

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

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

**2016**

June 2016

Hi!

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

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

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

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

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

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 Sometimes these restaurants and businesses only stay around for a short time, and as a result, this guide may be out of date in a matter of months.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

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

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

I sincerely hope you enjoy your time 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.

## Emergency Numbers

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

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

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 (listed under University Phone Numbers).

## Hospitals

<b>Carle Hospital</b> 611 W Park, Urbana	383-3311 Patient Advisory Nurse: 383-3233	<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	<a href="http://www.presencehealth.org/presence-covenant-medical-center-urbana-contact-us">www.presencehealth.org/presence-covenant-medical-center-urbana-contact-us</a>

## Champaign

Police non-emergency	351-4545	<a href="http://ci.champaign.il.us/departments/police/">ci.champaign.il.us/departments/police/</a>	<a href="mailto:Police@ci.champaign.il.us">Police@ci.champaign.il.us</a>
Fire non-emergency	403-7200	<a href="http://ci.champaign.il.us/departments/fire/">ci.champaign.il.us/departments/fire/</a>	<a href="mailto:FireDepartment@ci.champaign.il.us">FireDepartment@ci.champaign.il.us</a>

## Urbana

Police non-emergency	384-2320	<a href="http://urbanaillinois.us/police">urbanaillinois.us/police</a>	
Fire non-emergency	384-2420	<a href="http://urbanaillinois.us/fire">urbanaillinois.us/fire</a>	

## University of Illinois

Police	333-1216	<a href="http://www.dps.illinois.edu">www.dps.illinois.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:police@illinois.edu">police@illinois.edu</a>
Emergency Dean of Students 5pm-8:30am	333-0500	<a href="http://odos.illinois.edu/emergency">odos.illinois.edu/emergency</a>	<a href="mailto:helpdean@illinois.edu">helpdean@illinois.edu</a>

<b>Champaign County Sheriff</b> Incidents outside C-U city limits	384-1204	<a href="http://www1.co.champaign.il.us/SHERIFF/HOME.PHP">www1.co.champaign.il.us/SHERIFF/HOME.PHP</a>	<a href="mailto:sheriff@co.champaign.il.us">sheriff@co.champaign.il.us</a>
<b>Illinois Road Conditions</b>	800-452-IDOT	<a href="http://www.dot.state.il.us">www.dot.state.il.us</a>	<a href="http://apps.dot.illinois.gov/WER/?from=1">apps.dot.illinois.gov/WER/?from=1</a>

## 24-Hour Hotlines

<b>Crisis Line</b> Local suicide prevention hotline	244-7911 359-4141	<a href="http://communityelements.org">communityelements.org</a>	
<b>Rape Crisis Hotline</b>	384-4444	<a href="http://www.cu-races.org">www.cu-races.org</a>	
<b>Illinois Poison Center</b>	800-222-1222	<a href="http://illinoispoisoncenter.org">illinoispoisoncenter.org</a>	<a href="mailto:info@ilpoison.org">info@ilpoison.org</a>
<b>The Prairie Center</b> Local alcohol/substance abuse	356-7576	<a href="http://www.prairie-center.com">www.prairie-center.com</a>	<a href="mailto:contact@prairie-center.com">contact@prairie-center.com</a>

## 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	<a href="http://biophysics.illinois.edu/people">biophysics.illinois.edu/people</a>	<a href="mailto:dodds@illinois.edu">dodds@illinois.edu</a>
Satish Nair, Interim Director	333-0641	<a href="http://mcb.illinois.edu/faculty/profile/snair">mcb.illinois.edu/faculty/profile/snair</a>	<a href="mailto:snair@illinois.edu">snair@illinois.edu</a>
Graduate College	333-0035	<a href="http://www.grad.illinois.edu">www.grad.illinois.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:grad@illinois.edu">grad@illinois.edu</a>
International Student & Scholar Services	333-1303	<a href="http://iss.illinois.edu">iss.illinois.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:iss@illinois.edu">iss@illinois.edu</a>
Student Benefits Center (Health/Dental)	333-0165	<a href="http://si.illinois.edu">si.illinois.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:insure@illinois.edu">insure@illinois.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>	<a href="mailto: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://techservices.illinois.edu/get-help/help-desk">techservices.illinois.edu/get-help/help-desk</a>	<a href="mailto:consult@illinois.edu">consult@illinois.edu</a>
Division of Campus Recreation	333-3806	<a href="http://www.campusrec.illinois.edu">www.campusrec.illinois.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:campusrec@illinois.edu">campusrec@illinois.edu</a>
General Information	333-1000	<a href="http://illinois.edu">illinois.edu</a>	

## 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.

### 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 44 Main St, Ste 208, Champaign	352-6220	<a href="http://www.tenantunion.illinois.edu/hoursnonstudents.html">www.tenantunion.illinois.edu/hoursnonstudents.html</a>

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

### Utilities

Illinois-American Water Company	800-422-2782	<a href="http://www.amwater.com/ilaw">www.amwater.com/ilaw</a>	<a href="mailto:infoil@amwater.com">infoil@amwater.com</a>
Ameren IL (Electric/Gas)	800-755-5000	<a href="http://www.ameren.com/illinois">www.ameren.com/illinois</a>	<a href="http://www2.ameren.com/ContactUs">www2.ameren.com/ContactUs</a>

### Phone Companies (Land Lines/Internet)

AT&T	800-288-2020	<a href="http://www.att.com">www.att.com</a>
Xfinity/Comcast	800-934-6489	<a href="http://www.xfinity.com">www.xfinity.com</a>
Mediacom	855-633-4226	<a href="http://mediacomcc.com">mediacomcc.com</a>

### Cable/Satellite Services

Xfinity/Comcast (Cable/Broadband/Email/Voice)	800-934-6489	<a href="http://www.xfinity.com">www.xfinity.com</a>
DirecTV (Satellite)	800-531-5000	<a href="http://www.directv.com">www.directv.com</a>
Dish Network (Satellite)	866-531-1967	<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](http://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.
Downtown 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

<b>The News-Gazette</b> Local news, events, & entertainment. Conservative views. 15 E Main, Champaign	351-5252 or 800-660-7323	<a href="http://www.news-gazette.com">www.news-gazette.com</a>
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### Free Papers

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

<b>Daily Illini</b> Independent student newspaper 512 E Green, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Champaign	337-8350	<a href="http://dailyillini.com">dailyillini.com</a>	<a href="mailto:news@dailyillini.com">news@dailyillini.com</a>
<b>The Buzz</b> Alternative Lifestyle Paper 512 E Green, Champaign	337-3801	<a href="http://readbuzz.com">readbuzz.com</a>	<a href="mailto:buzz@readbuzz.com">buzz@readbuzz.com</a>
<b>The Public I</b> Alternative News 202 S Broadway #100, Urbana	344-8820	<a href="http://publici.ucime.org">publici.ucime.org</a>	<a href="mailto:ime@ucime.org">ime@ucime.org</a>
<b>American Classifieds</b> Weekly sales/ads 505 E University, Ste C, Champaign	356-4804	<a href="http://mythriftnickelads.com">mythriftnickelads.com</a>	
<b>Thrifty Nickel On Line</b> Weekly sales/ads	850-833-2648	<a href="http://champaign.tnol.com">champaign.tnol.com</a>	

### Local Television Stations

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

National Station	Local Station	Local Channel	Local City Station is Broadcast From	URL
CBS	WCIA	3	Champaign/Springfield/Decatur	<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	27	Champaign	<a href="http://www.foxillinois.com">www.foxillinois.com</a>
	WRSP	55	Springfield	

## Local Radio Stations

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

<b>FM</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Type of music/station</b>	<b>URL</b>
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>
WREE	92.5	Rewind	<a href="http://rewind925.com">rewind925.com</a>
WLRW	94.5	Mix 94.5	<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>
<b>AM</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Type of music/station</b>	<b>URL</b>
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 for students to travel on campus and around town is by

### Bus

<b>C-U Mass Transit District (CU MTD)</b> 1101 E University, Urbana	384-8188 Office open 8-5 Mon- Sat	<a href="http://www.cumtd.com">www.cumtd.com</a>	<a href="mailto:mtdweb@cumtd.com">mtdweb@cumtd.com</a>
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As a student, you are entitled to ride the MTD for FREE (OK, you actually pay for this privilege with part of your student fees), including shuttle buses and Niterides. You must present your I-card in order to ride free of charge. Non-students pay \$1.00 a ride, with one free transfer.

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

### Bicycles

Many students also ride **bicycles**. In 2015, Urbana was listed as a Gold Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists ([www.bikeleague.org/community](http://www.bikeleague.org/community)) - one of 24 cities given that honor out of a total of 371 cities ranked. Champaign received a Bronze ranking - one of 267 in that category. There are bike paths all around town. A new Kickapoo Rail Trail is being planned to link Urbana to Danville along an old abandoned railroad track.

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

If you are looking to purchase a bike, I'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.

<b>Durst Cycle &amp; Fitness</b> 1201 S Mattis, Champaign 1112 W University, Urbana	352-3300 367-3600	<a href="http://www.durstcycle.com">www.durstcycle.com</a>	<a href="mailto:durstcycle@gmail.com">durstcycle@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jdurst74@gmail.com">jdurst74@gmail.com</a>
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You can also pick up **used bikes**, which are usually much less expensive than new at:

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

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

If you like to build, work on, or repair your own bike, check out **The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign** ([thebikeproject.org](http://thebikeproject.org), [contact@thebikeproject.org](mailto:contact@thebikeproject.org)) for DIY work space, tools, and a community of like-minded individuals!

### Motorized Vehicles

**Scooters** and **motorcycles** are quite popular forms of transportation, especially when fuel costs are high. I strongly suggest, before investing in a 2-wheeled vehicle, that you take the Motorcycle Rider Program ([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 once and soon realized I was not cut out for driving a two-wheeled motorized vehicle; but it did make me a better passenger. 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.

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

<b>Driver's License Examination Station (aka DMV)</b> 2012 Round Barn Center, Champaign	800-252-8980 278-3344	<a href="http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com">www.cyberdriveillinois.com</a>
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Hours of operation: 8:00am-5:00pm Tu-Fri (till 5:30pm Tu). 7:30am-12:00noon Sat. If you plan to take a driving "road" test you must arrive at least 2 hours before closing, and you must show a vehicle insurance card.

You must present acceptable identification in order to apply for a license for the first time. For specific details see: [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_x173.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x173.pdf).

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

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

<b>Division of Campus Parking</b> 1201 W University Avenue, Urbana Located in the parking garage west of the Beckman, across from Perkins	333-3530	<a href="http://www.parking.illinois.edu">www.parking.illinois.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:parkingcomments@illinois.edu">parkingcomments@illinois.edu</a>
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### Zipcar

If you don't want to purchase a vehicle, but don't want to carry a load of groceries on the bus, rent a Zipcar. Become a member for a nominal fee, and pay for only the time you use the car - and you don't pay for gas or insurance! There are 10 Zipcars located at various locations around Champaign-Urbana and on campus. Call 1-866-4ZIPCAR or visit [www.zipcar.com/universities/university-of-illinois-champaign-urbana](http://www.zipcar.com/universities/university-of-illinois-champaign-urbana) 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](https://www.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 then take it to a good mechanic as soon as possible to make sure everything under the hood is as it should be.

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

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

## Car Repair

If you have your own car, chances are you will need something repaired at some point, and regular maintenance to keep it running in tip top shape. If you purchase a new car, you will probably need to go through the dealership where you purchase the vehicle. It costs more, but many 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 Repair</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. And 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  <a href="mailto:sammyelectric@sbcglobal.net">sammyelectric@sbcglobal.net</a></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

<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>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>

### USED parts

<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.  <a href="mailto:jwassom@macksrecycling.com">jwassom@macksrecycling.com</a></p> <p>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>
<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>

# 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> 801 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
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#### 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)
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### 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 ([urbanaillinois.us/market](http://urbanaillinois.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).

## 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>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  <a href="mailto:grocery@commonground.coop">grocery@commonground.coop</a></p> <p>Non-profit grocery store that sells local and organic foods. Also vegan, gluten-free, cruelty-free products.</p>	<p><b>Strawberry Fields</b>  <a href="http://www.strawberry-fields.com">www.strawberry-fields.com</a>            306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655  <a href="mailto:saibsf@gmail.com">saibsf@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Reopened in July 2015 under new management. Natural food/health store, bakery, café and caterer.</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  <a href="mailto:mohammad@worldharvestfoods.com">mohammad@worldharvestfoods.com</a></p> <p>Gourmet international foods/café.</p>	<p><b>Art Mart</b>  <a href="http://shopartmart.com">shopartmart.com</a>            1705 S Prospect, Champaign 344-7979</p> <p>Gourmet international foods/café/wines. Also sell educational toys and objects d'art. Catering available.</p>
<p><b>Green Onion Asian Market</b>            2020 S Neil, Champaign 359-5370</p> <p>Korean/Japanese/Chinese upscale market.</p>	<p><b>Lee's Oriental Foods</b>            303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949 (near Kirby and State)</p> <p>Korean market/food. Also rent videos.</p>
<p><b>Far East Grocery</b>            105 S Fifth, Champaign 352-7137</p> <p>Looks very unassuming from the outside, but is an awesome authentic Asian market. Cash only!</p>	<p><b>AM-KO Oriental Foods &amp; Gifts</b>  <a href="http://amkogrocery.com">amkogrocery.com</a>            101 E Springfield, Champaign 398-2922  <a href="mailto:info@amkogrocery.com">info@amkogrocery.com</a></p> <p>Asian neighborhood grocery store and gift shop.</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  <a href="mailto:mirsung.groceries@gmail.com">mirsung.groceries@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Indian grocery; fast food. Free delivery for students!</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  <a href="mailto:tecno_handa@yahoo.com">tecno_handa@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Indian grocery store and video rentals.</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>	<p><b>El Progreso</b>            501N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 607-1533</p> <p>Mexican grocery store.</p>

### Butcher Shops

<p><b>Uof I Meat Science Laboratory</b>  <a href="http://meatandeggsales.illinois.edu">meatandeggsales.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  <a href="mailto:store@oldtimemeatanddeli.com">store@oldtimemeatanddeli.com</a></p> <p>Deli sandwiches. Superior meat/fish/seafood. Amish raised poultry. Great homemade twice baked potatoes!</p>
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## Super Discount Stores

Super discount stores have an unbelievably wide variety of items (from food to clothing to toys to electronic equipment to automotive supplies to garden supplies to pet supplies to pharmacies to photo processing...the list goes on and on!) And all have fairly reasonable prices on most items. Some are even open 24 hours for your shopping convenience. The North Prospect corridor is the mega-shopping area for these stores in Champaign. 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** (they are now offering to shop for you – you order, arrive a couple hours later, pay, and drive away!)

<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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## Special Discount Stores

These are *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>

## Farm Stores

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

<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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## Pharmacies (Drug Stores)

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

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

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

Here are the two major chains in town that have many locations. Additionally, there are also stores in the some of the local Carle and Christie Clinic health care facilities.

### CVS Drug Stores [www.cvs.com](http://www.cvs.com)

107 W Green (at Neil), Champaign 355-8123 (open 24 hours)  
 2102 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 355-3345  
 243 S Mattis (at Country Fair shops), Champaign 352-9665  
 1818 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-1192  
 1111 N Dunlap St, Savoy 351-2123

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

Market Place Mall is the largest mall in town. It has clothing and shoe stores, jewelry stores, gift shops, specialty stores, music and bookstores, and a food court. There are several major department stores located in Market Place including 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.

<p><b>Market Place Mall</b>  <a href="http://www.marketplacemall.com">www.marketplacemall.com</a>                  2000 N Neil Street (north of I-74), Champaign                  356-2700</p>
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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.

<p><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</p>	<p><b>Country Fair Shopping Center</b>                  Corner of Mattis and Springfield, Champaign                  356-3717</p>
<p><b>Market View Shopping Center</b>                  South of Market Place Mall, Champaign                  356-2700</p>	<p><b>Sunnycrest Mall</b>                  1717 S Philo Road, Urbana 384-5787</p>

## Strip Malls

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

<p><b>Johnstown Center</b>                  E John Street, Champaign (campus)</p> <p>Fat Sandwich Company, Insomnia Cookies, The Beach Sun Spa, Johnstown General Store, Asian Taste</p>	<p><b>University Centre</b>                  30-40 block of E Green, Champaign</p> <p>Mirsung Indian Grocery, Sportsworld, K-Bowl, Green Street Café, DP Dough, Fasprint, Jimmy John’s</p>
<p><b>Katsinis Plaza</b>                  NE corner of Green and Neil, Champaign</p> <p>Jet’s Pizza, Hollywood Liquor, Wing Stop, Cost Cutters</p>	<p><b>Neil Street Commons</b>                  500 S Neil (1 block N of Green), Champaign</p> <p>Golden Harbor, Annapoorna Foods, K on Karaoke, The School Station, Verizon, Revolt Tattoo Studio</p>
<p><b>Green Street Galleria</b>                  SE corner of Green and Neil, Champaign</p> <p>Illini Cellular, Allstate Insurance</p>	<p><b>Stadium Plaza</b>                  1400 S Neil Street (1 block S of Green), Champaign</p> <p>Subway, Espresso Royale, Cactus Grill</p>
<p><b>Gateway Shoppes at Five Points</b>                  202 E University Ave, Urbana</p> <p>Rainbow Garden, Po’ Boys, City Girl Frozen Yogurt, Great Clips, Tricoci University of Beauty, UI Community Credit Union, Wireless Mike’s</p>	<p><b>Schnuck’s Urbana Crossing</b>                  114 N Vine Street, Urbana</p> <p>Schnuck’s, Papa Murphy’s, China Garden, Radio Shack</p>

<p><b>Old Farm Shops</b> (Upscale Shopping)  <a href="http://www.oldfarmshops.com">www.oldfarmshops.com</a>  Kirby and Mattis Avenues, Champaign</p> <p>Panera Bread, Talbots, Vilardo's, Checkered Moon, Jos A Bank, Glenn Poor's, Subway, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Super Wok, TCBY, UPS Store</p>	<p><b>Village at the Crossing</b> (Upscale Dining)  Duncan and Windsor, Champaign</p> <p>Jupiter's, Billy Barooz, Minneci's, Espresso Royale, Wedge Tequila Bar and Grill, Aroma Curry House, Rod Sickler Salon &amp; Spa, Blossom Basket, Subway</p>
<p><b>Windsor Galleria</b> (Upscale Dining)  1100 Windsor Road (near Galen), Champaign</p> <p>Sun Singer Wines &amp; Spirits, The New Sweet Indulgence Bakery, Starcrest Cleaners, Green Jade</p>	<p><b>Shoppes of Knollwood</b> (Upscale Dining)  2200 block of S Neil Street, Champaign</p> <p>Biaggi's, Great Harvest Bread Company, Le Peep, Illini Open MRI, Direct Travel (Suzi Davis)</p>
<p><b>Round Barn Center</b>  Mattis and Springfield Avenues, Champaign</p> <p>Round Barn Banquet Centre, Original Pancake House, Fed Ex, Fitness Center, IL Secretary of State Drivers Facility, Jimmy John's, Jet's Pizza</p>	<p><b>Savoy Plaza</b>  South Neil Street &amp; Curtis Road, Savoy</p> <p>Buffalo Wild Wings, Marble Slab Creamery, Friar Tuck's (liquors), Savoy 16, Curves for Women, Schnuck's, Smokey BBQ, Dollar Tree, Goodwill Store</p>
<p><b>Carriage Center</b>  S Neil Street, Champaign (at Devonshire)</p> <p>Moe's Southwest Grill, Panchero's, Starbuck's, Wendy's, AT&amp;T, Brixx, Rainstorm Carwash, Coming in 2017: Harvest Market, Haymakers, Ace Hardware, Home2 Suites by Hilton</p>	<p><b>Hillcrest Center</b>  2000 block of S Neil Street, Champaign</p> <p>Old Time Meat &amp; Deli, B Won Korean, Green Onion, Andy's Barber Shop.</p>

## Clothing and Accessories

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

Here are some other places for great deals:

### Cindy’s Favorite Department Store

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

<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 buy "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. Have accessories, too! They also sell inexpensive furniture, decor and household items.

<p><b>Goodwill</b>  <a href="http://www.llgi.org">www.llgi.org</a>                  912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870                  1201 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 503-6076</p>	<p><b>Salvation Army Family Thrift Store</b>  <a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org">www.salvationarmyusa.org</a>                  2212 N Market, Champaign 309-373-7825</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  <a href="mailto:store@courageconnection.org">store@courageconnection.org</a></p>	

### Retro Clothing

<p><b>Dandelion Retro, Vintage &amp; Used Clothing</b>  <a href="http://www.dandelionretro.com">www.dandelionretro.com</a>                  100 N Chestnut, Champaign 954-0555                  (in the old train station)</p>	<p><b>Carrie’s Antiques and Jewelry</b>                  723 S Neil St, Champaign 352-3231</p> <p>Vintage clothing and jewelry.</p>
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### 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 &amp; Ours Kid Shop</b> (Children’s clothing)                  1824 Glen Park, Champaign (next to County Market)                  356-0880</p>
<p><b>Plato’s Closet</b>  <a href="http://www.platosclosetchampaign.com">www.platosclosetchampaign.com</a>                  29 E Marketview Dr 366-8200  <a href="mailto:mmgrauel@gmail.com">mmgrauel@gmail.com</a></p>	

## Furniture and Home Decor

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.

### Used Furniture Stores

<p><b>Habitat for Humanity ReStore</b>  <a href="http://cuhabitat.org">cuhabitat.org</a>                  119 E University, Champaign 359-0507, 819-5118  <a href="mailto:restore@cuhabitat.org">restore@cuhabitat.org</a>                  Visit the Top Drawer ReStore Boutique next door!</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  <a href="mailto:store@courageconnection.org">store@courageconnection.org</a></p>
<p><b>Goodwill</b>  <a href="http://www.llgi.org">www.llgi.org</a>                  912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870</p>	<p><b>Salvation Army Family Thrift Store</b>  <a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org">www.salvationarmyusa.org</a>                  2212 N Market, Champaign 309-373-7825</p>
<p><b>Crossroads Corner Consignment</b>                  723 S Neil, Suite 103, Champaign 954-1100</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. Below are some other places in town that are relatively inexpensive.

#### Beds

#### Etcetera

<p><b>Bender’s Mattress Factory &amp; Sleep Shop</b>  <a href="http://www.bendermattress.com">www.bendermattress.com</a>                  1206 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 328-1700  <a href="mailto:info@bendermattress.com">info@bendermattress.com</a>                   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">www.furniturerow.com</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">www.illinimattress.com</a>                  514 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign 359-0156  <a href="mailto:info@illinimattress.com">info@illinimattress.com</a></p>	<p><b>This Is It Furniture</b>  <a href="http://thisisitfurniturediscount.com">thisisitfurniturediscount.com</a>                  Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 351-5102</p>
<p><b>Mattress Boss</b>  <a href="http://themattressboss.com">themattressboss.com</a>                  1102 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 607-2072</p>	<p><b>Furniture Warehouse</b>  <a href="http://www.cufurniturewarehouse.com">www.cufurniturewarehouse.com</a>                  126 E University, Champaign 352-0080  <a href="mailto:cufurniturewarehouse@yahoo.com">cufurniturewarehouse@yahoo.com</a></p>

### High-End Furniture

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

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

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

### New Items

<p><b>Prairie Gardens</b>  <a href="http://www.prairiegardens.com">www.prairiegardens.com</a>          3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532  <a href="mailto:info@prairiegardens.com">info@prairiegardens.com</a></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>          118 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 328-2254  <a href="mailto:InternationalGalleriesUrbana@Gmail.com">InternationalGalleriesUrbana@Gmail.com</a></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>          1705 S Prospect, Champaign 344-7979</p> <p>International foods/coffee, chocolates, kitchen gadgets, cards, party lights, objects d'art, educational toys, etc.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday Morning</b>  <a href="http://www.tuesdaymorning.com">www.tuesdaymorning.com</a>          45 E Marketview Dr, 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>
<p><b>Big Lots</b>  <a href="http://www.biglots.com">www.biglots.com</a>          2004 W Springfield, Champaign 355-1844</p> <p>When I was the wife of a grad student, I almost completely decorated our apartment with items from Pic 'N Save, as they were called in LA back in the day.</p>	

### Used/Antique

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

<p><b>Top Drawer ReStore</b>  <a href="http://cuhabitat.org">cuhabitat.org</a>          119 E University, Champaign 359-0507, 819-5118  <a href="mailto:restore@cuhabitat.org">restore@cuhabitat.org</a></p>	<p><b>Crossroads Corner Consignment</b>          723 S Neil, Suite 103, Champaign 954-1100</p>
<p><b>Second Hand Rose</b>          901 E Main St, Urbana 772-4073</p> <p>A bit more pricy, but some cool stuff!</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">www.menards.com</a>          620 Town Center 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">www.lowes.com</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">www.homedepot.com</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">www.farmandfleet.co</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">www.doitbest.com</a>          107 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6454</p> <p>Smaller, limited shop; a little more expensive. But closer to campustown than the Prospect corridor. Have an extensive outdoor garden shop each spring/summer.</p>	<p><b>Round Barn True Value Hardware</b>  <a href="http://www.truevalue.com">www.truevalue.com</a>          245B S Mattis, Round Barn Ctr, Champaign 352-1100  <a href="mailto:roundbartruevalue@gmail.com">roundbartruevalue@gmail.com</a></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. Also do installations.</p>	<p><b>Radio Shack</b>  <a href="http://www.radioshack.com">www.radioshack.com</a>          2020 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 359-6521</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. Custom installs in home and vehicles. Repairs.</p>	<p><b>Glenn Poor's Audio-Video</b>  <a href="http://glennpoors.com">glennpoors.com</a>          1745 W Kirby, Champaign 356-5456  <a href="mailto:glennpoors2@gmail.com">glennpoors2@gmail.com</a></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  <a href="mailto:impalaSS401@gmail.com">impalaSS401@gmail.com</a></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, 352-3744  <a href="mailto:RadDoc@SbcGlobal.net">RadDoc@SbcGlobal.net</a></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  <a href="mailto:iutechzone@illinois.edu">iutechzone@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  <a href="mailto:sales@simplifiedcomputers.com">sales@simplifiedcomputers.com</a></p> <p>They helped my mom, who is completely tech illiterate.</p>
<p><b>Geek Squad</b>  <a href="http://www.geeksquad.com">www.geeksquad.com</a>                  2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 800-433-5778</p> <p>Located in Best Buy. Very helpful, friendly, and patient.                  Call for Tech support 1st, may be all you need.</p>	<p><b>E P Computer</b>                  1604 S Neil St, Champaign 351-7888</p> <p>Family-run business. Fairly quick repairs, reasonable prices. Parts, upgrades, surveillance systems, iPod repair.</p>

**For a Little Bit of Everything**

**YMCA Dump and Run**

Basically a huge garage sale for charity, the YMCA Dump and Run is the place to go for inexpensive items. It is only held for 2 days at the end of August – usually the first weekend 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)



## Bookstores and Libraries

### Libraries

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

<b>U of I Main Library</b> <a href="http://www.library.illinois.edu">www.library.illinois.edu</a> 1408 W Gregory, Urbana 333-2290
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There are also 2 public libraries in C-U. Library cards are free to residents of the city where the library is located. You can also purchase, for a nominal fee, a card that gives you access to the other city's library. You can borrow CD's, videotapes, books. Tax forms are available Jan-April, as well as tax assistance. There are also seminars, story-telling events, etc.

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

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

<b>Illini Union Bookstore</b> the "Official" U of I bookstore <a href="http://www.uofibookstore.illinois.edu">www.uofibookstore.illinois.edu</a> 809 S Wright Street, Champaign 333-2050 <a href="mailto:iubcatalog@illinois.edu">iubcatalog@illinois.edu</a>	<b>TIS College Bookstore @ U of Illinois</b> <a href="http://tisbookui.com">tisbookui.com</a> 707 S 6th Street, Champaign 337-4900
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### New Age and Comic books

<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 <a href="mailto:dreamtime@insight-books.com">dreamtime@insight-books.com</a>  They sell new age books, tapes, incense, tarot cards, gemstones, etc.	<b>G-Mart</b> <a href="http://www.g-mart.com">www.g-mart.com</a> 205 N Market St, Champaign 356-7733 <a href="mailto:duck@g-mart.com">duck@g-mart.com</a>  Comic books galore!
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### 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 <a href="mailto:info@janeaddamsbooks.com">info@janeaddamsbooks.com</a>	<b>Priceless Books</b> <a href="http://www.abebooks.com/priceless-books-urbana-il-u.s.a/22278/sf">www.abebooks.com/priceless-books-urbana-il-u.s.a/22278/sf</a> 112 W Main Street, Urbana 344-4037; 689-2925
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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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## Miscellaneous

### Lookin' Good - Beauty Salons and Spas

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

#### Hair Care

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

<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 2023 S Neil St, Champaign (coming soon!)	<b>Supercuts</b> (on-line check-in!) <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
<b>Borics Hair Care</b> <a href="http://www.signaturestyle.com/brands/borics.html">www.signaturestyle.com/brands/borics.html</a> 23 Marketview Dr, Champaign 351-3213 114 N Vine St, Ste P, Urbana 367-1426 1331 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 359-7332	<b>Mastercuts</b> <a href="http://www.signaturestyle.com/brands/mastercuts.html">www.signaturestyle.com/brands/mastercuts.html</a> Market Place Mall, Champaign 356-1700

#### Beauty Schools

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

<b>Tricoci University of Beauty Culture</b> <a href="http://www.tricociuniversity.edu">www.tricociuniversity.edu</a> 202 E University Ave, Urbana 344-7550	<b>Regency Beauty Institute</b> <a href="http://www.regencybeauty.com">www.regencybeauty.com</a> 517 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 531-9937
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#### Full Salon Treatments/Spa

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

<b>Timothy John Salon &amp; Spa</b> <a href="http://www.tjsalonandspa.com">www.tjsalonandspa.com</a> 404 W Green (east of campus), Urbana 344-4720 <a href="mailto:Timothyjohnsalon@gmail.com">Timothyjohnsalon@gmail.com</a>  A full service salon. They do cuts, color, facials, mani-pedis, 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 Court (Windsor and Duncan), Studio 112, Champaign 841-1766  Deb Combs has been cutting my boyfriend's hair for over 20 years.
<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.	

## Calling All Pet Lovers

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

### Pet Emergencies

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 6pm-8am M-F, 24 hours weekends and holidays	359-1977	<a href="http://www.aecchampaign.com">www.aecchampaign.com</a>	<a href="mailto:aecchampaign@live.com">aecchampaign@live.com</a>
National (ASPCA) Animal Poison Center	1-888-4ANI-HELP 888-426-4435	<a href="http://aspcapro.org/poison">aspcapro.org/poison</a>	<a href="mailto:apcc@aspcapro.org">apcc@aspcapro.org</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/st-rays.htm">www.co.champaign.il.us/ac/st-rays.htm</a>	<a href="mailto:animalcontrol@co.champaign.il.us">animalcontrol@co.champaign.il.us</a>
City of Urbana Animal Control to report animals roaming loose/dogs barking to report dead animals in road	333-8911 Officer on duty M-F 8-4:30 384-2320	<a href="http://urbanaindinois.us/animal-control">urbanaindinois.us/animal-control</a>	
City of Champaign Animal Control for roaming animals	333-8911  403-4700	<a href="http://ci.champaign.il.us/departments/public-works">ci.champaign.il.us/departments/public-works</a>	<a href="mailto:publicworks@ci.champaign.il.us">publicworks@ci.champaign.il.us</a>
Champaign Public Works for dead animals in road	M-F 7:30-4:30 531-3155 after hrs		

### Looking to Adopt a Pet?

If you are looking for a *lifelong* companion animal, the best thing to do is to ADOPT a pet from a local rescue group...they are the best pets ever! Aren't looking for a pet, but would love to get involved in helping homeless animals while you are in town? These places are always looking for volunteers. You get to help to bring a little joy into their lives, and they into yours! These worthwhile organizations host many fundraising events throughout the year to help the animals that come through their facilities. For other local shelters, check on-line at Petfinder [www.petfinder.com](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> Adoptees can be viewed at the shelter or online.	<a href="mailto:adoption@cuhumane.org">adoption@cuhumane.org</a>
<b>CatSnap</b> A no-kill trap/spay, neuter/release and adoption program.	469-5353 Leave a message	<a href="http://www.catsnap.org">www.catsnap.org</a> Adoptees can be viewed at Pet Supplies Plus, PetSmart, or online.	<a href="mailto:catsnapcats@gmail.com">catsnapcats@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hospice Hearts</b> Finds loving homes for pets of elderly patients when they can no longer care for them.	344-1017 c/o Good Friends Animal Hospital	<a href="http://www.hospicehearts.org">www.hospicehearts.org</a> Adoptees can be viewed online.	<a href="mailto:hospicehearts@yahoo.com">hospicehearts@yahoo.com</a>

Some local pet stores that support local rescue/adoption groups by allowing pets to be viewed at 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>	<a href="http://www.petsuppliesplus.com/custserv/contactus.jsp">www.petsuppliesplus.com/custserv/contactus.jsp</a>

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

## Entertainment

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

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

### On Campus

- The [State Farm Center](#) – aka Assembly Hall – is located at the south end of campus, on Florida Ave. It holds a wide variety of events from U of I basketball games, to Broadway productions, to rock, country, Christian, and pop concerts. It also plays host to marching band performances, conventions, and craft shows. 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.

### Indoor Recreation

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

#### Theatre-Live

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

<p><b>Virginia Theater</b>  <a href="http://www.thevirginia.org">www.thevirginia.org</a>            203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063  <a href="mailto:virginia@champaignparks.com">virginia@champaignparks.com</a></p> <p>Performing arts center showcasing plays, comedy, and national musical groups. Intimate place to see bands like Styx, Foreigner, REO, Gordon Lightfoot, Chicago - I was front row for almost all of them!</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 a quaint historic train station. Our own Professor Eric Jakobsson has performed with the company!</p>
<p><b>Champaign-Urbana Theater Co</b>  <a href="http://cutc.org">cutc.org</a>            117 E University Ave, Champaign 352-4085  <a href="mailto:manager@cutc.org">manager@cutc.org</a></p> <p>The company performs several times a year. Their main stage is the Parkland College Theatre.</p>	<p><b>Parkland College Theatre</b>  <a href="http://theatre.parkland.edu">theatre.parkland.edu</a>            2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2528  <a href="mailto:theatre@parkland.edu">theatre@parkland.edu</a></p> <p>Parkland and UI students, as well as community members participate in their performances.</p>
<p><b>Zoo Improv</b>  <a href="http://www.zooimprov.com">www.zooimprov.com</a>            SoDo Theater, 111 S Walnut, Champaign  <a href="mailto:contact@zooimprov.com">contact@zooimprov.com</a></p> <p>Local improv group with shows for all audiences - family to adult rated! Also available for private events.</p>	<p><b>C-U Comedy</b>  <a href="http://www.cucomedy.com">www.cucomedy.com</a>            Held in venues around town and private events  <a href="mailto:jesse@cucomedy.com">jesse@cucomedy.com</a></p> <p>Host comedy shows at places like Clark Bar, Memphis on Main and Soma, as well as private events.</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.ggti.com">www.ggti.com</a>          232 Burwash, Savoy 355-3456</p> <p>Multi-plex 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  <a href="mailto:manager@arttheater.coop">manager@arttheater.coop</a></p> <p>Foreign films and films by independent film-makers, not shown anywhere else in town.</p>	<p><b>Virginia Theater</b>  <a href="http://www.thevirginia.org">www.thevirginia.org</a>          203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063  <a href="mailto:virginia@champaignparks.com">virginia@champaignparks.com</a></p> <p>Classic film series and home of the famous annual Roger Ebert Overlooked Film Festival!</p>

## Movie Rentals/Sales

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

<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 Neil Street Commons mall, near Neil and Green</p>
<p><b>Disc Replay</b>  <a href="http://discreplay.com/champaign.php">discreplay.com/champaign.php</a>          2012 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 607-0890  <a href="mailto:discreplaychampaignil@yahoo.com">discreplaychampaignil@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Buy, sell and/or trade gently used DVD movies, video games and systems, electronics, and CDs.</p>	

## 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 of World Cultures</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  <a href="mailto:info@orpheumkids.com">info@orpheumkids.com</a></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>          2400 W Bradley, X Wing, Champaign 351-2485  <a href="mailto:parklandartgallery@parkland.edu">parklandartgallery@parkland.edu</a></p> <p>Various exhibits and student art shows.</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>Exit 172 off I-74. 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  <a href="mailto:hcenter@ccfpd.org">hcenter@ccfpd.org</a></p> <p>Exit 197 off I-74 thru Ogden. 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  <a href="mailto:info@mrym.org">info@mrym.org</a></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></p> <p>This 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>I-72 to West Clear Lake Avenue Exit. Reported to be one of the largest collections dedicated to the US's favorite President. Exhibit of costumes/props from the movie "Lincoln".</p>	<p><b>Lincoln Log Cabin and Moore Home Historic Sites</b>  <a href="http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org">www.lincolnlogcabin.org</a>          402 S Lincoln Highway, Lerna 345-1845  <a href="mailto:hpa.lincolnlog@illinois.gov">hpa.lincolnlog@illinois.gov</a></p> <p>8 miles south of Charleston (Exit 190A off I-57, to Lincoln Hwy), the reconstructed log home of Lincoln's father and stepmother. 86-acre site, living history farms – portraying life in the 1840s.</p>

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

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

<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. Classes offered.</p>	<p><b>Prairie Gardens</b>  <a href="http://www.prairiegardens.com">www.prairiegardens.com</a>            3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532  <a href="mailto:info@prairiegardens.com">info@prairiegardens.com</a></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. Classes offered.</p>	<p><b>Art Coop, Inc.</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/artcoop">www.facebook.com/artcoop</a>            150 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-4562</p> <p>Art supplies, paints, photographic supplies, workshops, lectures, gallery, 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  <a href="mailto:dallas@dallasandco.com">dallas@dallasandco.com</a></p> <p>Party supplies, costumes and costume rentals, magic kits, balloons, gag gifts, holiday decorations and supplies, etc.</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>

## Gaming

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

<p><b>Titan Games</b> (near campus)  <a href="http://www.titangamescu.com">www.titangamescu.com</a>            723 S Neil St, Champaign 607-2317  <a href="mailto:titangamescu@gmail.com">titangamescu@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Role playing, board and card game nights.</p>	<p><b>Armored Gopher Games</b>  <a href="http://armored-gopher.com">armored-gopher.com</a>            1508 N Cunningham Ave, Ste A, Urbana 344-4263  <a href="mailto:store@armored-gopher.com">store@armored-gopher.com</a></p> <p>Role playing, board and card game nights.</p>
<p><b>Dr. G's BrainWorks</b>  <a href="http://drgsbrainworks.com">drgsbrainworks.com</a>            114 Lincoln Square Mall, Urbana 607-2427  <a href="mailto:phyllis@drgsbrainworks.com">phyllis@drgsbrainworks.com</a></p> <p>Family Game Days and Chess Cafés.</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 Friday and Saturday nights. From classic rock to metal to country. Trivia Tuesdays. Karaoke Thursdays. Occasional burlesque and comedy shows. Awesome (and very strong) lemonade shake-ups!</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  <a href="mailto:cowboymonkeyinfo@gmail.com">cowboymonkeyinfo@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Various bands from hiphop to metal Thurs-Saturday. Trivia Sunday, Margarita Monday + DJ, Open Mike Tuesdays, Tango/Salsa dancing Wednesdays. Outside patio seating in spring/summer.</p>
<p><b>The Accord</b> (downtown Champaign)  <a href="http://www.intheaccord.com">www.intheaccord.com</a>          51 Main Street, Champaign 356-2337  <a href="mailto:info@intheaccord.com">info@intheaccord.com</a></p> <p>Variety of national bands: indie, rock, hiphop. Occasional DJ dance parties/comedy/benefit shows. Home to the Great Cover-Up: local bands transform into tribute bands for a weekend of fun.</p>	<p><b>The Clark Bar</b> (near downtown Champaign)  <a href="http://www.theclarkbar.com">www.theclarkbar.com</a>          207 W Clark St, Champaign 355-0510</p> <p>Nestled in an old Champaign neighborhood, in an old stately home, mere blocks from downtown. Open Tuesday-Saturday 5pm-2am. Host a variety of local bands, karaoke and comedy. Also have DJs, drink specials &amp; good food! LGBTQ 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://www.facebook.com/boomerangs.barandgrill.1">www.facebook.com/boomerangs.barandgrill.1</a>          1309 E Washington, Urbana 239-7264</p> <p>Acoustic sets, jazz on Tuesdays, BOOM-JAM open stage, Live Jukebox. The Live Karaoke Band is great! The owner is one of the area's guitar superstars who plays with several bands! Great food.</p>	<p><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! Good bar food, too.</p>
<p><b>Rose Bowl Tavern</b> (downtown Urbana)          106 N Race St #1, Urbana 367-7031  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/Rose-Bowl-Tavern-136641079712967">www.facebook.com/Rose-Bowl-Tavern-136641079712967</a></p> <p>Original home of country music in C-U area! Various country-related bands.</p>	<p><b>Iron Post</b> (downtown Urbana)          120 S Race St, Urbana 337-7678  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/theironpost">www.facebook.com/theironpost</a></p> <p>Hosts a variety of entertainment regularly: jazz, blues, rock, comedy. Some national acts. Outdoor patio to enjoy. Good food, too.</p>



## DJ/Dancing

### **Chester Street Dance Club** (downtown Champaign)

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

63-65 E Chester St, Champaign 356-5607

DJ music. LGBTQ friendly – it is the unofficial “gay” bar in C-U. Occasional drag shows and disco party nights. Industrial music Mondays. Nominal cover charge.

## Lessons/Dancing

### **Regent Ballroom**

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

1406 Regency Drive, Savoy 359-5333

[office@regentballroom.com](mailto:office@regentballroom.com)

Ballroom and other dance styles. Also offer dance lessons.

## Dance Organizations

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

<p><b>Illini Swing Society*</b> <a href="http://www.cu-swing.org">www.cu-swing.org</a> Focuses on various swing style dances such as Lindy Hop and Charleston. Lessons and workshops offered. Hold free weekly dances during the school year and special dances once a month.</p>	<p><b>Dancing Illini*</b> <a href="http://publish.illinois.edu/dancing">publish.illinois.edu/dancing</a> Focuses on social ballroom dancing. Offer classes for basic ballroom dances: two-step, cha cha, salsa, swing, waltz, plus bonus dances such as tango and foxtrot. Free open social dances once a month.</p>
<p><b>Urbana Country Dancers*</b> <a href="http://www.urbana-contra.org">www.urbana-contra.org</a> Focuses on contra dancing (think square dancing in long lines). Dances are twice a month with special dances a couple times a year. Weekly dances are free, though donations are suggested. Dances are “walked through” before each set. Great live fiddle music!</p>	<p><b>Illini Folk Dance Society</b> <a href="http://illinifolkdance.s3.amazonaws.com">illinifolkdance.s3.amazonaws.com</a> Focuses on the enjoyment of international folk dances. Meets on Tuesday nights from 8-10pm (sometimes Saturday) at the Illini Union throughout the year. Dances are taught during the first hour. Occasionally perform for the community, but mainly recreational.</p>

\*These groups are associated with the University of Illinois through Registered Student Organizations. You should visit the **Registered Student Organizations** website ([union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-registered-organizations](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.

## Indoor Sports

My favorite indoor 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

<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>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>Esquire Lounge</b> <a href="http://esquirelounge.com">esquirelounge.com</a> 106 N Walnut, Champaign 398-5858</p>	<p><b>Goldy's</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill">www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill</a> 123 S Mattis, Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 359-2177</p>
<p><b>Guido's</b> <a href="http://guidosbar.com">guidosbar.com</a> 2 E Main St, Champaign 359-3148</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>

**Bowling Lanes**

<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  <a href="mailto:iurecroom@illinois.edu">iurecroom@illinois.edu</a>                  They also have pool tables/leagues.</p>	<p><b>Western Bowl</b>  <a href="http://westernbowl.org">westernbowl.org</a>                  917 Francis, Champaign 359-1678</p>
<p><b>Old Orchard Lanes</b>  <a href="http://www.oldorchardinc.com">www.oldorchardinc.com</a>                  901 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-5281                  Good pizza. Mini-golf in the summer.</p>	<p><b>Arrowhead Lanes</b>  <a href="http://arrowheadlanes.com">arrowheadlanes.com</a>                  1401 N McKinley, Champaign 352-5288</p>

**Campus Recreation Activities**

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

**Spectator Sports**

If you would rather just sit back and enjoy watching someone else play, there are always Illini games of some sort going on – depending on the season. For something a little different:

**Champaign Swarm Basketball**  
<http://www.champaignswarm.com/>

This professional minor league basketball team plays at the Parkland College gym. They are part of the Midwest Professional Basketball Association. The crowds are small, but the enthusiasm and professionalism of the players is remarkable. They personally thank those in attendance after each game!

## Outdoor Recreation

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

## Outdoor Festivals

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

<p><b>Boneyard Arts Festival (April 6-9, 2017)</b> 90+ venues throughout Champaign County <a href="http://40north.org/programs/boneyard">40north.org/programs/boneyard</a></p> <p>Sponsored by the 40North Champaign County Arts Festival, showcases art, music, dancing, and performances in traditional and non-traditional settings in C-U and surrounding towns. Free!</p>	<p><b>Friday Night Live (Memorial Day to Labor Day)</b> Downtown Champaign <a href="http://40north.org/programs/friday-night-live">40north.org/programs/friday-night-live</a></p> <p>Free! Every Friday night from the end of May to beginning of September, from 6-8pm, performances are held at the corners of Neil&amp; Church, Neil &amp; Park, and Walnut &amp; Chester. Music of all genres.</p>
<p><b>Urbana Park District Strawberry Jam (Jun 18, 2016)</b> Meadowbrook Park, Urbana <a href="http://www.urbanaparks.org/events/strawberry-jam">www.urbanaparks.org/events/strawberry-jam</a></p> <p>“...free concert with an old-fashioned flavor.” Music, strawberries and ice cream (while lasts), hayrack rides and guided hikes through the park. 4pm-sunset.</p>	<p><b>Champaign Park District Street Fest (June/July)</b> Downtown Champaign <a href="http://champaignparks.com/streetfest">champaignparks.com/streetfest</a></p> <p>Free! Local bands from 7pm-midnight. 6/18/16: Neil &amp; Main Street 7/16/16: University &amp; Walnut</p>
<p><b>Blues, Brews, and BBQ (June 24-25, 2016)</b> Downtown Champaign, Walnut Street, between Main &amp; Washington <a href="http://bluesbrewsandbbqfest.com">bluesbrewsandbbqfest.com</a></p> <p>Free (\$5 donation appreciated)! National and internationally-renown blues bands perform on 3 stages. BBQ vendors galore. Motorcycle show.</p>	<p><b>Taste of Champaign (August 19-20, 2016)</b> West Side Park, Champaign <a href="http://champaignparks.com/taste-of-champaign-urbana">champaignparks.com/taste-of-champaign-urbana</a></p> <p>Free music! Arts and crafts vendors. Purchase tickets to sample alcohol and menu items from some of C-U’s best known restaurants.</p>
<p><b>Urbana Sweetcorn Festival (August 26-27, 2016)</b> Downtown Urbana <a href="http://urbanasweetcornfestival.com">urbanasweetcornfestival.com</a></p> <p>Free music – some local, some regional and one national headliner each year. Arts and craft vendors, food vendors, car show, and of course, Illini sweet corn!!!!</p>	<p><b>Pygmalion Festival (Sept 16-24, 2016)</b> Downtown Champaign, The Accord annex lot <a href="http://www.thepygmalionfestival.com">www.thepygmalionfestival.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@thepygmalionfestival.com">info@thepygmalionfestival.com</a></p> <p>“Foremost boutique indie rock music festivals in the world” coupled with handmade/vintage market.</p>
<p><b>Homer Soda Festival (June 4, 2016)</b> Homer, IL <a href="http://www.homersodafestival.com">www.homersodafestival.com</a></p>	<p><b>Amish Country Cheese Festival (Labor Day weekend)</b> Arthur, IL <a href="http://www.arthurcheesefestival.com">www.arthurcheesefestival.com</a></p>
<p><b>Broom Corn Festival (Sept 9-11, 2016)</b> Arcola, IL <a href="http://arcolachamber.com/arcola-broomcorn-festival">arcolachamber.com/arcola-broomcorn-festival</a></p>	<p><b>The National Sweetcorn Festival (Sept 1-5, 2016)</b> Hoopeston, IL <a href="http://www.hoopestonjaycees.org/festival">www.hoopestonjaycees.org/festival</a></p>

## Parks and Nature Preserves

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

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

**Champaign-Urbana Parks**

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

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

**Central Illinois Area Parks and Recreation Sites**

[www.stateparks.com/central\\_illinois\\_parks.html](http://www.stateparks.com/central_illinois_parks.html)

<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</p> <p>Open July 20 – December 20. Pick your own apples, pumpkins. Petting zoo, giant slide, play area from July-Halloween, plus corn maze, wagon rides, and pony rides for children August-Halloween. Watch as they make fresh apple donuts! A general store where you can buy apples, cider, Indian corn, gourds, and pumpkins plus arts and crafts and a café (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. <a href="mailto:irequest@wildlifeprairie.org">irequest@wildlifeprairie.org</a></p> <p>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>
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<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.  <a href="mailto:allertoninfo@illinois.edu">allertoninfo@illinois.edu</a></p> <p>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.  <a href="mailto:john.hott@illinois.gov">john.hott@illinois.gov</a></p> <p>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 586-3360          10 minutes west of Champaign on I-74, Exit 174 or 173.</p> <p>Beautiful lake and botanical garden. Boating, fishing, hiking, museum, covered bridge, golf course, and picnic areas. Also have 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 Hwy 21, follow signs.</p> <p>Nice lake-usually quiet. Can rent boats/swim/fish. Nice hiking trails. 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.</p> <p>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/ Rte 136</p> <p>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          Hwy 130 out of Charleston for 8 miles. Follow signs.  <a href="mailto:foxridge@dnrmail.state.il.us">foxridge@dnrmail.state.il.us</a></p> <p>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 Hwy 36 east for 15 miles, then south on Hwy 7 for 6 miles. Follow signs.  <a href="mailto:rshafer@dnrmail.state.il.us">rshafer@dnrmail.state.il.us</a></p> <p>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! These are my favorites, but you can find others at: [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake). Indiana differs from Central Illinois in that there are rolling hills and deep ravines in the parks. Be forewarned: entrance fees are charged at some Indiana parks. And no off-trail hiking is allowed.

<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 765-435-2810</p> <p>Down the road from Turkey Run. Gorgeous trails; river for canoeing; camping. Absolutely beautiful in the fall!</p>
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### Other attractions

<p><b>Hardy's Reindeer Ranch (open select days Aug-Dec)</b>  <a href="http://www.reindeerranch.com">www.reindeerranch.com</a>          1356 County Road 2900 N, Rantoul, IL 893-3407  <a href="mailto:reindeerranch@hotmail.com">reindeerranch@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>80 acres. No gate admission. Meet reindeer; go on hay rides for nominal fees. Visit the corn maze in the fall and cut your own tree at Christmas. Visit the gift shop.</p>	<p><b>Prairie Fruits Farm &amp; Creamery</b>  <a href="http://www.prairiefruits.com">www.prairiefruits.com</a>          4410 N Lincoln, Champaign 643-2314  <a href="mailto:prairiefruitsinfo@gmail.com">prairiefruitsinfo@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Goat dairy and farmstead creamery. Offer guided tours. In spring, meet baby goats at breakfast. In summer, sign up for Farm to Table dinners.</p>
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<p><b>Travel Historic Route 66</b>  <a href="http://www.enjoyillinois.com/en-us/tripideas/route66">www.enjoyillinois.com/en-us/tripideas/route66</a></p> <p>Drive along the “Mother Road” – visit museums, old gas stations, restaurants, visit roadside attractions like Henry’s Ra66it Ranch (yes, he has real rabbits!) or the world’s largest ketchup bottle.</p>	<p><b>Visit Amish Country</b>  <a href="http://www.illinoisamishcountry.com">www.illinoisamishcountry.com</a>          Arthur/Arcola, IL</p> <p>Horse-drawn buggies, quaint shops, wonderful handcrafted furniture. You can even schedule a meal in an Amish home!</p>
<p><b>Aikman’s Wildlife Adventure (May-Nov)</b>  <a href="http://www.aikmanwildlife.com">www.aikmanwildlife.com</a>          125 N County Road 425 E, Arcola 259-96036  <a href="mailto:james@aikmanwildlife.com">james@aikmanwildlife.com</a></p> <p>Drive-thru animal park. See 90 animals/ 40 species.</p>	

## 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  <a href="mailto:planetarium@parkland.edu">planetarium@parkland.edu</a></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> largest telescope in IL! Live-narrated tours/stories of the seasonal night skies over the prairieland; cosmic odysseys with laser lights/music. Public lectures the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month and special events like Pluto-palooza.</p>	
<p><b>C-U Astronomical Society</b>  <a href="http://cuas.org">cuas.org</a>          Observatory: 926 County Road 700 E, Tolono          351-2567</p> <p>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  <a href="mailto:uias@illinois.edu">uias@illinois.edu</a></p> <p>Host bi-weekly club meetings. Monthly public observatory open houses are 1st Friday of the month, weather permitting. If UI student/faculty, can become member and be allowed to visit the historic UI telescope!</p>

# Restaurants

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

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

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

<p><b>Aroma Café &amp; Kitchen</b>  <a href="http://www.aroma-cafe.com">www.aroma-cafe.com</a>                  118 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 356-3200  <a href="mailto:jamarr.turner@gmail.com">jamarr.turner@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Also serve lunch and breakfast all day.</p>	<p><b>Cafe Kopi</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Cafe-Kopi-54268594593">www.facebook.com/Cafe-Kopi-54268594593</a>                  109 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 359-4266</p> <p>They decorate with works from local artists. Also serve salads, pitas, and paninis.</p>
<p><b>Caffe Paradiso</b>  <a href="http://www.enjoyparadiso.com">www.enjoyparadiso.com</a>                  **801 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 384-6066  <a href="mailto:enjoyparadiso@gmail.com">enjoyparadiso@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Coffee, tea, salads, sandwiches, pastries, and desserts!</p>	

### National shops

<p><b>Espresso Royale</b>  <a href="http://www.espressoroyale.com">www.espressoroyale.com</a>                  **UI Library, 1402 W Gregory, Urbana 333-7799                  **1117 W Oregon, Urbana 337-6160                  **602 E Daniel, Champaign 328-1112                  **Illini Union, Champaign 328-1335                  **Krannert Art Museum, 500 E Peabody, C 344-2791                  **1411 S Neil, Champaign 351-0928                  2401 Village Green Pl, C 352-1998                  Meijer, N Prospect, Champaign</p> <p>Though started in California, they are now only found in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.</p>	<p><b>Starbucks</b>  <a href="http://www.starbucks.com">www.starbucks.com</a>                  **503 E Green St, Champaign 344-8613                  **Illini Union Bookstore, 809 S Wright St, C                  **Illini Union, 1401W Green, Urbana 300-3152                  Carriage Center, 2011 S Neil St, Champaign 722-3209                  2702 N Prospect, Champaign 398-0821                  102 N Vine (Main/Vine), Urbana 344-4502</p> <p>Probably the most famous coffee chain in the world... Also serve food and other drinks.</p>
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### Distributors

<p><b>Walnut Street Tea Company</b>  <a href="http://www.walnutstreettea.com">www.walnutstreettea.com</a>                  115 S Walnut, downtown Champaign 351-6975</p> <p>Specialty grocery selling coffee, teas, sweets, and novelties.</p>	<p><b>Columbia Street Roastery</b>  <a href="http://www.csrcoffee.com">www.csrcoffee.com</a>                  24 E Columbia St, downtown Champaign 352-9713</p> <p>Sell beans, teas, merchandise. Supply quite a few restaurants in town with their coffees.</p>
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## Desserts

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

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

<p><b>Jarling's Custard Cup</b>  <a href="http://www.jarlingscustardcup.com">www.jarlingscustardcup.com</a>          **309 W Kirby, Champaign 352-2273  <a href="mailto:comments@jarlingscustardcup.com">comments@jarlingscustardcup.com</a></p> <p>A C-U institution! Homemade frozen custard, with a couple flavors daily. Excellent sundaes, snowstorms, specialty desserts. Open from March to Sunday after Thanksgiving. Eat on the patio or drive-thru.</p>	<p><b>Culver's</b>  <a href="http://www.culvers.com">www.culvers.com</a>          2302 S Neil St, Champaign 352-1699          903 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-8132</p> <p>Great specialty sundaes and concretes (shakes). New special flavor of the day each month. Eat in or drive-thru. Open year round!! See Good Food Fast listing for other menu choices.</p>
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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, Chamapaign 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 also 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. Kinda pricey.</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. Kinda pricey.</p>
<p><b>City Girl Yogurt (Frozen Yogurt)</b>  <a href="http://www.citygirlyogurt.com">www.citygirlyogurt.com</a>          202 E University Ave, Urbana 607-1345</p> <p>At Five Points. Self-serve frozen yogurt - 12 varying flavors a day with amazing array of toppings. Priced by the ounce so can get expensive quick!</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. Tip: go on WaffleCone Wednesdays: all you can fit in a waffle cone for \$2.99! Other tasty treats.</p>
<p><b>Cocomero (Frozen Yogurt)</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/cocomero.frozenyogurt">www.facebook.com/cocomero.frozenyogurt</a>          **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, Champaign 355-5628</p> <p>Chocolates and confections. Pixies have always been a favorite of my family! Not cheap, but you can get some good deals if you watch for specials and coupons.</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>20 minutes south of Champaign on Rte 45 or order on-line. Old-fashioned confectionary and soda fountain. Delicious home-made candies, sweets, and ice-cream. Breakfast and lunch, too. Not cheap, but worth it!</p>
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<p><b>Rubens Chocolates</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/Rubens-Belgian-chocolates-235738219327">www.facebook.com/Rubens-Belgian-chocolates-235738219327</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  Info: <a href="mailto:thetoffeelady2@gmail.com">thetoffeelady2@gmail.com</a>  Order: <a href="mailto:iwanttoffee@gmail.com">iwanttoffee@gmail.com</a></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>
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## 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!

<p><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</p>	
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### Cakes and Pies

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

<p><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</p> <p>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!</p>	<p><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</p> <p>(<b>Sam's Club</b> also carries baked goods – but you have to be a member to shop there.)</p> <p>Also will do custom cakes. Other good baked items.</p>
<p><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</p> <p>Bakery &amp; Deli ordering: 877-363-4537</p>	<p><b>Schnuck’s Bakery</b>  <a href="http://www.schnucks.com/bakery">www.schnucks.com/bakery</a>  109 N Mattis, Chamapaign 351-2600  200 N Vine, Urbana 337-6016  1301 Savoy Plaza Center, Savoy 373-0700</p> <p>Donuts, Danish, bagels, and rolls made in store.</p>

## Specialty Bakeries

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

<p><b>The New Sweet Indulgence</b>  <a href="http://www.thenewsweetindulgence.biz">www.thenewsweetindulgence.biz</a>            1121 W Windsor, Champaign 352-2433</p> <p>They supply many of the local restaurants with their awesome desserts! Shhh, it's a secret.</p>	<p><b>The Cake Artist's Studio</b>  <a href="http://www.thecakeartistsstudio.com">www.thecakeartistsstudio.com</a>            1100B W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 403-0900</p> <p>"Where Cake is Art". Award-winning pastry chef designs custom desserts baked on site. Beautiful wedding cakes.</p>
<p><b>Cream &amp; Flutter</b>  <a href="http://creamandflutter.com">creamandflutter.com</a>            114 N Walnut St, downtown Champaign 355-5400</p> <p>Known for their gourmet cupcakes, also serve cookies, ice cream, gourmet candies and coffees.</p>	<p><b>Mirabelle Fine Pastry Inc.</b>            124 W Main, downtown Urbana 384-6460</p> <p>Pastries, cheesecakes, croissants, tarts, cookies, special order cakes, breads, sandwiches are all baked fresh on site.</p>
<p><b>Cookies by Design</b>  <a href="http://www.cookiesbydesign.com">www.cookiesbydesign.com</a>            510 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 344-3911  <a href="mailto:cookiesbydesign113@yahoo.com">cookiesbydesign113@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Cookie bouquets and baskets.</p>	<p><b>Perkins Family Restaurant</b>  <a href="http://www.perkinsrestaurants.com">www.perkinsrestaurants.com</a>            1214 W University, Champaign 328-3000</p> <p>Great pies, cookies, and huge muffins. Open 24/7. See Family Style Restaurants for more on full menu.</p>
<p><b>Insomnia Cookies</b>  <a href="http://insomniacookies.com">insomniacookies.com</a>            **502 E John, Johnstown Center 877-632-6654</p> <p>DELIVER cookies to your door Noon-3AM!</p>	

## Breads and Rolls

<p><b>Great Harvest Bread Company</b>  <a href="http://greatharvestchampaign.com">greatharvestchampaign.com</a>            2149 S Neil Street, Champaign 398-5623  <a href="mailto:tdburdick@greatharvest.com">tdburdick@greatharvest.com</a></p> <p>Locally owned. Variety of breads, sweets, sandwiches baked fresh daily.</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  <a href="mailto:thebreadcompany706@gmail.com">thebreadcompany706@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Locally owned. Great breads and sweets. Also have gourmet pizzas, sandwiches, fondue.</p>
<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>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, salads. Catering.</p>

## Donuts and Bagels

<p><b>Ye Olde Donut Shoppe</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/yeoldedonutshoppe">www.facebook.com/yeoldedonutshoppe</a>            **Law Bldg, 504 E Pennsylvania 359-3311</p> <p>Ye Olde closed their storefront, but you can still find these delicious donuts at the Law School, Espresso Royale, Derald's Catering Truck, and local CU businesses. 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>
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<p><b>Pandmonium Doughnuts</b>  <a href="http://pandamoniumdoughnuts.wix.com/pandamoniumdoughnuts">pandamoniumdoughnuts.wix.com/pandamoniumdoughnuts</a>          630-946-4306  <a href="mailto:PandamoniumDoughnuts@gmail.com">PandamoniumDoughnuts@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Travelling food truck. See website for schedule of stops. At Urbana's Market on the Square on Saturdays.</p>	<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>They also serve breakfast sandwiches.</p>
<p><b>Einstein Bros. Bagels</b>  <a href="http://www.einsteinbros.com">www.einsteinbros.com</a>          **1401 W Green St, Illini Union, Urbana 344-7520          **901 W University Ave, Champaign 344-7520          803 W Anthony Drive, Champaign 239-0025</p> <p>Great bagels and sandwiches.</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. Everything from pancakes to benedicts to omelets and skilletts to sandwiches and salads.</p>
<p><b>Sammy's Pancake House (also spelled Sammie's)</b>          1206 N Mattis, Champaign 355-3403</p> <p>Great omelets, skilletts, pancakes/crepes/French toast/waffles. I love their Mexican entrees, like carne asada. They also have burgers and salads. Decent prices.</p>	<p><b>Sam's Café</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/samscafechampaign">www.facebook.com/samscafechampaign</a>          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 specials, good prices!</p>
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### Family Style Restaurants (that also serve awesome breakfasts)

<p><b>The Apple Dumpling</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/dumplin1985">www.facebook.com/dumplin1985</a>          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. Closed Mondays.</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. Serve breakfast all day. We eat here a lot. The menu is so varied, you can eat something different 7 days a week and still not get through the entire menu! You can order carry-out and it will be ready for you in 10 minutes!</p>
<p><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 at decent prices. Salads, sandwiches, dinners – everything I’ve tried is good!</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. I love their cornbread and hash brown casserole.</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">www.couriersilvercreek.com</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 worth it!</p>

### Good Food Fast

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

<p><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          1910 W Springfield, Champaign 398-2159          10 E Anthony Dr, Champaign 356-7526</p> <p>Americanized Mexican fast food <i>cheap</i>! Get a whole meal for under \$5!! Open late most nights. 2- 3 am on Fri/Sat (excluding Anthony Dr). Serve breakfast at 7am.</p>	<p><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 shop)</p> <p>Just great chicken: original recipe, extra crispy, grilled. Also serve side dishes and desserts. I love their coleslaw. Great biscuits, too. Bucket deals or “\$5 fill ups” are the way to go on a budget.</p>
<p><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>Slogan: We have the meats! Finely sliced roast beef sandwiches are what they are known for. Also serve turkey, chicken, brisket, steak, corned beef, and offer Market/Deli Sandwiches (like their delicious chicken salad) for a little more. Occasionally have fish. Great sides and shakes, too.</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. Sides include awesome onion rings and tater tots. They also serve shakes and slushies (ice with favored syrup). Get a cream slushie for the best of both worlds in a huge variety of flavors (I like the watermelon). Very good and inexpensive.</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 - breakfast in the mornings; lunch all day; late night menu midnight-6am. Steakburgers of all varieties, awesome thin fries, great chili (try the chili mac). Also have hot dogs and salads. Incredible hand-dipped shakes &amp; freezes! Great \$4 menu, plus you can always find coupons. My old high-school hangout.</p>	<p><b>Culver's</b>  <a href="http://www.culvers.com">www.culvers.com</a>  2302 S Neil St, Champaign 352-1699  903 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 356-8132</p> <p>Known for their frozen custard, they also serve great "Butterburgers" (seared Midwest beef on bun that has been buttered) in a variety of choices. They also offer soups, sandwiches, salads, and dinner selections like pot roast, chicken, and fried cod meals. Eat in or drive-thru. Open year round!! Can get coupons for buy one, get one free baskets or sundaes/concretes.</p>
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### 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, campus 384-4834</p> <p>Great French fries and now serve breakfast all day! Offer more "healthy" alternatives. They aren't as cheap as they used to be, but based on the long lines at the drive-thru windows, they continue to be one of the most popular fast food chains around. Kids love Mc-E D's!</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, chicken, salads, sides, breakfasts, and value meals.</p>
<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 344-2899  Champaign: 2035 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. Really good charbroiled chicken sandwich. Great breakfast menu including cinnamon-raisin biscuits and biscuits and gravy. Called Carl's Junior west of the Rockies.</p>

### 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. Have great brisket sandwiches, too.</p>
<p><b>Black Dog Smoke &amp; Ale House</b>  <a href="http://www.blackdogsmoke.com">www.blackdogsmoke.com</a>  201 N Broadway, Urbana 344-9342  320 N Chestnut, Champaign 954-0465</p> <p>Many feel this is the best BBQ in town. It is always crowded, so expect a long wait. They have daily specials in addition to their regular menu. Pricey</p>	<p><b>Chester's BBQ</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/chestersBBQ">www.facebook.com/chestersBBQ</a>  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 last summer and it was great!</p>

## Sandwich Shops

<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>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>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: 610 E Daniel (next to Kam's); 701 S Gregory Suite A</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>	

## On-Campus Gems

<p><b>Newman Foundation, Newman Res Hall</b>  <a href="http://www.sjcnc.org/housing/dining">www.sjcnc.org/housing/dining</a>          **604 E Armory, Champaign 344-1266  <a href="mailto:info@sjcnc.org">info@sjcnc.org</a></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. Not open to the public during the summer.</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  <a href="mailto:fshn-general@illinois.edu">fshn-general@illinois.edu</a></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. Open for breakfast, lunch, and “after hours” until 2:30pm. 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! (In my favorite Los Angeles restaurant, *Paco's Tacos*, Mexican women make fresh, handmade tortillas on a special grill and serve them hot to your table. A little trivia: in the movie "Jerry Maguire," Tom Cruise and Renee Zellweger have their first date at Paco's!) Anyway, here are my *local* favorite Mexican places:

<p><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>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dos-Reales-Mexican-Restaurant/100868866625158">www.facebook.com/pages/Dos-Reales-Mexican-Restaurant/100868866625158</a>          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>
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<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 heard rave reviews and the place is always full! The space is super tiny, but they have plans to move to a larger place soon. Everything is made from scratch.</p>	<p><b>Huaraches Moroleon</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Huaraches-Moroleon-343380985672030">www.facebook.com/Huaraches-Moroleon-343380985672030</a>  805 Philo, Urbana 344-6772</p> <p>Another tiny place with excellent food! Authentic fare, really good prices.</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>La Bamba</b>  <a href="http://www.labambaburritos.com">www.labambaburritos.com</a>  1905 Glenn Park, Champaign 355-6600  <a href="mailto:info@labambaburritos.com">info@labambaburritos.com</a></p> <p>Another family-run business, the Aguas brothers' motto is "burritos as big as your head!" And it is an accurate description. They also have quesadillas, tacos, nachos.</p>
<p><b>Qdoba Mexican Grill</b>  <a href="http://www.qdoba.com">www.qdoba.com</a>  **1401 W Green St, Illini Union, Urbana 552-1325</p> <p>Build your own burrito, taco, bowl, nachos, salad or soup. Also serve breakfast burritos. Conveniently located in the Illini Union Food Court.</p>	<p><b>Cactus Grill</b>  <a href="http://www.cactusgrillchampaign.com">www.cactusgrillchampaign.com</a>  **1405 S Neil St, Champaign 351-8226</p> <p>Build your own burritos, bowls, salads, tacos, and quesadillas. Pick up or delivery – no seating. I love the honey grilled chicken burritos. Super daily specials.</p>
<p><b>Pancho's Mexican Grill</b>  <a href="http://pancheros.com">pancheros.com</a>  102 E University, Ste B, Urbana 367-4000  2009 S Neil St, Champaign 607-5982</p> <p>Build your own burritos, bowls, salads, tacos and quesadillas. Some of the items cost extra, so if you aren't careful, you can end up with a \$10 burrito. Fresh-pressed tortillas. Very tasty.</p>	<p><b>Moe's Southwest Grill</b>  <a href="http://www.moes.com">www.moes.com</a>  2041 S Neil St, Champaign 352-6637</p> <p>Another build your own burrito, taco, quesadilla, salad, bowl, nacho place, but they give you free chips and salsa with every order, unlike other b-y-o places. They even offer tofu as a protein choice.</p>

## 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 most BIOP 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. Also have awesome pasta and sandwiches.</p>
<p><b>Sbarro</b>  <a href="http://www.sbarro.com">www.sbarro.com</a>  **1401 W Green St, Illini Union, Urbana 337-0100</p> <p>Inexpensive Italian food fast! Besides pizza they have lasagna, spaghetti, ziti, strombolo, and salads.</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 (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>  205 N Mattis, Champaign 359-3514  2720 S Philo Rd, Urbana 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>  **1201 S Neil St, Champaign 359-7700</p> <p>For deep dish pizza, people say it is the best place around. Be prepared for <i>at least</i> an hour wait for your pizza <i>after</i> you place your order! Also serve other Italian fare like lasagna, ravioli, and spaghetti, as well as salads and sandwiches. I do like their garlic cheese bread. Again, be prepared for a <i>very</i> long wait - special ovens are the secret...and the reason for the wait.</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 fairly 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, paninis, salads, and pastas with great, healthy ingredients – or order a classic selection from the menu. 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 Crossing), Urbana 344-7700  1753 W Kirby (Old Farm), Champaign 356-8000</p> <p>“Take ‘N Bake” pizza. They make it fresh to order, you take it home and bake it! Love their Delite pizzas and \$10 Tuesdays specials.</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 delicious spicy items on the menu, too! Wonderful service...they will let you sample a tiny taste of a dish before you order if you ask.</p>	<p><b>Popeye's Chicken</b>  <a href="http://popeyes.com">popeyes.com</a>  910 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 954-1650</p> <p>“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>  <a href="http://zorbascu.com">zorbascu.com</a>  **627 E Green, Champaign 344-0710</p> <p><i>Excellent gyros! My favorite is the chicken gyros with sour cream. Awesome fries and baklava. Lunch specials every day. I've been eating at Zorba's since 1976!</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 wonderful food! Lunch specials available 11am-3pm.</p>
<p><b>Niro's Gyros</b>  1007 W University, Urbana 328-6476  <a href="http://nirosgyrosuniversityave.com">nirosgyrosuniversityave.com</a>  2001 W Springfield, Champaign 355-6760  <a href="http://nirosgyroschampaign.com">nirosgyroschampaign.com</a></p> <p>Gyros, 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 954-1717</p> <p>Large, eat-in restaurant with same fare as Niro's Gyro's, but with added specialties like kabob dinners, falafels, fried shrimp, rib eye steak sandwiches, turkey and salmon burgers. You can drive thru or have them deliver! I love their kabob combo.</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. Run alone by one man, so 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 &amp; Chinese 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>Great pad thai at good prices. Open 10:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday.</p>	<p><b>Pho Café Thai Kitchen</b>  **611B E Green St, Champaign 552-1106</p> <p>Really tasty Thai and Vietnamese cuisine. Relatively new to town, has quite a following already.</p>
<p><b>Siam Terrace</b>  <a href="http://www.siamterrace.com">www.siamterrace.com</a>  212 W Main, downtown Urbana 367-THAI (-8424)  <a href="mailto:siamterrace@yahoo.com">siamterrace@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>My Thai students said this is the best Thai food in CU. All-you-can-eat sushi Sat 11-2 and Sun 12-2.</p>	<p><b>Thara Thai Pan-Asian Restaurant</b>  <a href="http://tharathairestaurant.com">tharathairestaurant.com</a>  912 1/2 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 378-1986  <a href="mailto:tharathairestaurant@gmail.com">tharathairestaurant@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Family owned and operated. Small place, great food, friendly service.</p>
<p><b>Basil Thai Urbana</b>  **701 S Gregory Pl, Urbana 344-8662</p> <p>Authentic Thai cuisine. I always get their Pad Thai.</p>	
<p><b>My Thai</b>  <a href="http://www.mythaichampaign.com">www.mythaichampaign.com</a>  2312 W Springfield, Champaign 351-THAI (-8424)  <a href="mailto:mythaichampaign@yahoo.com">mythaichampaign@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Serve Thai, Japanese, and sushi. Really good food.</p>	<p><b>Nitaya Thai Restaurant</b>  <a href="http://www.nitayathai.com">www.nitayathai.com</a>  134 W Church, downtown Champaign 359-5540</p> <p>Good nouveau cuisine in a funky atmosphere.</p>

## Chinese

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

<p><b>China Garden</b> 114 N Vine St (Urbana Crossing), Urbana 367-6588</p> <p>In Urbana Crossing mall. Good food, good prices. I love their black pepper chicken.</p>	<p><b>Super Wok</b> <a href="http://www.gosuperwok.com">www.gosuperwok.com</a> 1737 W Kirby Ave (Old Farm), Champaign 398-0111</p> <p>Good food, good prices. Great chicken angel hair!</p>
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### Sit-down Chinese

<p><b>Golden Harbor</b> <a href="http://goldenharbor.weebly.com">goldenharbor.weebly.com</a> **505 S Neil St, Champaign 398-8988 <a href="mailto:crispytofu505@gmail.com">crispytofu505@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Authentic Chinese/Taiwan cuisine. Most highly recommended by my Chinese students! No tips; 5% off when pay cash. Massive handwritten menu on wall (both Chinese/English). Food served family-style.</p>	<p><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</p> <p>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!</p>
<p><b>Peking Garden</b> <a href="http://www.pekinggardenchampaign.com">www.pekinggardenchampaign.com</a> 206 N Randolph, downtown Champaign 355-8888</p> <p>Tucked away in the Robeson Building. Great food, good prices. Love their pan fried noodles and lunch specials. They deliver!</p>	<p><b>Auntie Lee's Chinese Kitchen</b> <a href="http://www.auntieleechampaign.com">www.auntieleechampaign.com</a> **49B E Green St, Champaign 693-7928</p> <p>Formerly Shanghai 1938 Chinese Restaurant at the Crossing, which also had a food truck. Good food, decent prices. Delivery. Open until 3:00am!</p>

### Mongolian grills

<p><b>301 Mongolia</b> <a href="http://301mongolia.com">301mongolia.com</a> 307 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 531-1153 <a href="mailto:comments@301mongolia.com">comments@301mongolia.com</a></p> <p>Excellent create your own stir-fry over a Mongolian grill. Lots of great ingredients to choose from. Is a little more, but worth it!</p>	<p><b>FlatTop Grill</b> <a href="http://www.flattopgrill.com">www.flattopgrill.com</a> **607 S Sixth St, Campus 344-3200 <a href="mailto:champaign@ftgconcepts.com">champaign@ftgconcepts.com</a></p> <p>"Create your own stir-fry". They have a create-your-own breakfast that I have yet to try...</p>
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### Chinese Buffets

<p><b>Chinatown Buffet</b> 713 Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-9888</p> <p>Huge buffet with Chinese and American foods.</p>	
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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 <a href="mailto:campus@kofusion.com">campus@kofusion.com</a></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:info@kofusion.com">info@kofusion.com</a></p> <p>Sushi and stir fry menus. Upscale atmosphere. 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 fusion nights Wednesdays 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>Murphy’s Pub</b>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/Murphys-Pub/116375968386068">www.facebook.com/pages/Murphys-Pub/116375968386068</a>          **605 E Green St, Champaign 344-4372</p> <p>Irish pub. Great burgers and fries. This place has been around since before I was in college! You might even find my initials on one of the tables.</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>Fashioned on old Irish pubs, serves brews and authentic Irish food for lunch, dinner and late night snacks. Weekend brunch. Also have live music at various times of the year.</p>
<p><b>Seven Saints</b>  <a href="http://sevensaintsbar.com">sevensaintsbar.com</a>          32 E Chester St, downtown Champaign 351-7775  <a href="mailto:7saintsgm@gmail.com">7saintsgm@gmail.com</a></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 pub favorites cooked from scratch. 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 W Main, downtown Urbana 384-7526</p> <p>They claim to have the largest beer selection in C-U! Also serve burgers and “gastropub style entrees”. Very popular beer tours – taste beers from around the world.</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 with other fans. I usually get their deconstructed nachos (all ingredients served separately).</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. A little pricey, though they offer an appetizer deal where you get enough food that can serve as a meal and saves money!</p>	<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>Great food, great specials. Love their 2 for \$20 meals. Have a lighter fare menu for those watching their calories.</p>

<p><b>Wedge Tequila Bar &amp; Grill</b>  <a href="http://wedgebar.com">wedgebar.com</a>  415 N Neil St, Champaign 398-2869</p> <p>Unique margaritas, over 100 tequilas, and Mexican street food. Small place, kinda pricey, but really delicious food. House-made chips.</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>Great Southwestern/Tex-Mex choices along with ribs, steaks, chicken, and seafood. 2 for \$20 meals and lighter fare as well.</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>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.</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.theribeyrestaurant.org">www.theribeyrestaurant.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! Open at 4:30pm during the week; 4:00pm on weekends.</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! Other great selections, too. Open 4:00pm during the week; 11:00am on weekends.</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. Opens at 4:00pm Mon-Thurs; 11:00am Fri-Sun.</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 with warm cinnamon butter! I love their smothered chicken and prime rib.</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>	

### 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>
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<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 nouveau American fare in a nice, country setting. Delicious rolls and desserts. They serve breakfast, lunch, early bird and nightly specials, and Sunday brunch from 11am-3pm.</p>	<p><b>Radio Maria Restaurant and Tapas Bar</b>  <a href="http://www.radiomariarestaurant.com">www.radiomariarestaurant.com</a>        119 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 398-7729  <a href="mailto:radiomariarestaurant@gmail.com">radiomariarestaurant@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Really cool décor – owned by artists. Very eclectic selection of American and international nouveau cuisine. Small place, so be prepared to wait.</p>
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### 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! They have their own private wine cellar. 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, Champaign 351-6339</p> <p>Great food &amp; desserts. Fairly reasonable prices. All you can eat soup, salad, and breadsticks is a great deal!</p>	<p><b>Minnecci's</b>  <a href="http://www.minnecisristorante.com">www.minnecisristorante.com</a>        2501 Village Green, Champaign 366-9225</p> <p>Very tasty fare. Great Sunday brunch buffet. Gluten-free menu available.</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 for over 50 years. Great Italian food at reasonable prices. And they deliver!</p>	