bent Bean or order on-line.</p>	<p><b>A Toffee Tale</b>  <a href="http://www.atoffeetale.com">www.atoffeetale.com</a>                  Fithian, IL 328-1500</p> <p>Yummy handmade toffees sold at many local stores in C-U including Walnut Street Tea Company, World Harvest, Strawberry Fields, Common Ground Co-Op and Art Mart. Order on-line, too.</p>

## Bakeries and Dessert Shops

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

### Bakery Outlet Stores

Bakery outlets sell breads, rolls, etc., that are close to or one day past their “expiration” dates. The food is still perfectly fine for consumption and is sold at bargain prices!

<b>Aunt Millie’s Bakery Outlet</b> <a href="http://www.auntmillies.com/about/thrift-stores">www.auntmillies.com/about/thrift-stores</a> 805 Bloomington Rd, Champaign 607-2150	
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For reasonably priced, fresh-baked cakes and pies, sweets, bread and rolls, here are some suggestions:

### Cakes and Pies

<b>County Market Bakery</b> <a href="http://www.champaign-stoughton.mycountymarket.com/discover/departments/bakery">www.champaign-stoughton.mycountymarket.com/discover/departments/bakery</a> **331 Stoughton St, Champaign 352-4123 2901 W Kirby Ave (at Duncan Road) 351-8600 1914 Glenn Park 356-8242 1819 Philo Road 337-0210  Great custom special occasion cakes. Good pies, cookies, breads, donuts, etc. Reasonable prices. For special occasions, this is where my family gets our cakes – my mom orders them with double frosting!	<b>Wal-Mart Super Center Bakery</b> <a href="http://wm13.walmart.com/Cook/Articles/Cakes_for_Any_Occasion/1101">wm13.walmart.com/Cook/Articles/Cakes_for_Any_Occasion/1101</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 – but you have to be a member to shop there.)  Also will do custom cakes. Other good baked items.
<b>Meijer Bakery</b> <a href="http://www.meijer.com/content/content.jsp?pageName=cakes-and-deli-trays">www.meijer.com/content/content.jsp?pageName=cakes-and-deli-trays</a> 2401 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 353-4000 2500 Philo Rd, Urbana 365-5200  Bakery & Deli ordering: 877-363-4537	<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. Open 24/7. See Family Style Restaurants for more on full menu.

For those times you just want to splurge and aren’t going to worry about the price, go to a specialty bakery:

<b>The New 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.	<b>The Cake Artist’s Studio</b> <a href="http://www.thecakeartistsstudio.com">www.thecakeartistsstudio.com</a> 1100B W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 403-0900  “Where Cake is Art”. Award-winning pastry chef designs custom desserts baked on site. Beautiful wedding cakes.
<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>Mirabelle Fine Pastry Inc.</b> 124 W Main, downtown Urbana 384-6460  Pastries, cheesecakes, croissants, tarts, cookies, special order cakes, breads, sandwiches are all baked fresh on site.

<p><b>Cookies by Design</b>  <a href="http://www.cookiesbydesign.com">www.cookiesbydesign.com</a>  510 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 344-3911</p> <p>Cookie bouquets and baskets.</p>	
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### Breads and Rolls

<p><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</p> <p>Fresh breads, bagels, &amp; sweet treats. Also serve excellent sandwiches, soups and salads. Catering.</p>	<p><b>The Bread Company on Goodwin</b>  (<a href="http://www.thebreadcompanyurbana.com">www.thebreadcompanyurbana.com</a>)  **706 S. Goodwin, Urbana 383-1007</p> <p>Great breads and sweets. Also have gourmet pizzas, sandwiches, fondue, as well as steak and salmon.</p>
<p><b>Great Harvest Bread Company</b>  (<a href="http://greatharvestchampaign.com">greatharvestchampaign.com</a>)  2149 S Neil Street, Champaign 398-5623</p> <p>Variety of breads, sweets, sandwiches baked fresh daily.</p>	<p><b>Atlanta Bread Company</b>  (<a href="http://www.atlantabread.com">www.atlantabread.com</a>)  1905 S Neil Street, Champaign 356-8040</p> <p>Breads, pizzas, sandwiches, salads, pastas, salads. Catering.</p>

### Donuts and Bagels

<p><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</p> <p>I hear they have pretty great coffee, too. Also have breakfast sandwiches and ice cream at some locations (see Baskin Robins).</p>	<p><b>Ye Olde Donut Shoppe</b>  (<a href="http://www.facebook.com/yeoldedonutshoppe">www.facebook.com/yeoldedonutshoppe</a>)  Law Bldg, 504 E Pennsylvania, Campus. Open 9-5 M-F  359-3311</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Carmella's Crème Donuts</b>  1611 W Springfield, Champaign 531-0024</p> <p>Good locally baked donuts. Small place. Cash only.  Hours: Monday-Saturday 5:30am-4pm; Sunday 5:30am-3pm. Cheaper by the dozen.</p>	<p><b>Einstein Bros. Bagels</b>  (<a href="http://www.einsteinbros.com">www.einsteinbros.com</a>)  **1401 W Green St, Urbana  **901 W University Ave, Champaign 344-7520  803 W Anthony Drive, Champaign 239-0025</p> <p>Great bagels and sandwiches. A bit pricey, but worth it.</p>

## American Food

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

### Breakfast

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

#### Breakfast/Lunch/Brunch ONLY

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

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

<p><b>Merry Ann’s Diner</b>  <a href="http://www.merry-anns.com">www.merry-anns.com</a>                  **701 S Gregory St, Urbana 344-2455                  **1510 S. Neil St., Champaign 352-5399                  One Main, downtown Champaign 531-1160</p> <p>Open 24/7. Traditional diner, great food, good prices.</p>
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#### Breakfast only on Weekends – and awesome lunch/dinner buffets the rest of the week!

<p><b>Ryan’s</b>  <a href="http://www.ryans.com">www.ryans.com</a>                  1004 W Anthony Dr, Champaign 352-7403</p> <p>My fave buffet! Incredible all-you-can-eat weekend breakfast buffet from 8-11am. Lunch items start coming out around 10:45, so get there before 10:30 if you really want breakfast. Different lunch and dinner menus daily.</p>	<p><b>Home Town Buffet</b>  <a href="http://www.hometownbuffet.com">www.hometownbuffet.com</a>                  2306 N Prospect, Champaign 355-9429</p> <p>Same owners as Ryan’s, slightly different menus. Incredible all-you-can-eat weekend breakfast buffet. Great Hollandaise sauce at breakfast that Ryan’s doesn’t have. Different lunch and dinner menus daily.</p>
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#### Family Style Restaurants (that also serve awesome breakfasts)

<p><b>The Apple Dumpling</b>                  2014 High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-0076</p> <p>An Urbana tradition for 30 years. Great home cooking! Tiny place of 15 tables – and only 3 menu specials each night. Get there early as they will sell out of some items. Sunday buffet = 3 choices of the day &amp; salad bar. Love their chicken and noodles and fried chicken.</p>	<p><b>Urbana Garden Family Restaurant</b>  <a href="http://urbanagarden.com">urbanagarden.com</a>                  810 W Killarney St, Urbana 328-1514</p> <p>Daily specials and all-you-can-eat specials. Great food/good prices. Nice salad bar, great desserts. Serve breakfast all day. We eat here a lot. The menu is so varied, you can eat something different 7 days a week!</p>
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<p><b>Bob Evans</b> (<a href="http://www.bobevans.com">www.bobevans.com</a>) 1813 N Prospect, Champaign 356-1006</p> <p>Famous for their sausage. Great breakfast selections. "Home-style" cooking.</p>	<p><b>Cracker Barrel Old Country Store</b> (<a href="http://www.crackerbarrel.com">www.crackerbarrel.com</a>) 2101 N Kenyon Road, Urbana 344-9087</p> <p>Good "home-style" food. Attached to a country store so you can browse after dinner or while waiting to be seated.</p>
<p><b>Perkins Family Restaurant</b> (<a href="http://www.perkinsrestaurants.com">www.perkinsrestaurants.com</a>) **1214 W University, Urbana 328-3000</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Courier Cafe</b> (<a href="http://www.couriersilvercreek.com/couriercafe">www.couriersilvercreek.com/couriercafe</a>) 111 N Race, downtown Urbana 328-1811</p> <p>Great garden (and regular) burgers, veggie quesadillas, appetizers, and a big salad bar. They also have a soda fountain and milkshakes. A bit more pricy, but good!</p>

### Good Food Fast

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

<p><b>Taco Bell</b> (<a href="http://www.tacobell.com">www.tacobell.com</a>) **1003 W University, Urbana 367-2871 **1707 S Neil Street, Champaign 403-9803 Other Champaign locations: 1910 W Springfield, 10 E Anthony Dr</p> <p>Americanized Mexican fast food <i>cheap!</i> You can eat a whole meal for under \$5!! Open late most nights.</p>	<p><b>Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC)</b> (<a href="http://www.kfc.com">www.kfc.com</a>) 2201W Springfield, Champaign 352-0900 410 W University, Urbana 328-3379 1321N Dunlap, Savoy 356-1861 (w/ A&amp;W root beer shop)</p> <p>Just great chicken: fried, extra crispy, BBQ, Tender Roast. Also serve side dishes and desserts. I love their coleslaw! Great biscuits, too.</p>
<p><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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>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.</p>

### Big Chain Burger Joints

<p><b>McDonald's (Mc-E D's)</b> (<a href="http://www.mcdonalds.com">www.mcdonalds.com</a>) They are <i>everywhere!</i> Closest: **616 E Green St, Champaign 384-4834</p> <p>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!</p>	<p><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</p> <p>A more adult burger place. Flame-broiled burgers made to order - not pre-prepared. They also have fish &amp; chicken sandwiches and onion rings, too.</p>
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<p><b>Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers</b>  <a href="http://www.wendys.com">www.wendys.com</a>          Urbana: **Illini Union 337-4805; 505 N Cunningham          Champaign: 2015 Neil St 351-2168; 2033 N Prospect,          355-9484</p> <p>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).</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Great sourdough bread sandwiches. Huge burgers. Great breakfast menu including cinnamon-raisin biscuits and biscuits and gravy. Called Carl's Junior west of the Rockies.</p>
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### Barbeque Joints

<p><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</p> <p>Excellent hickory-smoked barbecue chicken, ribs, pork, and beef. They cook over wood. Different daily specials. Good prices.</p>	<p><b>Hickory River Smokehouse</b>  <a href="http://hickoryriver.com">hickoryriver.com</a>          1706 N Cunningham, Urbana 337-1656</p> <p>"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.</p>
<p><b>Black Dog Smoke &amp; Ale House</b>  <a href="http://www.blackdogsmoke.com">www.blackdogsmoke.com</a>          201 N Broadway, Urbana 344-9332          320 N Chestnut, Champaign 344-9334</p> <p>Many feel this is the best BBQ in town...which must be why it is always crowded. A bit pricey. Lunch specials.</p>	<p><b>Chester's BBQ</b>          302 S Neil St, Champaign 417-6985</p> <p>A catering trailer located in the Tumble Inn parking lot. Only open Thursday + Friday nights from 5pm-2:30am. Had my first taste at the Blues, Brews, &amp; BBQ festival this summer and it was great!</p>

### Sandwich Shops

<p><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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Open 24 hours. Steakburgers, fries, chili, awesome hand-dipped shakes &amp; freezes are their specialties. They have several meals under \$4. My old high-school hangout.</p>
<p><b>Sea Boat</b>  <a href="http://theseaboard.com">theseaboard.com</a>          **403 W Kirby, Champaign 355-9933</p> <p>Excellent catfish sandwiches and southern cooking! They have the best macaroni &amp; cheese I have ever tasted (sorry, Mom!). And they deliver. Pricey, but worth it.</p>	<p><b>Derald's Catering Truck</b>          **on Mathews, behind Noyes, Campus 637-0144 to order ahead</p> <p>The <i>best</i> fish sandwiches in town - on Friday's only. Has good sandwiches &amp; breakfast items all week. Also sells Ye Olde Donuts, chips, coffee, pop, etc. Cash only.</p>
<p><b>Po'Boys Restaurant</b>  <a href="http://www.poboysurbana.com">www.poboysurbana.com</a>          202 E University, Urbana 367-2255</p> <p>60 year old family-owned restaurant in new location! Great BBQ, sandwiches, individual pizzas. Daily specials. Incredible homemade pies for dessert – they run out fast!</p>	<p><b>Silver Mine Subs</b>  <a href="http://www.silverminesubs.com">www.silverminesubs.com</a>          **612 E Daniel, Champaign 328-5000</p> <p>Nice little sub shop and they deliver, too – until 3am! Cold and hot subs, soups and salads.</p>

## On-Campus Gems

<p><b>Newman Foundation, Newman Res Hall</b>  <a href="http://www.sjnc.org/menu.aspx">www.sjnc.org/menu.aspx</a>  **604 E Armory, Champaign 344-0732</p> <p>Made from scratch foods served cafeteria-style at excellent prices! A U of I tradition... was popular when I went here though the menu is now greatly expanded.</p>	<p><b>Bevier Café</b>  <a href="http://beviercafe.illinois.edu">beviercafe.illinois.edu</a>  260 Bevier Hall, 905 S Goodwin, 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>Colonial Room at the Illini Union</b>  <a href="http://www.housing.illinois.edu/dining/menus">www.housing.illinois.edu/dining/menus</a>  1st Floor NE corner, Illini Union 244-4261</p> <p>Lunch buffet 11:30-1:00 M-F only. Menu includes salad bar, deli bar, hot soups, beverage, and dessert, plus delicious house-made hot entrees/sides that change daily. All for \$11.95 (beverages, dessert, and tax included!).</p>	<p><b>Spice Box</b>  <a href="http://spicebox.illinois.edu">spicebox.illinois.edu</a>  Bevier Hall, 905 S Goodwin, Urbana 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 Tacos*, have Mexican women making 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. We call the chili con queso dip "crack dip" because it is so addictive and delicious!</p>	<p><b>Dos Reales</b>  1407 N Prospect, Champaign 351-6879</p> <p>Great, authentic Mexican food at good prices. I love the Pollo a la Parilla. I think they have the best chips and salsa in town.</p>
<p><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>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 and the place is always full! 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! They boast handmade tortillas.</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>Panchero's Mexican Grill</b>  <a href="http://pancheros.com">pancheros.com</a>  102 E University, Ste B, Urbana 367-4000  Coming soon to Savoy!</p> <p>Build your own burritos, bowls, salads, tacos and quesadillas. Some of the items cost extra, so if you aren't careful, you can end up with a \$8 burrito. Very tasty.</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>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>

## Pizza/Italian Food

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

### Inexpensive pick-up/delivery pizza on campus

<p><b>Papa John's</b> (<a href="http://www.papajohns.com">www.papajohns.com</a>) **106 E Green St, Champaign 355-5858</p> <p>Great specials/coupons/late delivery. Served at UI events.</p>	<p><b>Domino's</b> (<a href="http://www.dominos.com">www.dominos.com</a>) 102 E Green St, Champaign 355-0717</p> <p>Great specials/coupons/late delivery. Served at UI events.</p>
<p><b>Sbarro</b> (<a href="http://www.sbarro.com">www.sbarro.com</a>) **Illini Union food court (basement) 337-0100 Market Place Mall food court 355-0282</p> <p>Inexpensive Italian food fast!</p>	<p><b>DP Dough</b> (<a href="http://www.dpdough.com">www.dpdough.com</a>) **33B E Green St, Champaign 365-9663</p> <p>Great calzones! Check for daily specials and coupons. Late night delivery, too.</p>

### Moderately priced pizza – but worth it!

<p><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 (the Crossing), Champaign 366-8300</p> <p>Their pizza is “out of this world”! Awesome specialty pizzas. Downtown offers late night pizza specials and ½ price large pizzas on Tuesdays! Have billiards at both locations and a kids game room at the Crossing. They also have soups, salads, and sandwiches.</p>	<p><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; Urbana: 2720 S Philo Rd 367-5781</p> <p>They have <i>great</i> thin crust pizza. Their “family pleasers” run about \$21 for 16” 1-topping pizza, family sized salad, and pitcher of pop – easily feeds 4. Other good Italian food at good prices. And they deliver. Be sure to check out their coupons for discounts.</p>
<p><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 (pickup/delivery ONLY) 359-5500 Moving soon to S Neil St. Will close other locations.</p> <p>For <b>deep dish</b> crust pizza, one of the best places around. Be prepared for at least an hour wait for your pizza after you place your order! Also serve other Italian fare and sandwiches.</p>	<p><b>Jet's Pizza</b> (<a href="http://jetspizza.com">jetspizza.com</a>) **512 S Neil St, Champaign 352-3333 1907 W Springfield Ave, Champaign 352-9992</p> <p>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). They have good thin crust pizzas, sides, subs, and salads, too. And they deliver all over town. Look for coupons for good deals.</p>
<p><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</p> <p>Build your own individual pizzas, hot sandwiches, salads, and pastas. Great desserts, too! Drive-thru or dine-in. Good prices and they have specials.</p>	<p><b>Fazoli's</b> (<a href="http://www.fazolis.com">www.fazolis.com</a>) 2029 N Prospect, Champaign 356-4820</p> <p>FAST Italian food and pizza...it's really good and inexpensive! I love their baked pastas. And when you dine in, you get unlimited warm, garlicky-buttered bread sticks.</p>
<p><b>Mia Za's Café</b> (<a href="http://www.miazas.com">www.miazas.com</a>) **629 E Green St, Champaign 298-3198</p> <p>Build your own individual pizzas, hot sandwiches, salads, and pastas with the great, healthy ingredients. Great desserts, too! Also have gluten free menu.</p>	<p><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 1753 W Kirby, Old Farm Shops, Champaign 356-8000</p> <p>“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.</p>

## Cajun/Southern

<p><b>J. Gumbo's Cajun Joint</b>  <a href="http://www.jgumbos.com">www.jgumbos.com</a>                  **700 S Gregory, Urbana 337-4840</p> <p>I love the veggie Bumblebee Stew and Bourbon Street Chicken. They have more spicy items on the menu, too! Wonderful service...they let you sample the dishes before you order, if you like.</p>	<p><b>Popeye's Chicken</b>  <a href="http://popeyes.com">popeyes.com</a>                  912 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 954-1650</p> <p>Really good "Louisiana" cookin'. Known for their fried chicken – both regular and spicy Cajun styles. Also serve fried fish and shrimp. Great sides and extras like jambalaya and red beans and rice.</p>
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## Greek/Indian/Middle Eastern Food

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

<p><b>Zorba's</b>                  **627 E Green, Champaign 344-0710</p> <p><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 was completely remodeled after a fire a few years ago.</i></p>	<p><b>Bombay Indian Grill</b>  <a href="http://www.bombayindiangrillchampaign.com">www.bombayindiangrillchampaign.com</a>                  **401 E Green St, Champaign 344-3380</p> <p>Not inexpensive, but very good. Though the last time I went, I got something <i>very</i> spicy by mistake and couldn't feel my tongue after the first 2 bites! ;-)</p>
<p><b>Niro's Gyros</b>                  1007 W University, Urbana 328-6476  <a href="http://nirogyrosuniversityave.com">nirogyrosuniversityave.com</a>                  2001 W Springfield, Champaign 355-6760  <a href="http://nirogyroschampaign.com">nirogyroschampaign.com</a></p> <p>Also have hot dogs, Philly steak sandwiches, Italian beef, burgers, chicken and fish. Limited dine-in, but have drive-thru and delivery at both locations.</p>	<p><b>Super Niro's Gyros</b>  <a href="http://supernirosgyroschampaign.com">supernirosgyroschampaign.com</a>                  608 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 530-4912</p> <p>Large, eat-in restaurant with same fare as Niro's Gyro's, but with added specialties like kabob dinners, falafels, fried shrimp, turkey and salmon burgers. Drive thru, too.</p>
<p><b>Layalina Mediterranean Grill</b>                  401 S 1<sup>st</sup> St, Champaign 607-5455</p> <p>Family-owned restaurant. I really liked their shawarma and hummus. Service is a bit slow, but food was good.</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem Middle Eastern Cuisine</b>                  **601 S Wright St, Champaign 344-8760</p> <p>Good food, good prices, good selection. Items like shawarma, falafels, hummus. Service can be a bit slow.</p>

## 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. ☹

<p><b>The Y Thai Eatery</b>  <a href="http://www.universityymca.org/about_us/y_eatery">www.universityymca.org/about_us/y_eatery</a>                  **1st floor, YMCA, 1001 S Wright, C 344-5040</p> <p>Excellent Thai food at good prices. I get the tofu pad thai. Only open 10:30am-2:30pm, Monday-Friday.</p>	<p><b>Basil Thai Urbana</b>  <a href="http://basil-thai.com">basil-thai.com</a>                  **701 S Gregory Pl (between Oregon &amp; Nevada) 344-8662</p> <p>Authentic Thai cuisine. I always get their Pad Thai.</p>
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<b>Siam Terrace</b> <a href="http://www.siamterrace.com">www.siamterrace.com</a> 212 W Main, downtown Urbana 367-THAI (-8424)  My Thai students said this is the best Thai food in CU.	<b>My Thai</b> <a href="http://www.mythaichampaign.com">www.mythaichampaign.com</a> 2312 W Springfield, Champaign 351-THAI (-8424)  Serve Thai, Japanese, and sushi.
<b>Thara Thai Restaurant</b> 912 1/2 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 378-1986  Small place, great food, friendly service.	<b>Nitaya Thai Restaurant</b> 134 W Church, downtown Champaign 359-5540  Good nouveau cuisine, in a funky atmosphere.

## Chinese

**Quick Chinese** (Small dine-in, take-out only places. No delivery.)

<b>#1 Wok</b> **12 E Green St, Champaign 356-4700  Recommended to me by a Chinese student for their chicken angel hair. Good food, good prices.	<b>Super Wok</b> <a href="http://www.gosuperwok.com">www.gosuperwok.com</a> 1737 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 398-0111  Good food, good prices.
<b>China Garden</b> 114 N Vine St, Urbana 367-6588  In Urbana Crossing mall. Good food, good prices.	

## Sit-down Chinese

<b>Golden Harbor</b> <a href="http://goldenharbor.weebly.com">goldenharbor.weebly.com</a> **505 S Neil St, Champaign 398-8988  <i>Authentic</i> Chinese/Taiwan cuisine. Most highly recommended by my Chinese students! No tips; 5% off when pay cash. Massive handwritten menu on wall (both Chinese/English). Food served family-style.	<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, a bit pricey, but I really like it. Love their pan fried noodle and rice noodle dishes! And as a bonus, they deliver!
<b>Peking Garden</b> <a href="http://www.pekinggardenchampaign.com">www.pekinggardenchampaign.com</a> 206 N Randolph, downtown Champaign 355-8888  Tucked away in the Robeson Building. Great food, good prices. Love their pan fried noodles and lunch specials. They deliver!	<b>Auntie Lee's Chinese Kitchen</b> <a href="http://shanghai1938online.com/Shanghai-1938-chinese-menu">shanghai1938online.com/Shanghai-1938-chinese-menu</a> **49B E Green St, Champaign 693-7928 Currently delivery only – til 3:30am!  Formerly Shanghai 1938 Chinese Restaurant at the Crossing. Great food, decent prices.

## Mongolian grills

<b>301 Mongolia</b> <a href="http://301mongolia.com">301mongolia.com</a> 307 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 531-1153  Excellent create your own stir-fry over a Mongolian grill. Lots of great ingredients to choose from. Is a little more, but worth it.	<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...
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## Chinese Buffets

<b>Ichiban Chinese Buffet &amp; Sushi Bar</b> <a href="http://ichibanchampaign.com">ichibanchampaign.com</a> 105 N Mattis, Champaign 398-5650  Great food, decent prices. Also have menu items.	<b>Chinatown Buffet</b> 713 Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-9888  <i>Huge</i> buffet with Chinese and American foods.
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## Japanese/Sushi

<p><b>Ko-Fusion</b> (<a href="http://www.kofusion.com">www.kofusion.com</a>) **701 S Gregory, Suite F, Urbana 954-1572</p> <p>“Organic meats, wild-caught seafood, local produce.” Sushi and stir fry menus. Casual dining with dollar sushi menu and quick affordable meals.</p>	<p><b>Ko-Fusion</b> (<a href="http://www.kofusion.com">www.kofusion.com</a>) 1 E Main, downtown Champaign 531-1166</p> <p>“Organic meats, wild-caught seafood, local produce.” Sushi and stir fry menus. Upscale atmosphere with lunch buffet M-F and dollar sushi Sundays and Mondays.</p>
<p><b>Oishi Hibachi Steak House</b> (<a href="http://oishihibachisteakhouse.com">oishihibachisteakhouse.com</a>) 2501 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 398-6888</p> <p>A bit pricey, but nice atmosphere and good food.</p>	<p><b>Sarku Japan</b> (<a href="http://www.sarkujapan.com">www.sarkujapan.com</a>) Market Place Mall food court 378-8028</p> <p>Their specialty is teriyaki chicken.</p>

## Vegetarian Fare

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

<p><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</p> <p>“Voted Best Vegetarian Menu Options in Best of CU for 2012.” Vegan food night Thursdays 5-8pm.</p>	<p><b>Strawberry Fields Café</b> (<a href="http://www.strawberry-fields.com">www.strawberry-fields.com</a>) 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655</p> <p>There is a small café located in the store. Also sell natural and organic foods.</p>
<p><b>Common Ground Co-op</b> (<a href="http://commonground.coop">commonground.coop</a>) 300 S Broadway (Lincoln Square), Urbana 352-3347</p> <p>Salad bar, pizzas, soups and sandwiches. In-store seating or grab and go options.</p>	

## Restaurant/Bars

There are far too many bars to mention in town. Some I have already listed under the Dancing and Indoor Recreation sections, so please refer back to those sections for places like **Jupiter’s, Goldy’s, Bunny’s, Boomerang’s**, etc. Here are a few more places that have good food. Some are on the pricey side, so I only go there occasionally.

<p><b>Applebee’s</b> (<a href="http://applebees.com">applebees.com</a>) 2121 N Prospect, Champaign 359-8178 1201 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-1894</p> <p>Good food, great specials. I love their Oriental Chicken salad. They also have meals under 550 calories and Weight Watchers selections.</p>	<p><b>TGI Friday's</b> (<a href="http://www.tgifridays.com">www.tgifridays.com</a>) 103 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 352-8443</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Seven Saints</b> (<a href="http://sevensaintsbar.com">sevensaintsbar.com</a>) 32 E Chester St, downtown Champaign 351-7775</p> <p>Upscale bar with old world atmosphere. Awesome cheese curds appetizer and grilled chicken salad sandwiches.</p>	<p><b>DESTIHL Restaurant and Brew Works</b> (<a href="http://www.destihl.com">www.destihl.com</a>) 301 N Neil St, Champaign 356-0301</p> <p>They tout themselves as a “gastrobrewpub”. Microbrewery with craft beers and scratch cooked meals. Also have a weekend brunch with breakfast fare.</p>

<p><b>Crane Alley</b> (<a href="http://www.crane-alley.com">www.crane-alley.com</a>) 115 E Main, downtown Urbana 384-7526</p> <p>They claim to have the largest beer selection in CU and probably do! Also serve burgers and “gastropub style entrees”.</p>	<p><b>Billy Barooz Pub and Grill</b> (<a href="http://www.billybarooz.com">www.billybarooz.com</a>) 2521 Village Green Pl, Champaign 355-8030</p> <p>Great place to watch Illini games on TV! I usually get their deconstructed nachos (all ingredients served separately).</p>
<p><b>Hooters</b> (<a href="http://www.hooters.com">www.hooters.com</a>) 1706 S State St, Champaign 355-7682</p> <p>This is not even in my top 10, but most guys love it. When Harrison Ford’s plane needed emergency service several years ago, he went to Hooters, probably because it is a sports bar and not because of the waitresses.</p>	<p><b>Buffalo Wild Wings (aka “B-Dubs” or “BW3”)</b> (<a href="http://www.buffalowildwings.com">www.buffalowildwings.com</a>) 907 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 378-4400 1335 Savoy Plaza Dr, Savoy 356-9464</p> <p>Sports bar with chicken wings with your choice of 16 sauces from mild to blazin’! Other foods, too. Near the Savoy 16, so good place before or after a movie.</p>
<p><b>Murphy’s Pub</b> **605 E Green St, Champaign 344-4372</p> <p>Irish pub fare – so great 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 can be a bit slow.</p>	<p><b>Dublin O’Neil’s</b> (<a href="http://dublinoneils.com">dublinoneils.com</a>) 301 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 531-1152</p> <p>Irish pub with brunch, lunch, dinner and late night snacks. Also have live music at various times of the year. I’ve only eaten here once, but it was good.</p>
<p><b>Esquire Lounge</b> (<a href="http://www.esquirelounge.com">www.esquirelounge.com</a>) 106 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 398-5858</p> <p>Great ribeye sandwiches, Asian dumpling appetizers, and individual sized pizzas. Awesome pineapple margaritas. Can also play pool or enjoy outdoor seating.</p>	<p><b>Uncle Martin’s Sports Bar</b> (<a href="http://unclemartins.colorize.co/">http://unclemartins.colorize.co/</a>) 1104 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 607-1867</p> <p>Owned by the Fuentes family (El Toro). Serves chips and salsa and a mix of Mexican-inspired and American sandwiches and entrees. Good prices.</p>

## Out of My Normal Price Range

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

## Steakhouses

<p><b>The Rib Eye</b> (<a href="http://www.theribeyerestaurant.org">www.theribeyerestaurant.org</a>) **1701 S Neil, Champaign 351-9115</p> <p>Known for their impressive salad bar, great steak, and twice baked potatoes. I love their huge fried shrimp and their Sunday/Monday nights Steak for 2 special!</p>	<p><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</p> <p>Great steaks that you pick out and can cook yourself, if you like. Interesting concept, but I like my meals <i>served</i> to me when I'm eating out! 😊</p>
<p><b>Outback Steakhouse</b> (yup...Aussie decor!) (<a href="http://www.outback.com">www.outback.com</a>) 2402 N Prospect, Champaign 398-3322</p> <p>They serve beef, and lots of it. Also offer chicken and sea foods. I love their Bloomin’ Onion appetizer.</p>	<p><b>Texas Roadhouse</b> (<a href="http://www.texasroadhouse.com">www.texasroadhouse.com</a>) 204 N Country Fair Dr, Champaign 355-9901</p> <p>A more casual steakhouse. Start off with peanuts in the shell and great rolls! I love their smothered chicken.</p>

<p><b>Longhorn Steakhouse</b>  <a href="http://www.longhornsteakhouse.com">www.longhornsteakhouse.com</a>  2101 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-9189</p> <p>Excellent food. They also offer specials that are a little different than your normal steakhouse fare.</p>	
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### Seafood /Fine Dining

<p><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</p> <p>Great seafood, fish and desserts. They are known for their garlic cheese biscuits. I love their coconut shrimp and shrimp fettuccini!</p>	<p><b>Silvercreek</b>  <a href="http://www.couriersilvercreek.com/silvercreek">www.couriersilvercreek.com/silvercreek</a>  402 N Race, Urbana 328-3402</p> <p>Nice atmosphere with great food. They have a nice Greenhouse open for their Sunday brunches from 10am-2:30pm. Owners also manage the Courier Cafe.</p>
<p><b>Milo's Restaurant at the Pines</b>  <a href="http://milosurbana.com">milosurbana.com</a>  2870 S Philo, Urbana 344-8946</p> <p>Really good food, delicious rolls. Sunday brunch from 11am-3pm.</p>	<p><b>Radio Maria</b>  <a href="http://www.radiomariarestaurant.com">www.radiomariarestaurant.com</a>  119 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 398-7729</p> <p>Very eclectic selection of Nouveau cuisine. Small place, so be prepared to wait.</p>

### Upscale Italian Places

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