

University of Chicago Info Guide

Campus / Environment

- Located in Chicago, IL. Situated directly in Hyde Park.
- Provides the traditional campus feel while being in an urban location.
- Public transportation is available to the hub of the city.
- The 217-acre campus is designated as a botanic garden!
- Full of nature - a very green campus with all sorts of weather.
- The campus is full of ivy-covered Collegiate Gothic buildings.
- Hyde Park is home to more than 60% of the UChicago faculty and their families.
- The streets of Hyde Park are always busy and filled with pedestrians.
- The neighborhood has museums, restaurants, an art fair, the Hyde Park Jazz Festival, movies, and concerts.
- Many research and volunteering opportunities are just a walk away.
- Filled with hard-working people; motivated to succeed.
- Pret a Manger, Insomnia Cookies, Boba shop, Starbucks, and multiple cafes are all located on campus.
- Many food trucks are on campus!
- Beautiful sights of Lake Michigan right on the edge of campus.
- The closest airport is about a 20-minute drive.
- 6-minute drive to Trader Joe's from campus!
- There are 24-hour foot and vehicle patrols on campus.
- There is a late-night transport service.
- 24-hour emergency telephones for use on all sidewalks.
- Controlled dormitory access (keys and cards to get in)
- Dollar Milkshake Day is offered every Wednesday on campus, where you can get a one-dollar milkshake at the Reynolds Club student center.

Dorms / Housing

- All students are required to live on campus for their first two academic years.
- Consists of seven residence halls.
- The Residence Halls then contain 39 Houses, each sharing rooms surrounding House common areas within the residence hall.
- Each house has about 80 students, which allows you to meet many new people and see them on a daily basis!
- House assignments are intentionally made to ensure that there is a diverse population with people from various states and countries.
- Once admitted and committed to the school, students have the opportunity to share their preferences on the housing application. Such preferences are factors such as whether you would prefer living alone or with a roommate, and what habits you would hope your roommate has.
- All of the houses are co-ed, but a few floors of each house are single-sex. If you would prefer to live on an all-male or all-female floor, you can make this clear in the housing application.

Residence halls

- Burton Judson Courts
 - 6 houses in the residence.
 - Single and double rooms are offered.
 - Coed
 - Built in 1931, so there is certainly a gothic feel with older facilities.
 - Smaller rooms with wooden furniture.
 - Connected around two grassy courtyards, and just across the street from the Cathey Dining Commons.
 - The hall has one Resident Dean couple.
 - Shared community bathrooms on each floor.
 - Features WiFi, club room, cable TV, multi-purpose theatre, library, and a large community kitchen.
 - Very close to many class locations, convenient for students.

- The bus stops right in front of the building.
- Campus North Residential Commons
 - 8 houses in the residence.
 - Single, double, and apartment-style rooms are offered.
 - Co-ed
 - Just recently built in 2016, so offers nicer facilities with less of the UChicago flair.
 - Very modern and new in both the exterior and interior.
 - Located in the northern part of campus, a short walk to the Main Quadrangles.
 - The hall has multiple Resident Deans on site.
 - Has music practice rooms, interior courtyards, WiFi, cable TV, and a reading room.
 - One of the most sought-after residence halls at UChicago.
 - Right next to a boba and pizza place!
 - Adjacent to its own dining hall, which is the Baker Dining Commons.
 - A bit farther from classrooms, you will need to walk for longer.
- International House
 - 5 houses in the residence.
 - Single, double, and triple rooms are offered.
 - Coed
 - Built in 1932, so it is an older building with gothic features and older facilities.
 - This is both a residence hall and a dynamic program center.
 - “Serves as a cultural and intellectual center for a wide range of diverse programs.”
(UChicago)
 - Each house has Resident Heads and Assistants, on-site 24/7.
 - Features a basement exercise room, library, interior courtyard, cable TV, and wifi.
 - Known for being more of a social residence.
 - On the edge of campus, farther from main buildings where classes will be held.
- Max Palevsky Residential Commons
 - 8 houses in the residence.
 - Single and Double suites offered.
 - Coed
 - Built in 2001, so it is more modern and renovated compared to other dorms.

- The double suites have their own bathrooms.
- Features a large common basement for students.
- Has a central mail room, building lounges, music practice rooms, interior courtyard, WiFi, and cable TV
- Athletes live here.
- Most sought after by freshmen, as it is in an incredibly convenient location with a large social scene.
- Close to libraries, gyms, and most classes.
- Renee Granville-Grossman Residential Commons:
 - 8 houses in the residence.
 - Single, Double, and apartment-style dorms offered.
 - Coed
 - Built in 2009, not having the gothic style that many UChicago buildings have. However, this means it is more renovated and updated.
 - Has kitchens, a reading room, building commons, music rooms, study rooms, WiFi, and cable TV.
 - Much bigger apartments and rooms, however, it is farther away from the main part of campus.
 - Located right next to the Cathey Dining Commons.
- Snell-Hitchcock Hall
 - 2 houses in the residence.
 - Single and Double rooms are offered.
 - Coed
 - Snell was built in 1893, while Hitchcock was built in 1902.
 - The date of construction means that the dorms are much smaller compared to other halls, and have older facilities and furniture.
 - Located in the heart of campus, right on the main quad.
 - Built-in the traditional neo-Gothic style.
 - Each house has four floors and no elevator.
 - Living here, you sacrifice space for location.

- Features a community kitchen, tea room, reading room, courtyard, WiFi, and cable TV.
- Difficult to get, as many people want to live here.
- Located nearby are food trucks, Starbucks, and Pret A Manger.
- Woodlawn Residential Commons
 - 11 houses in the residence.
 - Single, Double, and Apartments offered.
 - Coed
 - Built in 2020, so it is incredibly new and renovated.
 - Located in a convenient area, close to both stores and class sites.
 - Extremely nice rooms, (with large windows!)
 - The apartments have four rooms, with a large newly-made kitchen and bathroom.
 - Features a music room, laundry room, recreation room, commons room, community kitchen, and multiple terraces.
 - VIDEO TO WATCH ON THESE NEW DORMS: <https://youtu.be/a9rJETd1JT8>

Food

- Cathey is known to be the best dining hall on campus, having a stir fry station and a pasta bar.
- The Baker dining hall comes in a close second, with its very own omelet station, fresh fruit bar, and an ice cream bar.
- The dining halls are known to be an incredibly social place, where people can easily make new friends and feel welcomed.
- Incredible food in the nearby area, of all cuisines and styles!
- There is a Philz Coffee, Chipotle, Five Guys, Poke place, and Jimmy John's all nearby.
- Firecakes Donuts is also in the vicinity, which is supposed to have some of the best doughnuts in the nation!
- <https://dining.uchicago.edu/>

Academics

- Private Institution.
- Total undergrad enrollment of 6,734.
- The student-faculty ratio at the University of Chicago is 5:1.
- The school has 78.9% of its classes with fewer than 20 students.
- Offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees.
- 52 majors offered.
- The top areas of study at UChicago are Economics, Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Public Policy, and Computer Science.
- There are full-time academic advisors to help students navigate opportunities and school work.
- The deadline for declaring your major is the Spring Quarter of your third year.
- Typically, about a third of a student's courses are electives.
- UChicago follows the quarter system, meaning there are four quarters each ending with a week of finals.

Core curriculum

- All students first begin their undergraduate education with the core curriculum, which is designed to establish skills in all genres that will aid in the remaining three years of college and beyond.
- The curriculum introduces students to every discipline; science, humanities, mathematics, and social sciences.
- This allows for students to explore what they enjoy and help in determining what major they will pursue.
- The Core is known for its very small classes, where a maximum of 19 students can enroll in each class.
- MORE ON THE CORE EXPERIENCE:
<https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/files/documents/core.pdf>
- Based on the principle: “teach students *how*, not *what*, to think”
- <https://youtu.be/8gUJ2PzDvQ8>

- Combined degree programs are offered.
- Students are able to partake in domestic study away programs and study abroad opportunities.
- Internships are available and heavily suggested.
- There are also opportunities to independently study.
- Rated #6 for colleges with the best professors in America.
- Many students agree that the workload is quite heavy, and there comes a lot of assignments with each course.
- 92% of students say professors are passionate about the topics they teach.
- Students have access to over 160 research centers and committees.
- There are six libraries within the campus with over 11 million volumes.
- The University of Chicago is one of only two universities in the nation to manage two U.S. Department of Energy National Labs—Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab.

Student Resources

- They have the Center for College Student Success, which empowers First-Gen, Lower-Income, and Immigrant students in college. The center provides both resources and tools that promote student success and organizing social events to create closer bonds.
- UChicago is very focused on health and wellness services, providing students with many resources to aid in ensuring they are remaining healthy.
- They offer a Student Counseling Service, where students can easily sign up to meet with a counselor.
- There is also an organization entitled “Peer Health Advocates”, which connects peers together and creates a space for open and free dialogue.
- They also offer a program entitled FitChicago, which offers group drop-in fitness classes all quarter long. It is completely free for students!
- UChicago faculty aids students when they must take a leave of absence, must have support on leave, or wanting to resume studies.
- There is a UChicago Safe App, which allows any student to quickly call and inform both the faculty and police of any strange action or occurrence.

Student Body

- Consists of 5,900 undergraduate students and 9,449 graduate students.
- 56% of all students live on campus. However, it is required to live on campus for the first two years of college.
- Roughly 30 student organizations to join, all of which cover different genres!

Greek Life

- 53% of students say that Greek Life is average, and no one is treated differently for being in or out of greek life.
- Many allegations have been made against fraternities and sororities in the past.
- Sororities are very expensive.

Admissions

- The early Action and decision deadline are November 2.
- January 4 is the regular decision deadline.
- The acceptance rate is 7%.
- The freshman application fee is \$75.
- Essays, recommendations, and school records are required.
- You can apply through Common App.
- You can also apply through Coalition App.
- They are test-optional for the coming year.
- There is a waitlist.

Weather

- It gets very cold in the winter, with a large amount of snow and freezing temperatures.
- In the fall, it is very beautiful, with the trees turning warm colors and little to no clouds in the sky.
- The spring and summer are very nice as well, warm and lush in greenery.

Advice

- Take the first couple of days to reach out to anyone around, and form connections to take a step in the right direction for a great school year.
- Be clear with your roommate on expectations and boundaries.
- Once receiving the syllabus from each teacher, write down each of the due dates from the syllabus on a calendar, as many professors do not remind you of important due dates or test dates.
- Form connections with your professors and reach out to them.
- Take advantage of student resources that are free to you!
- Attend any social events offered to you, as this is where you can meet many people.
- Join clubs and become involved in your school!
- Create an organized workspace where you feel most productive.
- Explore the campus!
- Find your favorite study spot where you feel the most comfortable and focused.

