

*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 Sometimes these restaurants and businesses only stay around for a short time, and as a result, this guide may be out of date in a matter of months.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.

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

Cindy Dodds, Administrative Coordinator
Center for Biophysics & Quantitative Biology

Table of Contents

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS	1
EMERGENCY NUMBERS.....	1
Hospitals.....	1
Champaign.....	1
Urbana.....	1
University of Illinois.....	1
Champaign County Sheriff.....	1
Illinois Road Conditions.....	1
24-Hour Hotlines.....	1
UNIVERSITY PHONE NUMBERS.....	2
TENANT’S UNIONS/LOCAL UTILITIES (CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBERS).....	2
Tenant’s Unions.....	2
Utilities.....	2
Phone Companies (Land Lines/Internet).....	2
Cable/Satellite Services.....	2
Cell Phone Companies.....	2
POST OFFICES.....	3
NEWS/TV/RADIO	4
LOCAL SUBSCRIPTION NEWSPAPER SERVICE.....	4
FREE PAPERS.....	4
LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS.....	4
LOCAL RADIO STATIONS.....	5
GETTING AROUND	6
C-U MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT (CU MTD).....	6
BICYCLES.....	6
MOTORIZED VEHICLES.....	6
Driver's License Examination Station (aka DMV).....	7
Division of Campus Parking.....	7
Zipcar.....	7
Uber Cars/Taxis.....	7
Purchasing a Vehicle.....	7
Car Repair.....	8
SHOP ‘TILL YOU DROP!	9
FOOD SHOPPING.....	9
Grocery Stores.....	9
<i>“No-Frill”/ “Warehouse” Grocery Stores</i>	9
<i>County Market</i>	9
<i>Schnuck’s</i>	9
Farmer’s Markets.....	9
Roadside Produce Stands.....	9
SPECIALTY SHOPS.....	10
International Food Shops.....	10
Butcher Shops.....	10
SUPER DISCOUNT STORES.....	11
Special Discount Stores.....	11
Farm Stores.....	11
PHARMACIES (DRUG STORES).....	12
CVS Drug Stores.....	12
Walgreen Drug Stores.....	12
SHOPPING MALLS.....	13
STRIP MALLS.....	13
CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES.....	15
Cindy’s Favorite Department Store.....	15

“Budget” Clothing Stores	15
Used Clothing Stores	15
Retro Clothing	15
Consignment Clothing Stores.....	15
FURNITURE AND HOME DECOR.....	16
Used Furniture Stores	16
New Furniture Stores.....	16
High-End Furniture.....	16
Home Decor.....	17
<i>New Items</i>	17
<i>Used/Antique</i>	17
HOME IMPROVEMENT STORES	18
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	18
Electronic Repairs	18
Computer Repairs.....	19
FOR A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING.....	19
YMCA Dump and Run.....	19
Champaign County Humane Society GIANT Garage Sale.....	19
BOOKSTORES AND LIBRARIES.....	20
Libraries.....	20
Bookstores	20
New Age and Comic books	20
Used Books.....	20
Big Corporate Chain Bookstore	20
MISCELLANEOUS	21
LOOKIN’ GOOD - BEAUTY SALONS AND SPAS.....	21
Hair Care	21
Beauty Schools	21
Full Salon Treatments/Spa	21
CALLING ALL PET LOVERS	22
Pet Emergencies	22
Lost Pets	22
Looking to Adopt a Pet?.....	22
ENTERTAINMENT	23
ON CAMPUS.....	23
INDOOR RECREATION	23
Theatre-Live	23
Theatre-Movie	24
Movie Rentals/Sales	24
Museums.....	25
Arts & Crafts/Scrapbooking/Fabrics/Party Supplies.....	26
Gaming	26
Dance/Live Music Venues	27
<i>Live Music/Dancing</i>	27
<i>DJ/Dancing</i>	28
<i>Lessons/Dancing</i>	28
<i>Dance Organizations</i>	28
Indoor Sports	28
<i>Pool Tables</i>	28
<i>Bowling Lanes</i>	29
<i>Campus Recreation Activities</i>	29
<i>Spectator Sports</i>	29
Champaign Swarm Basketball.....	29
OUTDOOR RECREATION	30
Outdoor Festivals.....	30

Parks and Nature Preserves	30
<i>Champaign-Urbana Parks</i>	31
<i>Central Illinois Area Parks and Recreation Sites</i>	31
<i>Located in Parke County, Western Indiana</i>	32
Other attractions	32
Astronomy	33
RESTAURANTS	34
COFFEE SHOPS	34
Local shops	34
National shops	34
Distributors	34
DESSERTS	35
Frozen Custard – A Midwest favorite (and Cindy's favorite, too!)	35
Ice Creams and Frozen Yogurt	35
Chocolates and Candies	35
BAKERIES AND DESSERT SHOPS	36
Bakery Outlet Stores	36
Cakes and Pies	36
Specialty Bakeries	37
Breads and Rolls	37
Donuts and Bagels	37
AMERICAN FOOD	38
Breakfast	38
<i>Breakfast/Lunch/Brunch ONLY</i>	38
<i>Open 24/7, so you can have breakfast ANYTIME!</i>	38
Family Style Restaurants (that also serve awesome breakfasts)	39
Good Food Fast	39
Big Chain Burger Joints	40
Barbeque Joints	40
Sandwich Shops	41
On-Campus Gems	41
MEXICAN FOOD	41
PIZZA/ITALIAN FOOD	42
Inexpensive pick-up/delivery pizza on campus	42
Moderately priced pizza – but worth it!	43
CAJUN/SOUTHERN	43
GREEK/INDIAN/MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD	44
THAI, JAPANESE, CHINESE FOOD	44
Thai	44
Chinese	45
<i>Quick Chinese</i>	45
<i>Sit-down Chinese</i>	45
<i>Mongolian grills</i>	45
<i>Chinese Buffets</i>	45
Japanese/Sushi	45
VEGETARIAN FARE	46
RESTAURANT/BARS	46
OUT OF MY NORMAL PRICE RANGE	47
Steakhouses	47
Seafood /Fine Dining	47
Upscale Italian Places	48

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!**

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

As graduate students, you can utilize either Carle or 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

Carle Hospital 611 W Park, Urbana	383-3311 Patient Advisory Nurse: 383-3233	www.carle.com Emergency/Level I Trauma Center	
Presence Covenant Medical Center 1400 W Park, Urbana	337-2131	www.provena.org/covenant/ Emergency Room/Level II Trauma Center	www.presencehealth.org/presence-covenant-medical-center-urbana-contact-us

Champaign

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

Urbana

Police non-emergency	384-2320	urbanaillinois.us/police	
Fire non-emergency	384-2420	urbanaillinois.us/fire	

University of Illinois

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

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

24-Hour Hotlines

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

University Phone Numbers

Biophysics & Quantitative Biology			
biophysics.illinois.edu			
Cindy Dodds, Administrative Coordinator	333-1630	biophysics.illinois.edu/people	dodds@illinois.edu
Satish Nair, Interim Director	333-0641	mcb.illinois.edu/faculty/profile/snair	snair@illinois.edu
Graduate College	333-0035	www.grad.illinois.edu	grad@illinois.edu
International Student & Scholar Services	333-1303	iss.illinois.edu	iss@illinois.edu
Student Benefits Center (Health/Dental)	333-0165	si.illinois.edu	insure@illinois.edu
McKinley Health Center	333-2701	www.mckinley.illinois.edu	
Counseling Center	333-3704	counselingcenter.illinois.edu	
Student Affairs	333-1300	studentaffairs.illinois.edu	studentaffairs@illinois.edu
Graduate Library	333-2290	www.library.illinois.edu	
Technology Services at Illinois Help Desk	244-7000	techservices.illinois.edu/get-help/help-desk	consult@illinois.edu
Division of Campus Recreation	333-3806	www.campusrec.illinois.edu	campusrec@illinois.edu
General Information	333-1000	illinois.edu	

Tenant'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	www.tenantunion.illinois.edu
Champaign-Urbana Tenant's Union 44 Main St, Ste 208, Champaign	352-6220	www.tenantunion.illinois.edu/hoursnonstudents.html

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	www.amwater.com/ilaw	infoil@amwater.com
Ameren IL (Electric/Gas)	800-755-5000	www.ameren.com/illinois	www2.ameren.com/ContactUs

Phone Companies (Land Lines/Internet)

AT&T	800-288-2020	www.att.com
Xfinity/Comcast	800-934-6489	www.xfinity.com
Mediacom	855-633-4226	mediacomcc.com

Cable/Satellite Services

Xfinity/Comcast (Cable/Broadband/Email/Voice)	800-934-6489	www.xfinity.com
DirecTV (Satellite)	800-531-5000	www.directv.com
Dish Network (Satellite)	866-531-1967	www.dish.com

Cell Phone Companies

There are so many different cell phone companies to choose from that I have decided not to list them. I personally use **Verizon** and have been quite happy with them. They give 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

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

News/TV/Radio

There 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

The News-Gazette Local news, events, & entertainment. Conservative views. 15 E Main, Champaign	351-5252 or 800-660-7323	www.news-gazette.com
---	--------------------------	--

Free Papers

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

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

Local Television Stations

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

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

Local Radio Stations

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

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

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

C-U Mass Transit District (CU MTD) 1101 E University, Urbana	384-8188 Office open 8-5 Mon- Sat	www.cumtd.com	mtdweb@cumtd.com
--	---	--	--

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) - 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.

Durst Cycle & Fitness 1201 S Mattis, Champaign 1112 W University, Urbana	352-3300 367-3600	www.durstcycle.com	durstcycle@gmail.com jdurst74@gmail.com
---	----------------------	--	--

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, 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) 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:

Driver's License Examination Station (aka DMV) 2012 Round Barn Center, Champaign	800-252-8980 278-3344	www.cyberdriveillinois.com
--	--------------------------	--

Hours of operation: 8:00am-5:00pm Tu-Fri (till 5:30pm Tu). 7:30am-12:00noon Sat. If you plan to take a driving "road" test you must arrive at least 2 hours before closing, and you must show a vehicle insurance card.

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

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

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

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

Zipcar

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

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>Farm & Fleet www.farmandfleet.com 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>CarX Auto Service www.carx.com 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>Neil Auto Repair 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>Sammy's Auto Electric Service Inc www.sammysautoelectric.com 1907B W Springer Dr, Champaign 398-3864 sammyelectric@sbcglobal.net</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>Jiffy Lube www.jiffylube.com 1201 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 351-5823 1901 S Neil St, Champaign 351-4116</p>	<p>Wal-Mart Tire and Lube Express www.walmart.com 2610 N Prospect, Champaign 352-0700 100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-6148 505 S Dunlap, Savoy 355-5845 Oil/tire changes.</p>
---	--

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

USED parts

<p>Mack's Auto Recycling www.macks-auto.com 1309 E Kerr, Urbana (auto) 367-6219 Used parts, used cars, and repair service available. jwassom@macksrecycling.com</p> <p>They also run Mack's Twin City Recycling at 2808 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana 328-2100 for your household recycling drop-offs.</p>
<p>Bill Smith Auto www.billsmithauto.com 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).

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

County Market www.countymarket.com

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

331 Stoughton St (near campus at Springfield Ave), Champaign 352-4123 312 W Kirby Ave (near campus west of Neil) Champaign 352-0019 (small store; no bakery/deli) 2901 W Kirby Ave (at Duncan Road), Champaign 351-8600 1914 Glenn Park (off Mattis, N of I-72), Champaign 356-8242 1819 S Philo Rd, Urbana 337-0210
--

Schnuck’s www.schnucks.com

If you can afford it, Schnuck’s stores are really nice. They tend to be a bit expensive, but have incredible selections on produce, meat, and bakery items. You *can* find lower price items on sale.

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

Farmer's Markets

During the summer months and early fall (May-November), there are many outdoor Farmer's Markets that sell fresh produce from local growers. Several of the shopping malls will host these markets in their parking lots at various times during the week, as well as on the Quad, and in some neighborhoods around town. For example, there is a regular Saturday morning farmer's market at Lincoln Square in Urbana (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>Common Ground Food Co-Op commonground.coop 300 S Broadway, Suite 166 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-3347 grocery@commonground.coop</p> <p>Non-profit grocery store that sells local and organic foods. Also vegan, gluten-free, cruelty-free products.</p>	<p>Strawberry Fields www.strawberry-fields.com 306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana 328-1655 saibsf@gmail.com</p> <p>Reopened in July 2015 under new management. Natural food/health store, bakery, café and caterer.</p>
<p>World Harvest Intl & Gourmet Foods www.worldharvestfoods.com 519 E University Ave, Champaign 356-4444 Corner of University & 6th Streets mohammad@worldharvestfoods.com</p> <p>Gourmet international foods/café.</p>	<p>Art Mart shopartmart.com 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>Green Onion Asian Market 2020 S Neil, Champaign 359-5370</p> <p>Korean/Japanese/Chinese upscale market.</p>	<p>Lee's Oriental Foods 303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949 (near Kirby and State)</p> <p>Korean market/food. Also rent videos.</p>
<p>Far East Grocery 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>AM-KO Oriental Foods & Gifts amkogrocery.com 101 E Springfield, Champaign 398-2922 info@amkogrocery.com</p> <p>Asian neighborhood grocery store and gift shop.</p>
<p>Mirsung Indian Grocery & Fast Food www.mirsung.com 49A E Green St, Champaign 344-2660 mirsung.groceries@gmail.com</p> <p>Indian grocery; fast food. Free delivery for students!</p>	<p>Annapoorna Stores www.annapoornastore.com 505 S Neil St., Suite 11, Champaign 355-5215 tecno_handa@yahoo.com</p> <p>Indian grocery store and video rentals.</p>
<p>El Charro Mexican Grocery www.elcharrochampaign.com 55 E Green St, Champaign 337-6647</p> <p>Authentic Mexican restaurant and grocery store.</p>	<p>El Progreso 501N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 607-1533</p> <p>Mexican grocery store.</p>

Butcher Shops

<p>Uof I Meat Science Laboratory meatandeggssales.illinois.edu 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>Old Time Meat and Deli Shoppe www.oldtimemeatanddeli.com 2018 S Neil, Champaign 355-0000 store@oldtimemeatanddeli.com</p> <p>Deli sandwiches. Superior meat/fish/seafood. Amish raised poultry. Great homemade twice baked potatoes!</p>
--	---

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>Meijer (One of Cindy's favorite stores!) www.meijer.com 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>Walmart Super Center www.walmart.com 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>
--	--

These **super discount stores** have grocery stores, but are **not open 24 hours**:

<p>Target www.target.com 2102 N Prospect, Champaign 355-3325</p> <p>I love Target! (pronounced as Tar-jay, if you want to sound sophisticated).</p>	<p>Sam's Club - Member's Only www.samsclub.com 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>
--	--

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>Big Lots (I love this place!) www.biglots.com 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>Dollar General www.dollargeneral.com 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>Family Dollar www.familydollar.com 1204 N Market, Champaign 355-3797 1110 Philo Rd, Urbana 344-4277</p>	<p>Dollar Tree www.dollartree.com 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>Farm and Fleet www.farmandfleet.com 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354</p> <p>A Midwestern shopping experience!</p>	<p>Rural King - “America’s Farm & Home Store” www.ruralking.com 913W Marketview Dr, Champaign 403-1011</p> <p>Free popcorn to munch while you shop!</p>
---	---

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

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

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>Market Place Mall www.marketplacemall.com 2000 N Neil Street (north of I-74), Champaign 356-2700</p>
--

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>Lincoln Square Village www.lincolnsquareurbana.com 300 S Broadway Ave, Urbana 367-4092 Directly east on Green St from campus</p>	<p>Country Fair Shopping Center Corner of Mattis and Springfield, Champaign 356-3717</p>
<p>Market View Shopping Center South of Market Place Mall, Champaign 356-2700</p>	<p>Sunnycrest Mall 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>Johnstown Center E John Street, Champaign (campus)</p> <p>Fat Sandwich Company, Insomnia Cookies, The Beach Sun Spa, Johnstown General Store, Asian Taste</p>	<p>University Centre 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>Katsinis Plaza NE corner of Green and Neil, Champaign</p> <p>Jet’s Pizza, Hollywood Liquor, Wing Stop, Cost Cutters</p>	<p>Neil Street Commons 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>Green Street Galleria SE corner of Green and Neil, Champaign</p> <p>Illini Cellular, Allstate Insurance</p>	<p>Stadium Plaza 1400 S Neil Street (1 block S of Green), Champaign</p> <p>Subway, Espresso Royale, Cactus Grill</p>
<p>Gateway Shoppes at Five Points 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>Schnuck’s Urbana Crossing 114 N Vine Street, Urbana</p> <p>Schnuck’s, Papa Murphy’s, China Garden, Radio Shack</p>

<p>Old Farm Shops (Upscale Shopping) www.oldfarmshops.com 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>Village at the Crossing (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 & Spa, Blossom Basket, Subway</p>
<p>Windsor Galleria (Upscale Dining) 1100 Windsor Road (near Galen), Champaign</p> <p>Sun Singer Wines & Spirits, The New Sweet Indulgence Bakery, Starcrest Cleaners, Green Jade</p>	<p>Shoppes of Knollwood (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>Round Barn Center 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>Savoy Plaza South Neil Street & 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>Carriage Center S Neil Street, Champaign (at Devonshire)</p> <p>Moe's Southwest Grill, Panchero's, Starbuck's, Wendy's, AT&T, Brixx, Rainstorm Carwash, Coming in 2017: Harvest Market, Haymakers, Ace Hardware, Home2 Suites by Hilton</p>	<p>Hillcrest Center 2000 block of S Neil Street, Champaign</p> <p>Old Time Meat & 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>Kohl’s www.kohls.com 109 Convenience Center Rd, Champaign 352-0431</p>

“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>TJ Maxx www.tjmaxx.com 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>Gordman’s www.gordmans.com 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>
--	---

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>Goodwill www.llgi.org 912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870 1201 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 503-6076</p>	<p>Salvation Army Family Thrift Store www.salvationarmyusa.org 2212 N Market, Champaign 309-373-7825</p>
<p>Connections courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store 120 Lincoln Square Mall 384-2158 store@courageconnection.org</p>	

Retro Clothing

<p>Dandelion Retro, Vintage & Used Clothing www.dandelionretro.com 100 N Chestnut, Champaign 954-0555 (in the old train station)</p>	<p>Carrie’s Antiques and Jewelry 723 S Neil St, Champaign 352-3231</p> <p>Vintage clothing and jewelry.</p>
--	---

Consignment Clothing Stores

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

<p>Karen’s Kloset (Women’s clothing) karenskloset.com 231 S Mattis (Country Fair), Champaign 355-9395</p>	<p>Yours, Mine & Ours Kid Shop (Children’s clothing) 1824 Glen Park, Champaign (next to County Market) 356-0880</p>
<p>Plato’s Closet www.platosclosetchampaign.com 29 E Marketview Dr 366-8200 mmgrauel@gmail.com</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

Habitat for Humanity ReStore cuhabitat.org 119 E University, Champaign 359-0507, 819-5118 restore@cuhabitat.org Visit the Top Drawer ReStore Boutique next door!	Connections courageconnection.org/our-store/about-our-store 120 Lincoln Square Mall 384-2158 store@courageconnection.org
Goodwill www.llgi.org 912 W Anthony, Champaign 280-1870	Salvation Army Family Thrift Store www.salvationarmyusa.org 2212 N Market, Champaign 309-373-7825
Crossroads Corner Consignment 723 S Neil, Suite 103, Champaign 954-1100	

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

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

High-End Furniture

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

Carter’s Furniture cartersfurniture.com 410 N Vine, Urbana 367-4066 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.	Kelsey Furniture Company www.kelseyfurniture.com 215 N Main St, Tuscola 253-2142 kelseyfurniture@yahoo.com Twenty minutes south of Champaign. I bought a leather recliner couch from them in 2000 that I am still using!
--	---

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>Prairie Gardens www.prairiegardens.com 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532 info@prairiegardens.com</p> <p>In addition to collector's items, they offer framing services, do artificial floral arrangements, sell frames, furniture, plants and flowers!</p>	<p>International Galleries internationalgalleriesurbana.com 118 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 328-2254 InternationalGalleriesUrbana@Gmail.com</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>Art Mart shopartmart.com 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>Tuesday Morning www.tuesdaymorning.com 45 E Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-3753</p> <p>Another store that has department store items at 50%-80% off regular prices.</p>
<p>Pier 1 Imports www.pier1.com 2001 N Prospect, Champaign 355-9568</p> <p>Large store filled with items from all over the world.</p>	<p>Hobby Lobby www.hobbylobby.com 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924</p> <p>Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc.</p>
<p>TJ Maxx www.tjmaxx.com 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>Gordman's www.gordmans.com 1901 N Market, Champaign 403-1434</p> <p>Like TJ Maxx, they sell décor items for less than department stores.</p>
<p>Big Lots www.biglots.com 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>Top Drawer ReStore cuhabitat.org 119 E University, Champaign 359-0507, 819-5118 restore@cuhabitat.org</p>	<p>Crossroads Corner Consignment 723 S Neil, Suite 103, Champaign 954-1100</p>
<p>Second Hand Rose 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>Menards www.menards.com 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>Lowe's www.lowes.com 1904 N Prospect, Champaign 373-7300</p> <p>Huge store with lumber yard & garden shop and very good prices/selections. Have a little bigger selection than Menard's, but can cost a bit more.</p>
<p>Home Depot www.homedepot.com 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>Farm and Fleet www.farmandfleet.co 2701 N Cunningham, Urbana 367-1354</p> <p>Everything from overalls to paint to car batteries.</p>
<p>Champaign Do It Best Hardware www.doitbest.com 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>Round Barn True Value Hardware www.truevalue.com roundbartruevalue@gmail.com 245B S Mattis, Round Barn Ctr, Champaign 352-1100</p> <p>Smaller, limited shop; a little more expensive. Have equipment rentals like dollies, carts, tools, etc.</p>

Electronic Equipment

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

<p>Best Buy www.bestbuy.com 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-8883</p> <p>Wide selection of name brands at good prices. Also do installations.</p>	<p>Radio Shack www.radioshack.com 2020 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 359-6521</p> <p>Gadgets & gizmos for the electronically handy.</p>
<p>Good Vibes www.gvibes.com 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>Glenn Poor's Audio-Video glennpoors.com glennpoors2@gmail.com 1745 W Kirby, Champaign 356-5456</p> <p>Excellent high end equipment. They also sell used and demo equipment.</p>

Electronic Repairs

<p>Glenn Poor's TV Service www.glennpoorstvservice.com/home.html 609 W Springfield, Urbana 367-9686 impalaSS401@gmail.com</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>Radio Doctors Sales and Service www.radio-doctors.com RadDoc@SbcGlobal.net 104 E White St, Champaign 352-2641, 352-3744</p> <p>Home electronic repairs. Small shop, electronics everywhere! It takes time and it is not inexpensive. Occasionally have used equipment for sale.</p>
---	---

Computer Repairs

<p>Illini Union Tech Zone Repair union.illinois.edu/shop/illini-union-tech-zone Main Level, Southwest Wing, Illini Union 244-7938 iutechzone@illinois.edu</p>	<p>Simplified Computers www.simplifiedcomputers.com 901 S Neil St, Champaign 352-5000 sales@simplifiedcomputers.com</p> <p>They helped my mom, who is completely tech illiterate.</p>
<p>Geek Squad www.geeksquad.com 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>E P Computer 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 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

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.

U of I Main Library www.library.illinois.edu 1408 W Gregory, Urbana 333-2290

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.

Champaign Public Library www.champaign.org 200 W Green, Champaign 403-2070	Urbana Free Library urbanafreelibrary.org 210 W Green, Urbana 367-4057
--	--

Bookstores

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

Illini Union Bookstore the "Official" U of I bookstore www.uofibookstore.illinois.edu 809 S Wright Street, Champaign 333-2050 iubcatalog@illinois.edu	TIS College Bookstore @ U of Illinois tisbookui.com 707 S 6th Street, Champaign 337-4900
--	--

New Age and Comic books

Insight Metaphysical Bookstore (cool place!) www.insight-books.com 1111 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 352-5683 dreamtime@insight-books.com They sell new age books, tapes, incense, tarot cards, gemstones, etc.	G-Mart www.g-mart.com 205 N Market St, Champaign 356-7733 duck@g-mart.com Comic books galore!
--	---

Used Books

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

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

Big Corporate Chain Bookstore

There is only one left in town at the moment.

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

Miscellaneous

Lookin' Good - Beauty Salons and Spas

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

Hair Care

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

Cost Cutters Family Hair Care www.costcutters.com 10 E Green (at Neil), Champaign 398-6098 2018 N Prospect, Champaign 355-8443	Hair Cuttery www.haircuttery.com 24 E Green (E of Neil), Champaign 398-9127
Great Clips (on-line check-in!) www.greatclips.com 803 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 328-2369 202 E University Ave, Urbana 328-3011 2023 S Neil St, Champaign (coming soon!)	Supercuts (on-line check-in!) www.supercuts.com 918 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 356-6500 1807 W Kirby Ave, Champaign 352-9106
Borics Hair Care www.signaturestyle.com/brands/borics.html 23 Marketview Dr, Champaign 351-3213 114 N Vine St, Ste P, Urbana 367-1426 1331 Savoy Plaza Lane, Savoy 359-7332	Mastercuts www.signaturestyle.com/brands/mastercuts.html 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... ☺

Tricoci University of Beauty Culture www.tricociuniversity.edu 202 E University Ave, Urbana 344-7550	Regency Beauty Institute www.regencybeauty.com 517 W Town Center Blvd, Champaign 531-9937
--	---

Full Salon Treatments/Spa

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

Timothy John Salon & Spa www.tjsalonandspa.com 404 W Green (east of campus), Urbana 344-4720 Timothyjohnsalon@gmail.com A full service salon. They do cuts, color, facials, mani-pedis, massage, etc. For a great cut/color, ask for my friend Margaret Fix (tell her I sent you)!	Blondi's at The Salon House www.thesalonhouse.com 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.
Wingard Salon wingardsalon.com 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	vetmed.illinois.edu/vth/	
Animal Emergency Clinic of Champaign County 6pm-8am M-F, 24 hours weekends and holidays	359-1977	www.aecchampaign.com	aecchampaign@live.com
National (ASPCA) Animal Poison Center	1-888-4ANI-HELP 888-426-4435	aspcapro.org/poison	apcc@aspcapro.org

Lost Pets

Champaign County Animal Control looking for lost pets	384-3798 M-Sat, 8-5 333-8911 24-hour	www.co.champaign.il.us/ac/st-rays.htm	animalcontrol@co.champaign.il.us
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	urbanaindinois.us/animal-control	
City of Champaign Animal Control for roaming animals Champaign Public Works for dead animals in road	333-8911 403-4700 M-F 7:30-4:30 531-3155 after hrs	ci.champaign.il.us/departments/public-works	publicworks@ci.champaign.il.us

Looking to Adopt a Pet?

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

Champaign County Humane Society (CCHS) 1911 E Main, Urbana	344-PAWS -7297	www.cuhumane.org Adoptees can be viewed at the shelter or online.	adoption@cuhumane.org
CatSnap A no-kill trap/spay, neuter/release and adoption program.	469-5353 Leave a message	www.catsnap.org Adoptees can be viewed at Pet Supplies Plus, PetSmart, or online.	catsnapcats@gmail.com
Hospice Hearts Finds loving homes for pets of elderly patients when they can no longer care for them.	344-1017 c/o Good Friends Animal Hospital	www.hospicehearts.org Adoptees can be viewed online.	hospicehearts@yahoo.com

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

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

Sailfin Pet Shop (720 S Neil, Champaign, 352-1121, www.sailfin.com, 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.

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.
- [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>Virginia Theater www.thevirginia.org 203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063 virginia@champaignparks.com</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>Station Theatre www.stationtheatre.com 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>Champaign-Urbana Theater Co cutc.org 117 E University Ave, Champaign 352-4085 manager@cutc.org</p> <p>The company performs several times a year. Their main stage is the Parkland College Theatre.</p>	<p>Parkland College Theatre theatre.parkland.edu 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2528 theatre@parkland.edu</p> <p>Parkland and UI students, as well as community members participate in their performances.</p>
<p>Zoo Improv www.zooimprov.com SoDo Theater, 111 S Walnut, Champaign contact@zooimprov.com</p> <p>Local improv group with shows for all audiences - family to adult rated! Also available for private events.</p>	<p>C-U Comedy www.cucomedy.com Held in venues around town and private events jesse@cucomedy.com</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>Savoy 16 + IMAX (Goodrich Quality Theater) www.ggti.com 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>Carmike 13 www.carmike.com 910 Meijer Dr, Champaign 866-0710</p> <p>Newly renovated multiplex theaters, with one 80-foot “Big D” screen.</p>
<p>The Art Theater Co-op www.arttheater.coop 126 W Church, downtown Champaign 355-0068 manager@arttheater.coop</p> <p>Foreign films and films by independent film-makers, not shown anywhere else in town.</p>	<p>Virginia Theater www.thevirginia.org 203 W Park, Champaign 356-9063 virginia@champaignparks.com</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>Family Video www.familyvideo.com 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>RedBox www.redbox.com</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>Lee's Oriental Foods for Chinese, Japanese, & Korean films 303 Cedar, Champaign 351-8949</p> <p>Located next to County Market on Kirby Ave</p>	<p>Annapoorna Store 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>Disc Replay discreplay.com/champaign.php 2012 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 607-0890 discreplaychampaignil@yahoo.com</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. Here are a few local sites:

<p>Spurlock Museum of World Cultures www.spurlock.illinois.edu 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>Krannert Art Museum and Kinkhead Pavilion www.kam.uiuc.edu 500 E Peabody (at 6th), 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>Orpheum Children's Science Museum www.orpheumkids.com 346 N Neil, downtown Champaign 352-5895 info@orpheumkids.com</p> <p>Interactive exhibits for children.</p>	<p>Giertz Gallery at Parkland College artgallery.parkland.edu 2400 W Bradley, X Wing, Champaign 351-2485 parklandartgallery@parkland.edu</p> <p>Various exhibits and student art shows.</p>
<p>Museum of the Grand Prairie www.museumofthegrandprairie.org Lake of the Woods 950 N Lombard, Mahomet 586-2612</p> <p>Exit 172 off I-74. Exhibits of pioneer life in the heartland.</p>	<p>Homer Lake Interpretive Center www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/Attractions/InterpretiveCenter.html) Homer Lake Forest Preserve 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer 896-2455 hcenter@ccfpd.org</p> <p>Exit 197 off I-74 thru Ogden. Interactive exhibits, live animals, wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>Monticello Railway Museum www.mrym.org 992 Iron Horse Pl, Monticello 762-9011 info@mrym.org</p> <p>Exit 166 off I-72. Old trains, cars, train rides. Various special events including a "Polar Express" ride in November and December. Unfortunately, the "Ghost Train" ride has been suspended indefinitely.</p>	<p>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</p> <p>This site lists other historic museums throughout the State plus on-line collections.</p> <p>Visit: www.illinois.gov/iHPA/About/Pages/Resources.aspx</p>
<p>The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library www.illinois.gov/alplm/Pages/default.aspx 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>Lincoln Log Cabin and Moore Home Historic Sites www.lincolnlogcabin.org 402 S Lincoln Highway, Lerna 345-1845 hpa.lincolnlog@illinois.gov</p> <p>8 miles south of Charleston (Exit 190A off I-57, to Lincoln Hwy), the reconstructed log home of Lincoln's father and stepmother. 86-acre site, living history farms – portraying life in the 1840s.</p>

Arts & Crafts/Scrapbooking/Fabrics/Party Supplies

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

<p>Hobby Lobby www.hobbylobby.com 2102 N Neil, Champaign 355-2924</p> <p>Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies and projects, furniture, etc. Classes offered.</p>	<p>Prairie Gardens www.prairiegardens.com 3000 W Springfield, Champaign 356-6532 info@prairiegardens.com</p> <p>Arts and crafts supplies, stamping and scrapbooking supplies.</p>
<p>Michaels Arts and Crafts www.michaels.com 2109 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 378-8716</p> <p>Huge store with hobby/craft/art supplies. Classes offered.</p>	<p>Art Coop, Inc. www.facebook.com/artcoop 150 Lincoln Square Village, Urbana 352-4562</p> <p>Art supplies, paints, photographic supplies, workshops, lectures, gallery, etc.</p>
<p>Jo-Ann Fabrics www.joann.com 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>Dallas & Co. www.dallasandco.com 101 E University Ave, Champaign 351-5974 dallas@dallasandco.com</p> <p>Party supplies, costumes and costume rentals, magic kits, balloons, gag gifts, holiday decorations and supplies, etc.</p>	<p>Factory Card and Party Outlet www.partycity.com 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>Titan Games (near campus) www.titangamescu.com 723 S Neil St, Champaign 607-2317 titangamescu@gmail.com</p> <p>Role playing, board and card game nights.</p>	<p>Armored Gopher Games armored-gopher.com 1508 N Cunningham Ave, Ste A, Urbana 344-4263 store@armored-gopher.com</p> <p>Role playing, board and card game nights.</p>
<p>Dr. G's BrainWorks drgsbrainworks.com 114 Lincoln Square Mall, Urbana 607-2427 phyllis@drgsbrainworks.com</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>The Canopy Club (campus) canopyclub.com 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 & Dirks Bentley there).</p>	<p>The City Center/Fat City Bar & Grill (campus) www.fatcitybarandgrill.com 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>Memphis on Main (downtown Champaign) memphisonmain.com 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>Cowboy Monkey (downtown Champaign) www.cowboy-monkey.com 6 Taylor St, Champaign 398-2688 cowboymonkeyinfo@gmail.com</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>The Accord (downtown Champaign) www.intheaccord.com 51 Main Street, Champaign 356-2337 info@intheaccord.com</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>The Clark Bar (near downtown Champaign) www.theclarkbar.com 207 W Clark St, Champaign 355-0510</p> <p>Nestled in an old Champaign neighborhood, in an old stately home, mere blocks from downtown. Open Tuesday-Saturday 5pm-2am. Host a variety of local bands, karaoke and comedy. Also have DJs, drink specials & good food! LGBTQ friendly.</p>
<p>Goldy's Bar & Grill (Country Fair Shopping Ctr) www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill 123 S Mattis, Champaign 359-2177</p> <p>Sports bar with a little bit of everything: local bands on the weekends; good food; pool tables; gaming machines; and a beer garden in the summer. Really nice bartenders, too.</p>	
<p>Boomerang's (Urbana) www.facebook.com/boomerangs.barandgrill.1 1309 E Washington, Urbana 239-7264</p> <p>Acoustic sets, jazz on Tuesdays, BOOM-JAM open stage, Live Jukebox. The Live Karaoke Band is great! The owner is one of the area's guitar superstars who plays with several bands! Great food.</p>	<p>Bunny's (downtown Urbana) bunnystavern.com 119 W Water St, Urbana 367-8175</p> <p>"Best kept secret in downtown Urbana". Free summer parking lot parties are real crowd pleasers! Many Urbana High School reunions start or end at Bunny's! Good bar food, too.</p>
<p>Rose Bowl Tavern (downtown Urbana) 106 N Race St #1, Urbana 367-7031 www.facebook.com/Rose-Bowl-Tavern-136641079712967</p> <p>Original home of country music in C-U area! Various country-related bands.</p>	<p>Iron Post (downtown Urbana) 120 S Race St, Urbana 337-7678 www.facebook.com/theironpost</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

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

1406 Regency Drive, Savoy 359-5333

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>Illini Swing Society* www.cu-swing.org Focuses on various swing style dances such as Lindy Hop and Charleston. Lessons and workshops offered. Hold free weekly dances during the school year and special dances once a month.</p>	<p>Dancing Illini* publish.illinois.edu/dancing Focuses on social ballroom dancing. Offer classes for basic ballroom dances: two-step, cha cha, salsa, swing, waltz, plus bonus dances such as tango and foxtrot. Free open social dances once a month.</p>
<p>Urbana Country Dancers* www.urbana-contra.org Focuses on contra dancing (think square dancing in long lines). Dances are twice a month with special dances a couple times a year. Weekly dances are free, though donations are suggested. Dances are “walked through” before each set. Great live fiddle music!</p>	<p>Illini Folk Dance Society illinifolkdance.s3.amazonaws.com 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) 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>Jupiter's www.jupiterspizza.com 39 E Main St, Champaign 398-5988 My very favorite place to play pool!</p>	<p>Jupiter's at the Crossing www.jupiterspizza.com 2511 Village Green Pl, Champaign 366-8300</p>
<p>Esquire Lounge esquirelounge.com 106 N Walnut, Champaign 398-5858</p>	<p>Goldy's www.facebook.com/GoldysBarandGrill 123 S Mattis, Country Fair Shopping Ctr, Champaign 359-2177</p>
<p>Guido's guidosbar.com 2 E Main St, Champaign 359-3148</p>	<p>Crane Alley www.crane-alley.com 115 E Main, Urbana 384-7526</p>

Bowling Lanes

<p>Illini Union union.illinois.edu/funspots/recroom/Default.asp Basement, 1401 W Green, Urbana, 333-2415 iurecroom@illinois.edu They also have pool tables/leagues.</p>	<p>Western Bowl westernbowl.org 917 Francis, Champaign 359-1678</p>
<p>Old Orchard Lanes www.oldorchardinc.com 901 N Dunlap, Savoy 359-5281 Good pizza. Mini-golf in the summer.</p>	<p>Arrowhead Lanes arrowheadlanes.com 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>Boneyard Arts Festival (April 6-9, 2017) 90+ venues throughout Champaign County 40north.org/programs/boneyard</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>Friday Night Live (Memorial Day to Labor Day) Downtown Champaign 40north.org/programs/friday-night-live</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& Church, Neil & Park, and Walnut & Chester. Music of all genres.</p>
<p>Urbana Park District Strawberry Jam (Jun 18, 2016) Meadowbrook Park, Urbana www.urbanaparks.org/events/strawberry-jam</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>Champaign Park District Street Fest (June/July) Downtown Champaign champaignparks.com/streetfest</p> <p>Free! Local bands from 7pm-midnight. 6/18/16: Neil & Main Street 7/16/16: University & Walnut</p>
<p>Blues, Brews, and BBQ (June 24-25, 2016) Downtown Champaign, Walnut Street, between Main & Washington bluesbrewsandbbqfest.com</p> <p>Free (\$5 donation appreciated)! National and internationally-renown blues bands perform on 3 stages. BBQ vendors galore. Motorcycle show.</p>	<p>Taste of Champaign (August 19-20, 2016) West Side Park, Champaign champaignparks.com/taste-of-champaign-urbana</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>Urbana Sweetcorn Festival (August 26-27, 2016) Downtown Urbana urbanasweetcornfestival.com</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>Pygmalion Festival (Sept 16-24, 2016) Downtown Champaign, The Accord annex lot www.thepygmalionfestival.com info@thepygmalionfestival.com</p> <p>“Foremost boutique indie rock music festivals in the world” coupled with handmade/vintage market.</p>
<p>Homer Soda Festival (June 4, 2016) Homer, IL www.homersodafestival.com</p>	<p>Amish Country Cheese Festival (Labor Day weekend) Arthur, IL www.arthurcheesefestival.com</p>
<p>Broom Corn Festival (Sept 9-11, 2016) Arcola, IL arcolachamber.com/arcola-broomcorn-festival</p>	<p>The National Sweetcorn Festival (Sept 1-5, 2016) Hoopeston, IL www.hoopestonjaycees.org/festival</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 for suggestions.

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

Champaign-Urbana Parks

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

Urbana www.urbanaparks.org	Champaign champaignparks.com
<p>Crystal Lake Park 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>Champaign County Fairgrounds, located adjacent to the park, have events every summer, including the Humane Society Garage Sale in May and the Champaign County Fair in July.</p>	<p>Centennial Park 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>Prairie Farm at Centennial Park 2202 W Kirby Ave 398-2583 Free petting zoo with barnyard animals. Open Memorial Day to early August.</p>
<p>Anita Purves Nature Center/Busey Woods North of Crystal Lake Aquatic Center. 384-4062 59-acre preserve. Nice hiking trails.</p>	<p>Hessel Park Kirby and Hessel 26 acres. Tennis courts, playground area, picnic areas.</p>
<p>Meadowbrook Race St, south of Windsor 130 acres. Play area, hiking trail, co-op garden, prairie restoration, outside sculpture garden.</p>	<p>West Side Park University and State 12.7 acres. Playground, fountain, picnicking. Taste of Champaign held every summer.</p>
<p>Indoor Aquatic Center 102 E Michigan (between the Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School) 384-POOL (-7665) Water slide, lap pool during public swim times.</p>	<p>Kaufman Lake 2702 W Springfield Ave 24.2 acre. Fishing, hiking, picnic areas. Ice-skating in winter.</p>
<p>Phillips Recreation Center 505 W Stoughton, Urbana 367-1544 Dance, fitness, community programs. Main Urbana Park District registration location.</p>	<p>Helms Park (campus) 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

<p>Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch www.curtisorchard.com 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>Wildlife Prairie State Park wildlifeprairiepark.org 3826 N Taylor Rd, Hanna City (Peoria) 309-676-0998 I-74 west, Exit 82, 2-1/2 miles south, follow signs. irequest@wildlifeprairie.org</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>
---	--

<p>Allerton Park allerton.illinois.edu 515 Old Timber Rd, Monticello 333-3287 20 minute drive from Champaign. A few miles off I-72, exit 164. allertoninfo@illinois.edu</p> <p>6000 acre estate. Beautiful formal gardens, statues, & architecture. Can see deer there, too, if you look closely.</p>	<p>Kickapoo State Park www.stateparks.com/kickapoo.html 10906 Kickapoo Park Rd, Oakwood (east of Danville) 442-4915 About 25 miles east of Urbana. Take I-74 East. john.hott@illinois.gov</p> <p>Nice trails. Beautiful river views. Canoe rentals. Camping areas available.</p>
<p>Lake of the Woods www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/LakeoftheWoods.html 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>Moraine View dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R3/Moraine.htm 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>Homer Lake Forest Preserve ccfpd.org/Preserves/HomerLake.html 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer 896-2455 I-74 east to Rte 49, 5 miles south, follow signs.</p> <p>80-acre lake on 814 acre preserve with fishing, hiking. Interpretive Center features live animals and displays.</p>	<p>Middle Fork River Forest Preserve www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html 3485 County Rd 2700 E, Penfield 595-5432 5 miles N of Penfield. County Road 2700 E/ Rte 136</p> <p>1700 acres. Waterfowl Management Area with 3 ponds. Campground, swim beach, hiking trails.</p>
<p>Fox Ridge State Park www.stateparks.com/fox_ridge.html 18175 State Park Rd, Charleston 345-6416 Hwy 130 out of Charleston for 8 miles. Follow signs. foxridge@dnrmail.state.il.us</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>Walnut Point State Park www.stateparks.com/walnut_point_state_park_in_illinois.html 2331 E County Rd 370 N, Oakland 346-3336 I-57 south to Tuscola (exit 212). Take Hwy 36 east for 15 miles, then south on Hwy 7 for 6 miles. Follow signs. rshafer@dnrmail.state.il.us</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. 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>Turkey Run State Park www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm 8121 E Park Rd, Marshall, IN 765-597-2635 I-74 east to Crawfordsville; 231 south to 47 Hiking trails; boats; camp or stay at the Inn. Reservations are needed for the Inn 765-597-2211.</p>	<p>Shades State Park www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2970.htm 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>
---	---

Other attractions

<p>Hardy's Reindeer Ranch (open select days Aug-Dec) www.reindeerranch.com 1356 County Road 2900 N, Rantoul, IL 893-3407 reindeerranch@hotmail.com</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>Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery www.prairiefruits.com 4410 N Lincoln, Champaign 643-2314 prairiefruitsinfo@gmail.com</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>
--	---

<p>Travel Historic Route 66 www.enjoyillinois.com/en-us/tripideas/route66</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>Visit Amish Country www.illinoisamishcountry.com 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>Aikman’s Wildlife Adventure (May-Nov) www.aikmanwildlife.com 125 N County Road 425 E, Arcola 259-96036 james@aikmanwildlife.com</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>Staerkel Planetarium www2.parkland.edu/planetarium 2400 W Bradley, Champaign 351-2446 planetarium@parkland.edu</p> <p>2nd 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 1st Friday of the month and special events like Pluto-palooza.</p>	
<p>C-U Astronomical Society cuas.org 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 1st quarter mon). Dark sky viewing with telescopes at Middlefork Forest Preserve.</p>	<p>Astronomical Society at the U of Illinois uias.astro.illinois.edu c/o Dept of Astronomy, 1002 W Green, Urbana uias@illinois.edu</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>Aroma Café & Kitchen www.aroma-cafe.com 118 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 356-3200 jamarr.turner@gmail.com</p> <p>Also serve lunch and breakfast all day.</p>	<p>Cafe Kopi www.facebook.com/Cafe-Kopi-54268594593 109 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 359-4266</p> <p>They decorate with works from local artists. Also serve salads, pitas, and paninis.</p>
<p>Caffe Paradiso www.enjoyparadiso.com **801 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana 384-6066 enjoyparadiso@gmail.com</p> <p>Coffee, tea, salads, sandwiches, pastries, and desserts!</p>	

National shops

<p>Espresso Royale www.espressoroyale.com **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>Starbucks www.starbucks.com **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>
---	--

Distributors

<p>Walnut Street Tea Company www.walnutstreettea.com 115 S Walnut, downtown Champaign 351-6975</p> <p>Specialty grocery selling coffee, teas, sweets, and novelties.</p>	<p>Columbia Street Roastery www.csrcoffee.com 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>
--	--

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>Jarling's Custard Cup www.jarlingscustardcup.com **309 W Kirby, Champaign 352-2273 comments@jarlingscustardcup.com</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>Culver's www.culvers.com 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>
---	---

Ice Creams and Frozen Yogurt

<p>Dairy Queen www.dairyqueen.com 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>Baskin Robbins www.baskinrobbins.com **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>Cold Stone Creamery www.coldstonecreamery.com **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>Marble Slab Creamery www.marbleslab.com 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>City Girl Yogurt (Frozen Yogurt) www.citygirlyogurt.com 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>TCBY (Frozen Yogurt) store.tcby.com/home/oldfarm 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>Cocomero (Frozen Yogurt) www.facebook.com/cocomero.frozenyogurt **709 S Wright St, Champaign 328-3888</p> <p>Self-serve frozen yogurt. Kinda pricey.</p>	

Chocolates and Candies

<p>Fannie May Fine Chocolates www.fanniemay.com **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>Flesor's Candy Kitchen www.flesorscandy.com 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>
--	--

<p>Rubens Chocolates www.facebook.com/Rubens-Belgian-chocolates-235738219327 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>A Toffee Tale www.atoffeetale.com Fithian, IL 328-1500 Info: thetoffeelady2@gmail.com Order: iwanttoffee@gmail.com</p> <p>Yummy handmade toffees sold at many local stores in C-U including Walnut Street Tea Company, World Harvest, Strawberry Fields, Common Ground Co-Op and Art Mart. Order on-line, too.</p>
--	--

Bakeries and Dessert Shops

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

Bakery Outlet Stores

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

<p>Aunt Millie’s Bakery Outlet www.auntmillies.com/about/thrift-stores 805 Bloomington Rd, Champaign 607-2150</p>	
---	--

Cakes and Pies

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

<p>County Market Bakery www.champaign-stoughton.mycountymarket.com/discover/departments/bakery **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>Wal-Mart Super Center Bakery wm13.walmart.com/Cook/Articles/Cakes_for_Any_Occasion/1101 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>(Sam's Club 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>Meijer Bakery www.meijer.com/content/content.jsp?pageName=cakes-and-deli-trays 2401 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 353-4000 2500 Philo Rd, Urbana 365-5200</p> <p>Bakery & Deli ordering: 877-363-4537</p>	<p>Schnuck’s Bakery www.schnucks.com/bakery 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>The New Sweet Indulgence www.thenewsweetindulgence.biz 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>The Cake Artist's Studio www.thecakeartistsstudio.com 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>Cream & Flutter creamandflutter.com 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>Mirabelle Fine Pastry Inc. 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>Cookies by Design www.cookiesbydesign.com 510 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana 344-3911 cookiesbydesign113@yahoo.com</p> <p>Cookie bouquets and baskets.</p>	<p>Perkins Family Restaurant www.perkinsrestaurants.com 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>Insomnia Cookies insomniacookies.com **502 E John, Johnstown Center 877-632-6654</p> <p>DELIVER cookies to your door Noon-3AM!</p>	

Breads and Rolls

<p>Great Harvest Bread Company greatharvestchampaign.com 2149 S Neil Street, Champaign 398-5623 tdburdick@greatharvest.com</p> <p>Locally owned. Variety of breads, sweets, sandwiches baked fresh daily.</p>	<p>The Bread Company on Goodwin www.thebreadcompanyurbana.com **706 S. Goodwin, Urbana 383-1007 thebreadcompany706@gmail.com</p> <p>Locally owned. Great breads and sweets. Also have gourmet pizzas, sandwiches, fondue.</p>
<p>Panera Bread Company www.panerabread.com **616 E Green St, Champaign 344-2528 1765 Kirby (Old Farm Shops), Champaign 355-9885 1903 Convenience Pl, Champaign 239-5000</p> <p>Fresh breads, bagels, & sweet treats. Also serve excellent sandwiches, soups and salads. Catering.</p>	<p>Atlanta Bread Company www.atlantabread.com 1905 S Neil Street, Champaign 356-8040</p> <p>Breads, pizzas, sandwiches, salads, salads. Catering.</p>

Donuts and Bagels

<p>Ye Olde Donut Shoppe www.facebook.com/yeoldedonutshoppe **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>Carmella's Crème Donuts 1611 W Springfield, Champaign 531-0024</p> <p>Good locally baked donuts. Small place. Cash only. Hours: Monday-Saturday 5:30am-4pm; Sunday 5:30am-3pm. Cheaper by the dozen.</p>
--	---

<p>Pandmonium Doughnuts pandamoniumdoughnuts.wix.com/pandamoniumdoughnuts 630-946-4306 PandamoniumDoughnuts@gmail.com</p> <p>Travelling food truck. See website for schedule of stops. At Urbana’s Market on the Square on Saturdays.</p>	<p>Dunkin Donuts www.dunkindonuts.com **607 E Green St, Champaign 384-3375 **515 S Neil, Champaign 359-7005 1302 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 359-2786 404 W University, Urbana 328-3513</p> <p>They also serve breakfast sandwiches.</p>
<p>Einstein Bros. Bagels www.einsteinbros.com **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>The Original Pancake House www.originalpancakehouse.com 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>Le Peep www.lepeep.com 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>Sammy’s Pancake House (also spelled Sammie’s) 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>Sam’s Café www.facebook.com/samscafechampaign 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>Merry Ann’s Diner www.merry-anns.com **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>
--

Family Style Restaurants (that also serve awesome breakfasts)

<p>The Apple Dumpling www.facebook.com/dumplin1985 2014 High Cross Rd, Urbana 344-0076</p> <p>An Urbana tradition for 30 years. Great home cooking! Tiny place of 15 tables – and only 3 menu specials each night. Get there early as they will sell out of some items. Sunday buffet = 3 choices of the day & salad bar. Love their chicken and noodles and fried chicken. Closed Mondays.</p>	<p>Urbana Garden Family Restaurant urbanagarden.com 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>Bob Evans www.bobevans.com 1813 N Prospect, Champaign 356-1006</p> <p>Famous for their sausage. Great breakfast selections. “Home-style” cooking at decent prices. Salads, sandwiches, dinners – everything I’ve tried is good!</p>	<p>Cracker Barrel Old Country Store www.crackerbarrel.com 2101 N Kenyon Road, Urbana 344-9087</p> <p>Good “home-style” food. Attached to a country store so you can browse after dinner or while waiting to be seated. I love their cornbread and hash brown casserole.</p>
<p>Perkins Family Restaurant www.perkinsrestaurants.com **1214 W University, Urbana 328-3000</p> <p>Huge 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>Courier Cafe www.couriersilvercreek.com 111 N Race, downtown Urbana 328-1811</p> <p>Great garden (and regular) burgers, veggie quesadillas, appetizers, and a big salad bar. They also have a soda fountain and milkshakes. A bit more pricy, but worth it!</p>

Good Food Fast

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

<p>Taco Bell www.tacobell.com **1003 W University, Urbana 367-2871 **1707 S Neil Street, Champaign 403-9803 1910 W Springfield, Champaign 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>Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) www.kfc.com 2201W Springfield, Champaign 352-0900 410 W University, Urbana 328-3379 1321N Dunlap, Savoy 356-1861 (w/ A&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>Arby's arbys.com Champaign: 1913 W Springfield Ave 356-0622; 1502 N Prospect 359-0026; 2310 S Neil 398-5677 Urbana: 509 N Cunningham 367-5624</p> <p>Slogan: We have the meats! Finely sliced roast beef sandwiches are what they are known for. Also serve turkey, chicken, brisket, steak, corned beef, and offer Market/Deli Sandwiches (like their delicious chicken salad) for a little more. Occasionally have fish. Great sides and shakes, too.</p>	<p>Sonic America’s Drive-In sonicdrivein.com 601 N Mattis, Champaign 356-1230 101 Calvin St, Savoy 359-8901</p> <p>Drive thru or park and eat in your car! Burgers, hot dogs, breakfast sandwiches and burritos. Sides include awesome onion rings and tater tots. They also serve shakes and slushies (ice with favored syrup). Get a cream slushie for the best of both worlds in a huge variety of flavors (I like the watermelon). Very good and inexpensive.</p>

<p>Steak 'n Shake www.steaknshake.com **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 & freezes! Great \$4 menu, plus you can always find coupons. My old high-school hangout.</p>	<p>Culver's www.culvers.com 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>
---	--

Big Chain Burger Joints

<p>McDonald's (Mc-E D's) www.mcdonalds.com 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>Burger King (BK) www.bk.com 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>Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers www.wendys.com 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>Hardee's www.hardees.com **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>Lil Porgy's Bar-B-Q www.lilporgysbbq.com 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>Hickory River Smokehouse hickoryriver.com 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>Black Dog Smoke & Ale House www.blackdogsmoke.com 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>Chester's BBQ www.facebook.com/chestersBBQ 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, & BBQ festival last summer and it was great!</p>

Sandwich Shops

<p>Po'Boys Restaurant www.poboysurbana.com 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>Derald's Catering Truck **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 & breakfast items all week. Also sells Ye Olde Donuts, chips, coffee, pop, etc. Cash only.</p>
<p>Subway Sandwiches & Salads www.subway.com **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>Newman Foundation, Newman Res Hall www.sjcnc.org/housing/dining **604 E Armory, Champaign 344-1266 info@sjcnc.org</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>Bevier Café beviercafe.illinois.edu 260 Bevier Hall, 905 S Goodwin, Urbana 244-4498 fshn-general@illinois.edu</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>Colonial Room at the Illini Union www.housing.illinois.edu/dining/menus 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>Spice Box spicebox.illinois.edu 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>Fiesta Café www.fiestacafe.com **216 S 1st, Champaign 352-5902</p> <p>I love their food, especially their chicken/mole tamales and cheese enchiladas. We call the chili con queso dip “crack dip” because it is so addictive and delicious!</p>	<p>Dos Reales www.facebook.com/pages/Dos-Reales-Mexican-Restaurant/100868866625158 1407 N Prospect, Champaign 351-6879</p> <p>Great authentic Mexican food at good prices. I love the Pollo a la Parilla. I think they have the best chips and salsa in town.</p>
---	---

<p>Maize Mexican Grill www.maizemexicangrill.com **60 E Green, Champaign 355-6400</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>Huaraches Moroleon www.facebook.com/Huaraches-Moroleon-343380985672030 805 Philo, Urbana 344-6772</p> <p>Another tiny place with excellent food! Authentic fare, really good prices.</p>
<p>Toro Loco 1601 N Cunningham, Urbana 344-7855 El Toro II 723 S Neil, Champaign 378-7807 El Toro Bravo 2561 W Springfield, C 351-7024 eltororestaurante.com</p> <p>All owned by the Fuentes family. Good food, good prices. Different specials each day. Home of the Margarona (combo Corona/Margarita). They deliver!</p>	<p>La Bamba www.labambaburritos.com 1905 Glenn Park, Champaign 355-6600 info@labambaburritos.com</p> <p>Another family-run business, the Aguas brothers' motto is "burritos as big as your head!" And it is an accurate description. They also have quesadillas, tacos, nachos.</p>
<p>Qdoba Mexican Grill www.qdoba.com **1401 W Green St, Illini Union, Urbana 552-1325</p> <p>Build your own burrito, taco, bowl, nachos, salad or soup. Also serve breakfast burritos. Conveniently located in the Illini Union Food Court.</p>	<p>Cactus Grill www.cactusgrillchampaign.com **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>Pancho's Mexican Grill pancheros.com 102 E University, Ste B, Urbana 367-4000 2009 S Neil St, Champaign 607-5982</p> <p>Build your own burritos, bowls, salads, tacos and quesadillas. Some of the items cost extra, so if you aren't careful, you can end up with a \$10 burrito. Fresh-pressed tortillas. Very tasty.</p>	<p>Moe's Southwest Grill www.moes.com 2041 S Neil St, Champaign 352-6637</p> <p>Another build your own burrito, taco, quesadilla, salad, bowl, nacho place, but they give you free chips and salsa with every order, unlike other b-y-o places. They even offer tofu as a protein choice.</p>

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>Papa John's www.papajohns.com **106 E Green St, Champaign 355-5858</p> <p>Great specials/coupons/late delivery. Served at most BIOP events.</p>	<p>Domino's www.dominos.com **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>Sbarro www.sbarro.com **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>DP Dough www.dpdough.com **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>Jupiter's www.jupiterspizza.com 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>Monical's www.monicalspizza.com 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>Papa Del's www.papadels.com **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>Jet's Pizza jetspizza.com **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>Za's zasitaliancafe.com 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>Fazoli's www.fazolis.com 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>Mia Za's Café www.miazas.com **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>Papa Murphy's www.papamurphys.com 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>J. Gumbo's Cajun Joint www.jgumbos.com **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>Popeye's Chicken popeyes.com 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>
--	---

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>Zorba's zorbascu.com **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>Bombay Indian Grill www.bombayindiangrillchampaign.com **401 E Green St, Champaign 344-3380</p> <p>Not inexpensive, but wonderful food! Lunch specials available 11am-3pm.</p>
<p>Niro's Gyros 1007 W University, Urbana 328-6476 nirosgyrosuniversityave.com 2001 W Springfield, Champaign 355-6760 nirosgyroschampaign.com</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>Super Niro's Gyros supernirosgyroschampaign.com 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>Jerusalem Middle Eastern Cuisine **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>The Y Thai & Chinese Eatery www.universityymca.org/about_us/y_eatery **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>Pho Café Thai Kitchen **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>Siam Terrace www.siamterrace.com 212 W Main, downtown Urbana 367-THAI (-8424) siamterrace@yahoo.com</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>Thara Thai Pan-Asian Restaurant tharathairestaurant.com 912 1/2 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign 378-1986 tharathairestaurant@gmail.com</p> <p>Family owned and operated. Small place, great food, friendly service.</p>
<p>Basil Thai Urbana **701 S Gregory Pl, Urbana 344-8662</p> <p>Authentic Thai cuisine. I always get their Pad Thai.</p>	
<p>My Thai www.mythaichampaign.com 2312 W Springfield, Champaign 351-THAI (-8424) mythaichampaign@yahoo.com</p> <p>Serve Thai, Japanese, and sushi. Really good food.</p>	<p>Nitaya Thai Restaurant www.nitayathai.com 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>China Garden 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>Super Wok www.gosuperwok.com 1737 W Kirby Ave (Old Farm), Champaign 398-0111</p> <p>Good food, good prices. Great chicken angel hair!</p>
--	---

Sit-down Chinese

<p>Golden Harbor goldenharbor.weebly.com **505 S Neil St, Champaign 398-8988 crispytofu505@gmail.com</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>Rainbow Garden www.rainbow-garden.com 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>Peking Garden www.pekinggardenchampaign.com 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>Auntie Lee's Chinese Kitchen www.auntieleechampaign.com **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>301 Mongolia 301mongolia.com 307 N Neil St, downtown Champaign 531-1153 comments@301mongolia.com</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>FlatTop Grill www.flattopgrill.com **607 S Sixth St, Campus 344-3200 champaign@ftgconcepts.com</p> <p>"Create your own stir-fry". They have a create-your-own breakfast that I have yet to try...</p>
---	--

Chinese Buffets

<p>Chinatown Buffet 713 Marketview Dr, Champaign 398-9888</p> <p>Huge buffet with Chinese and American foods.</p>	
--	--

Japanese/Sushi

<p>Ko-Fusion www.kofusion.com **701 S Gregory, Suite F, Urbana 954-1572 campus@kofusion.com</p> <p>Sushi and stir fry menus. Casual dining with dollar sushi menu and quick affordable meals.</p>	<p>Ko-Fusion www.kofusion.com 1 E Main, downtown Champaign 531-1166 info@kofusion.com</p> <p>Sushi and stir fry menus. Upscale atmosphere. Lunch buffet M-F and dollar sushi Sundays and Mondays.</p>
<p>Oishi Hibachi Steak House oishihibachisteakhouse.com 2501 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 398-6888</p> <p>A bit pricey, but nice atmosphere and good food.</p>	<p>Sarku Japan www.sarkujapan.com 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>Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant www.channingmurray.org/redherring.html **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>Strawberry Fields Café www.strawberry-fields.com 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>Common Ground Co-op commonground.coop 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>Murphy’s Pub www.facebook.com/pages/Murphys-Pub/116375968386068 **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>Dublin O’Neil’s dublinoneils.com 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>Seven Saints sevensaintsbar.com 32 E Chester St, downtown Champaign 351-7775 7saintsgm@gmail.com</p> <p>Upscale bar with old world atmosphere. Awesome cheese curds appetizer and grilled chicken salad sandwiches.</p>	<p>DESTIHL Restaurant and Brew Works www.destihl.com 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>Crane Alley www.crane-alley.com 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>Billy Barooz Pub and Grill www.billybarooz.com 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>TGI Friday’s www.tgifridays.com 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>Applebee’s applebees.com 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>Wedge Tequila Bar & Grill wedgebar.com 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>Chili's Grill and Bar www.chilis.com 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>Esquire Lounge www.esquirelounge.com 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>Buffalo Wild Wings (aka "B-Dubs" or "BW3") www.buffalowildwings.com 907 W Marketview Dr, Champaign 378-4400 1335 Savoy Plaza Dr, Savoy 356-9464</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>The Rib Eye www.theribeyrestaurant.org **1701 S Neil, Champaign 351-9115</p> <p>Known for their impressive salad bar, great steak, and twice baked potatoes. I love their huge fried shrimp and their Sunday/Monday nights Steak for 2 special! Open at 4:30pm during the week; 4:00pm on weekends.</p>	<p>Alexander's Steakhouse www.mercedesrestaurants.com/alexanders-steakhouse 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>Outback Steakhouse (yup...Aussie decor!) www.outback.com 2402 N Prospect, Champaign 398-3322</p> <p>They serve beef, and lots of it. Also offer chicken and sea foods. I love their Bloomin' Onion appetizer. Opens at 4:00pm Mon-Thurs; 11:00am Fri-Sun.</p>	<p>Texas Roadhouse www.texasroadhouse.com 204 N Country Fair Dr, Champaign 355-9901</p> <p>A more casual steakhouse. Start off with peanuts in the shell and great rolls with warm cinnamon butter! I love their smothered chicken and prime rib.</p>
<p>Longhorn Steakhouse www.longhornsteakhouse.com 2101 N Prospect Ave, Champaign 352-9189</p> <p>Excellent food. They also offer specials that are a little different than your normal steakhouse fare.</p>	

Seafood /Fine Dining

<p>Red Lobster (Cin's favorite fancy place to eat!) www.redlobster.com 1901 N Prospect, Champaign 355-2577</p> <p>Great seafood, fish and desserts. They are known for their garlic cheese biscuits. I love their coconut shrimp and shrimp fettuccini!</p>	<p>Silvercreek www.couriersilvercreek.com/silvercreek 402 N Race, Urbana 328-3402</p> <p>Nice atmosphere with great food. They have a nice Greenhouse open for their Sunday brunches from 10am-2:30pm. Owners also manage the Courier Cafe.</p>
--	--

<p>Milo's Restaurant at the Pines milosurbana.com 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>Radio Maria Restaurant and Tapas Bar www.radiomariarestaurant.com 119 N Walnut, downtown Champaign 398-7729 radiomariarestaurant@gmail.com</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>
---	--

Upscale Italian Places

<p>Timpone' s www.timpones-urbana.com **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>Biaggi's www.biaggis.com 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>Olive Garden www.olivegarden.com 30 E Anthony Dr, Champaign 351-6339</p> <p>Great food & desserts. Fairly reasonable prices. All you can eat soup, salad, and breadsticks is a great deal!</p>	<p>Minnecci's www.minnecisristorante.com 2501 Village Green, Champaign 366-9225</p> <p>Very tasty fare. Great Sunday brunch buffet. Gluten-free menu available.</p>
<p>Manzella's Italian Patio Restaurant www.manzellasitalianrestaurant.com **115 S First St, Champaign 352-7624</p> <p>Family owned & operated for over 50 years. Great Italian food at reasonable prices. And they deliver!</p>	