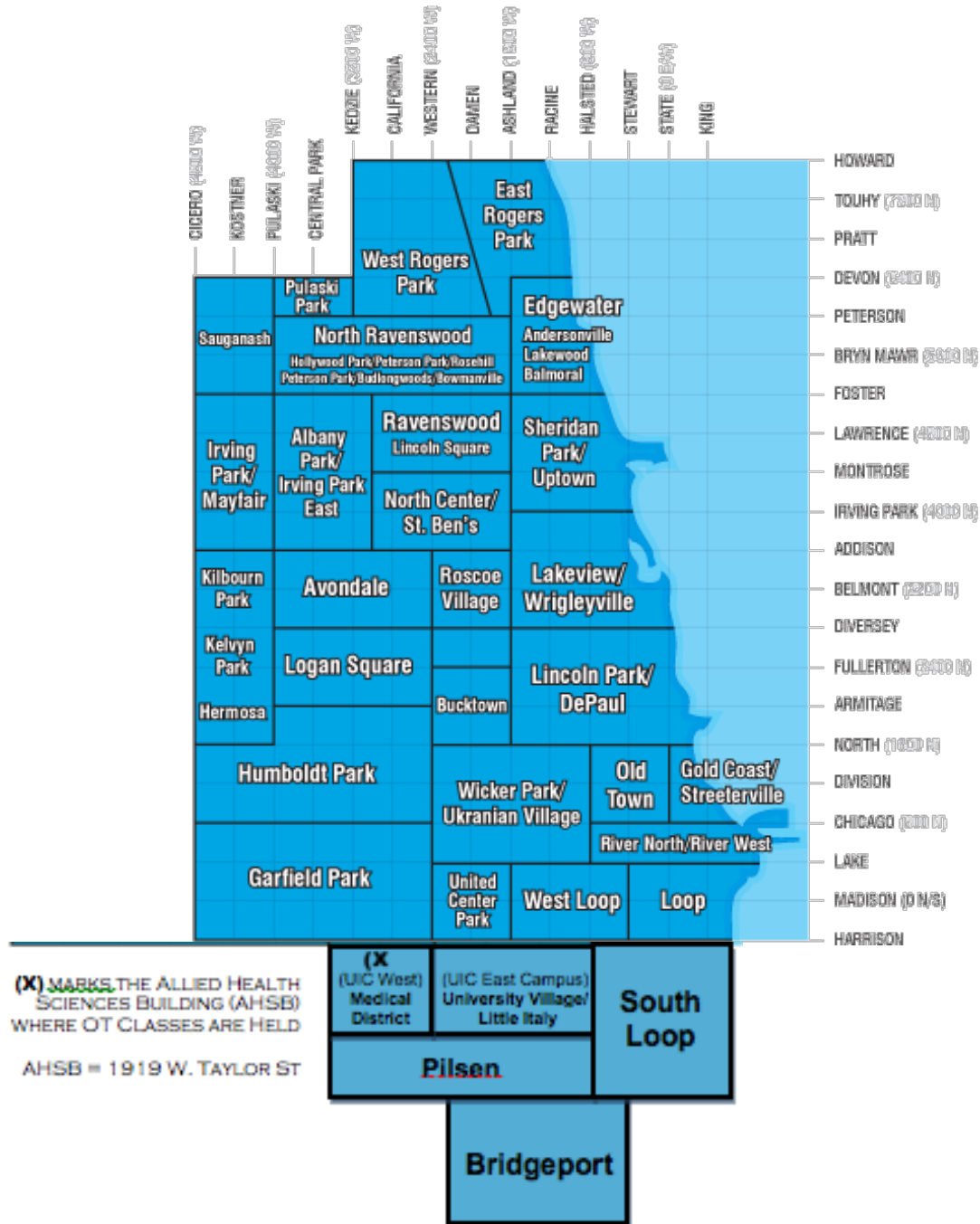


CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

Updated by the UIC MS in OT Class of 2022



HELPFUL WEBSITES

TRANSIT:

<http://www.transitchicago.com/>

The Mapquest of Chicago public transit – calculates route options and travel time for anywhere in the city, it's great! Your UIC unlimited transit pass allows you to ride any city train or bus anytime without having to pay. FYI: school is near the BLUE (Damen Illinois Medical Center stop) and PINK (Polk stop) train lines. AIRPORT FYI: the blue line goes north to O'Hare Airport, and the orange line goes south to Midway Airport.

<http://ctabustracker.com/>

This is an easy reference point for checking bus times.

<http://bus.uic.edu/>

The bus tracker for the UIC busses.

www.google.com/transit

Google Maps is the most reliable way to figure out public transportation in the city. Has a great app for iPhones as well! (Maps on the iPhone is a little less reliable)

GENERAL, AREA BUSINESSES, & SOCIAL EVENTS:

<http://chicago.metromix.com/>

Profile several restaurants, bars, music venues, theaters, street festivals, special events, conventions, etc., including reviews, hours, addresses, phone numbers, and promotions. Can browse by neighborhood, price, genre, date, type of venue, etc. Great way to find the nearest Thai restaurant, bowling alley, sports bar, or movie theater or see what's happening in the city on a certain date.

<https://www.timeout.com/chicago/events-calendar>

Events around the city by month.

<http://chicago.citysearch.com>

Profiles area establishments and events. You can also search here for free things to do in Chicago.

<http://cityofchicago.org>

Offers some general Chicago information.

<http://www.uic.edu/uic/studentlife/>

Link to UIC student life activities hosted by UIC.

<https://blockclubchicago.org/neighborhoods/>

APARTMENT/ROOMMATE LISTINGS:

[Zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)

Apartment search engine

ForRentUniversity.com

Apartment search engine

Apartments.com

Apartment search engine

<http://www.housing.uic.edu/offcampus>

Link to on-campus residence halls, roommate wanted ads, and landlord listings. Use your NetID to log in and view postings.

<http://chicago.craigslist.org/>

Link to listings for apartments, jobs, furniture, event tickets, etc.

www.housing.uic.edu

Link to UIC on-campus housing homepage.

Chicago Roommates Facebook Page

Page on Facebook of people who are living in or moving to Chicago and are looking for roommates

FREE SERVICES TO HELP YOU FIND AN APARTMENT IN THE CITY:

www.apartmentpeople.com

www.chicagoapartmentfinders.com

www.apartmentguysofchicago.com

AN OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE CITY

**information from 2020 data*

CAMPUS HOUSING* - Single Student Residence Hall (SSR)—West Campus of UIC

“Rent:” Varies depending on the number of roommates, range from about \$8000-\$12000 depending on how many roommates and how long your contract is. Most contracts are for one year.

Commute to School: Walk across the street, less than 5 minutes

Public Transportation: Takes 10-20 minutes to get downtown on the Blue or Pink line, as well as the 7 and 157 buses. Depends on the time of day and where exactly you're going. 10 min cab ride or 45 min walk.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Not much in terms of nightlife, with the exception of a few bars around campus. Close to Little Italy and Pilsen. Taylor Street has some bars, restaurants, and good take-out places; the dorm is near the school gym/rec area.

Comments: The best part about living on campus is the convenience- no commute to class, the CTA is easily accessible, and SSR is directly connected to the fitness center- so no need to even walk outside in the winter to go work out! SSR is also directly connected to the student center. Computer lab with some free printing and study lounges are available. SSR is great if you want a short commute to school—somewhat dreary, but convenient.

ALBANY PARK*

Location in the city: Northwest side of the city, around Kimball/Lawrence (end of the brown line)

Rent: studio: \$650-850 1BR: \$800-1200

Utilities: Depends on building. “Radiator heat” is typically included in rent; “gas heat” is typically paid by the tenant. Electric and “cooking gas” is typically paid by the tenant. Water and garbage should be paid by the landlord.

Cost of living: considerably less expensive than many other neighborhoods, thanks to reasonable rents, as well as several small local grocery stores that are VERY reasonably priced. Also home to some of the best thrift stores in the city.

Commute time to school: Via public transit - 60-75min (opt. 1 - brown line to downtown, transfer to pink line; opt. 2 - Kimball bus to Belmont blue line). Via car - 45-75min, depending on traffic.

Commute time to downtown: Via public transport: 45min

Accessibility of public transportation: Can walk to Brown line, Kimball bus, Lawrence bus, Montrose bus. Quick bus ride to Ravenswood or Mayfair Metra stops.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Lots of wonderful, authentic restaurants - Middle Eastern, Mexican, Swedish, Vietnamese. A community center and refugee resettlement agency provide lots of volunteer opportunities. Horner Park at Montrose & Kimball is a large, beautiful park with a river walk, basketball/tennis courts, and programming.

Other thoughts: Albany Park is directly north of Avondale/Logan Square and west of Lincoln Square and Uptown, so it's a nice home base for exploring other neighborhoods. It's located in one of the most diverse zip codes in the US, with lots of immigrant and refugee families. Albany Park is a fairly residential, working-class neighborhood, so it's relatively quiet.

BUENA PARK*

Location in the city: north of Wrigleyville and the Loop

Rent: One source says \$750 for a studio, another says \$880 through Reside Living

Utilities: Depends on landlord, ~ \$40/month

Commute to UIC: 1 hour by public transit, 30 minutes by car, 1 hour and 15 minutes by bike

Commute to downtown: 25 minutes by public transit, 15 min by car, 30 min by bike (via lakefront trail)

Local conveniences: Jewel (0.5mi), Target (0.5mi), Trader Joe's (1.5mi), and Walgreens (0.5mi).

Parking: street parking, limited, need a city sticker, hard to find a spot after 8 pm.

Accessibility of public transportation: 8 minutes to the Sheridan red line station, 8/36/77/80/135/136/146/148/151 buses, most buses are express routes (can get downtown ~20 minutes and UIC ~50 minutes).

Things to do here: A few great pubs and restaurants, the lakeshore path is close by (six blocks) – “I go biking all the time, GREAT area.”

Other thoughts: Safety (for Chicago) is great here! There is a huge, beautiful church a block away, you can hear the bells ringing sometimes. A great neighborhood for people who love to ride their bikes everywhere -- the lakefront path is a block from apartments and is great for running, biking, or just getting some fresh air! Montrose Harbor is also about 0.5 mi away, which has its own beach and picnic areas. Buena Park is quiet and more residential since it's a fairly small neighborhood but is in the middle of other more bustling areas (Wrigleyville, Lakeview, Andersonville, Roscoe Village, Uptown). Great music venues (Green Mill, Riviera, The Vic). Great food! (Bar on Buena, Viet Town, lots of restaurants along Broadway stretch down to Lincoln Park & Clark stretch up to Andersonville). Dollop coffee house is super popular w/ sweet and kind locals, just around the corner. Public library a block away. **“I chose it for proximity to the lake, although I am away from home more often than not. Commuting can be frustrating, since it takes up a lot of time (I used to live closer to UIC, so I know I lose more time than necessary).**

There are seedy areas directly north and west, but safety rules are the same as the rest of Chicago -- don't wander around alone in the dark, travel in packs, be wary of your surroundings when you have music on (especially when running) and stay off the lakefront trail when it's super late or if you're on foot.”

HYDE PARK (HP)*

Location in the city: location of University of Chicago, south side

Rent: studio: \$850, 1br: \$1000, 2br: \$1,400

Utilities: Depends on landlord – some incorporate them into rent, other you set up separately.

Cost of living: a little less expensive than North side & downtown

Commute time to school: **Via public transport (Metra or Green Line): 45 minutes - 1.20 hours;** via car: 20 minutes.

Commute time to downtown: Via public transport: 20-45 minutes; via car 12-15 minutes.

Local conveniences: a good selection of both grocery and drug stores; also within striking distance of South Loop (if you have a car), where you will find Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Target, etc.

Accessibility of public transportation: regular bus service between Hyde Park and downtown, regular train service via Metra and Green Line (Green Line not advised after dark).

Parking: Most streets in Hyde Park do not require permits. Parking can sometimes be challenging during the daytime, depending on proximity to University of Chicago buildings (the closer, the more difficult parking becomes) Parking in the evening is easy.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Beautiful historic architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright houses, Museum of Science and Industry, art exhibits, music/theatre performances and scholarly talks at U of C, large parks, direct access to lakefront beaches and running paths, ample coffee shops. Not a big restaurant or nightlife scene.

Other thoughts: “Hyde Park is known for being the home of the city's intellectuals. The world-renowned University of Chicago attracts scholars and students from around the globe, creating a truly cosmopolitan neighborhood. Hyde Park is one of the most ethnically diverse, and the most income diverse neighborhoods in Chicago. **If you like tree-lined streets, Gothic architecture, and peaceful living, consider Hyde Park. It is worth noting that the neighborhoods surrounding HP (especially to the West and South) are high crime areas.** However, the HP area is heavily patrolled by City of Chicago

Police AND University of Chicago Police, and University-hired foot patrol security guards are on duty near all campus buildings between the hours of 4 pm and 3 am every day."

MEDICAL DISTRICT/TRI-TAYLOR* (Medical District is east of campus, Tri-Taylor is just west)

Specifically: Medical District Apartments are east of campus at the intersection of Taylor St. and Ashland St.

Location: Sandwiched between Tri-Taylor and Little Italy; just west and south of the Loop; encompasses West Campus.

Rent: ~ \$1200-1300 for a studio or a convertible, ~ \$1400 for a one-bedroom apt, ~\$1200 for a two bedroom, one bathroom; ~ \$1800 for a two-bedroom, two bathroom apt.

Utilities: ~\$100, nothing covered by landlord. (Harris Brothers LLC landlords cover water; cheap apartments, but inattentive landlords)

Commute to UIC: Walk to class, ~ 10-15 min; bike to class in 7 min. No public transit between the two due to close proximity → can take Bus 157 a few blocks (great when it's cold, easy access to the Health Science Library, pink line, and East Campus (or undergraduates).

Commute to downtown: 20 min by bus, 15 minutes by "L" blue or pink line.

Local conveniences: Jewel-Osco, ~10 minute walk (2 stops on Ashland bus); Costco ~10-15 minute walk/bus ride; accessible bus lines to Pete's Fresh Market, South Loop Target, Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Dominicks, Best Buy, in 20ish minutes.

Parking: street parking and you need a city sticker, hard to find a spot after 9pm. There is garage parking under the apartment building for \$175/month; parking lot run by Francesca's restaurant for ~\$50 a month.

Accessibility to public transportation: pink and blue line on the "L" and bus numbers 7, 12, 157.

Things to do in the neighborhood: A lot of restaurants, ethnic foods, a Starbucks, a Chicago Public Library branch further down the street. A small public park is right next to side gate, dogs allowed.

Other comments: The Medical District Apts are pet friendly with no weight limit to dogs, \$25/month. There is a gym in the building (small but free!), laundry room, study room, bike garage, and outdoor pool. **If looking for an apartment here, for safety reasons may want to stay east of Western Ave and north of Roosevelt.**

Specifically: West of campus in Tri-Taylor area

Rent: \$450-700 plus utilities of about \$100 (electricity, gas, internet, no cable) for 1 person in a shared apt. of 2-3ppl

Commute to school: **10-15 minute walk distance from school; bus #157 stops at Oakley down Taylor, bus #12 runs down Taylor (up Ogden and down to Damen/Taylor Intersection), intracampus shuttle really comes in handy - runs until 11pm every night.**

Local conveniences: Access to West campus gym. Jewel-Osco grocery store is a 20 minute walk away; also a Pete's Market about 15 minutes.

Things to do in the neighborhoods and other comments: "My original concern moving to Chicago was safety; however, Lulu's is on the corner and streetlights provide safety. Additionally, a Roosevelt bus (#12) comes by my corner at most any hour I need and runs down Roosevelt and connects to the Orange, Green and Red lines. Although I prefer not to walk home alone from Ashland or Damen at a late hour alone, the area is usually void of people at the nighttime. Sirens tend to be a normal nighttime noise because of the number of hospitals in the area. Therefore, while I would not say it's the most "happening" area at night, I tend to visit other areas of time on the weekend, and feel that coming back to this area is a nice, a quieter place for studying. I enjoy the safety, convenience and affordability." "Quiet neighborhood, not a lot of businesses in the area - couple of restaurants that are pretty decent. Can get sketchy at night so I don't take the train home but prefer buses that drop me closer to my apartment. Best thing is distance to classes."

Rent: \$700 a month for a one-bedroom. (That includes water and garbage.) \$1200 for a 2 bedroom.

Utilities: I pay for electricity, heat, and internet which varies especially in the winter when it is super cold, but it can be about an extra \$100 a month.

Commute to school: **10-15 minute walk.** It is great to be able to not have to deal with public transportation waits when you just want to get to class on time (plus the benefit of sleeping instead of commuting).

Accessibility of Public Transportation: I have many options for transportation and barely ever use my car. The blue line is really close and a 24-hr line. The pink line is also accessible as it is close to campus. There are several useful city bus routes that have stops right by my apartment (#12), in addition to the campus shuttle that circles around.

How long it takes to get to downtown: By 'L', about 20 minutes. 10 minutes by cab/car. 45 minutes walking to North Michigan Avenue.

Parking: Street parking is ample, as are specific spots for apartment complexes. City permits are \$100 for the year and specific to the neighborhood. Street crime and car jackings have been reported the further west you go. Some apartment buildings come with a free parking spot (Harris Brothers LLC)

Things to do in the neighborhood: There isn't a wide array of activities, but there are several places to eat, including a tasty Italian bakery and a cute coffee shop, and some small stores on Taylor. "With campus being close, I use the rec center a lot. This side of Taylor isn't too awesome, but Little Italy is close enough if needed."

Other comments: "I would recommend this neighborhood because of its vicinity to campus, it just cuts out one more stress out of life. I have had a lot of chances to explore the more beautiful, fun, and interesting parts of Chicago when I go out or visit people on the weekends." "Although I have a car, I rarely use it. My apartment is a 15-minute walk to the blue and pink lines and is close to many buses."

BRIDGEPORT*

Specifically, intersection of 35th and Halsted.

Rent: 2BR apt for ~\$850/mo including all expenses.

Commute to school: **15 minutes by car, 25 minutes by bus**

Accessibility of Public Transportation: Near Orange and Red Line El trains, Halsted bus close.

Parking: Abundant! Need a free permit sticker during Sox season, guest passes are free too.

Things to do: Sox park, all kinds of food places, small grocers, bars, coffee shops (Dunkin Donuts and locals), ice cream shops, three Chicago Park District parks, a Mariano's on Ashland and Archer

Other Comments: **Affordable and super convenient to get to school and the Loop.** Easy access to all major expressways (Lake Shore Drive, 90/94, 290, & 55). 1.5 miles from 31st Street Beach!

LAKEVIEW (East)

Location in the city: North of campus, along the lake. Diversey (southern border touching Lincoln Park) - Irving Park (northern border, touching Uptown/Buena Park). Northalsted (f/k/a Boystown) neighborhood is a prominent part of East Lakeview!

Rent: ~\$1,000/month for a studio

Utilities: Depends on landlord, but usually heat/water included → tenant to pay for electric and cable/internet

Commute time to school: Public transportation ~1 hour. Biking ~45 minutes. Driving ~20 minutes

Commute time to downtown: Public transportation ~30 minutes. Biking ~30 minutes. Driving ~15 minutes.

Parking: Not the easiest to come by. Doable, but better to pay for a spot if you have a car (usually an additional ~\$150-200/month).

Things to do in the neighborhood: So much! The lake is your next door neighbor with easy access to the lakeshore path for running/walking/biking/rollerblading. A lot of parks/fields near the lake too for enjoying time outdoors with friends/reading etc. Northalsted is the oldest officially-recognized LGBTQ+

neighborhood in the US!! It is always an active area with bars for dancing or hanging out (the roof of Sidetrack has dog days where everyone brings their dogs). Also so many small businesses in the neighborhood - a lot of great spots to eat on Broadway between Diversey and Belmont. Very close to Wrigley field/Gallagher Way (might technically be a part of Lake View and not East Lakeview but it's right there), so many sports bars close by too. Several grocery stores depending on where you live → Trader Joe's on Diversey, Mariano's on Broadway near Wellington, Jewel on Broadway closer to Addison, Whole Foods on Halsted and just north of Addison. The Chicago Athletic Club - Lakeview branch is on Broadway just north of Belmont.

Other thoughts: I have lived in this neighborhood for almost six years, and every time I think I should move (most recently to be closer to school) I get devastated because I love my neighborhood SO MUCH. If you don't mind a commute to campus, I am a huge fan of Lakeview. The Pride parade cuts right through the neighborhood every year, you are CLOSE ENOUGH to Wrigley if you want to encounter it and FAR ENOUGH that it doesn't bleed into your area if anything exciting happens for the Cubs. A lot of buses run express along the lake, and the Red/Brown/Purple line trains all meet at the Belmont stop, so it's easy to get pretty much anywhere!

LAKEVIEW (West)

Location in the city: Same north/south parameters as East Lakeview, starts probably near Sheffield and extends over to Ashland (bordering Roscoe Village)

Rent: ~\$1,000 for a studio. I would say that rent is just a little higher than East Lakeview for a little less space (especially around the Southport area).

Utilities: Depends on landlord, but usually heat/water included → tenant to pay for electric and cable/internet

Commute time to school: Public transportation ~40 minutes. Biking ~35 minutes. Driving ~15 minutes

Commute time to downtown: Public transportation ~30 minutes. Biking ~30 minutes. Driving ~15 minutes.

Parking: Not the easiest to come by. Doable, but better to pay for a spot if you have a car (usually an additional ~\$150-200/month).

Things to do in the neighborhood: One block away from any main stretch really feels very quiet/neighborhood-like. Wrigley is close by and Southport corridor is great for shopping and dining. They have an old movie theater (the Music Box) that does a lot of theme movies around holidays (one Halloween they did Hocus Pocus like it was Rocky Horror Picture Show with themed baggies and certain things the audience was supposed to shout). Also - Jeni's Ice Cream is on Southport. Grocery-wise, there is a Jewel on Southport and Addison, a Whole Foods on Lincoln/Ashland/Belmont, and a Trader Joe's on Lincoln just north of Addison. The YMCA Lake View branch is a few blocks north of Lincoln/Belmont.

Other thoughts: This neighborhood seems to have more families/2+ bedroom apartments than it's Eastern counterpart, but the vibe is very cozy and it is a touch closer to campus because of proximity to Damen. It is also easy to get just about anywhere since Damen brings you down to the Bucktown/Wicker area, Lincoln shoots up to Ravenswood/Lincoln Square, and the brown line runs through most of the neighborhood providing easy access to downtown.

LINCOLN PARK* (also is considered the DePaul University Area)

Rent: \$900-1250 for a studio, \$1200-1600 for one bedroom, starts at \$1600 plus utilities for two bedrooms.

How accessible is parking and do you need a permit?: Meter parking is available on major streets. Lakeview/Lincoln Park has some areas of free street parking. Lincoln Park is mostly permit parking. I always find parking, but sometimes may have to walk a bit. A good majority of apartment buildings in the area lease spots for about \$120-200 per month.

Commute time to school: 50-55 minutes on the El brown line to Pink line, 20-30 minutes driving.

Commute time to downtown: By El or bus, about 15-30 minutes. 10-20 minutes by car. 45 minutes walking to North Michigan Avenue.

How accessible is public transportation? Very accessible! It is serviced by the Brown line, Red Line & Purple Line trains and all kinds of bus options.

Things to do in the neighborhood: "So much to do in Lincoln Park! Lots of bars, restaurants, shopping of all sorts, close to Wrigley Field (about 10 minutes on the El), Parks like Oz Park, Lincoln Park, and Lincoln Park Zoo. It's a popular place to hang out and to live, which sometimes the prices reflect." There is also the lake!

Other comments: "I really like my area of town. We often go out at night around here, which is convenient to get home (less money and less planning). It's safe and lively. I love being able to walk to the park and the beach. Also, I live about 30 seconds away from an El stop. I recommend choosing a location close to an El stop and/or a direct bus route. It's well worth the noise to get on the El quickly and be able to get around town so easily." "Lincoln Park is super safe. Areas of Lincoln Park are really popular due to the proximity to DePaul University, which keeps the area young and fun. Lincoln Park is filled with young professionals and students, making it a great place to live and/or spend time."

Ravenswood/Lincoln Square/North Center

Rent: Rents in this area can be quite expensive. Lots of families in this area, many single family homes and expensive real estate. Very nice neighborhoods though.

Utilities: Will depend upon whether heat/hot water is included in rent, but in most places you most likely will pay for electricity, internet/cable, and cooking gas at least.

Commute time to school: Driving about 30-45 mins depending on traffic. CTA: about an hour most likely.

Commute to downtown/other areas: If you live near a brown line stop, it's very easy to get out and explore via CTA.

Parking: Some streets free, some permitted areas. Main retail streets (Lincoln, Lawrence, Irving, etc) generally have meters.

Things to do: Lincoln Avenue has many shops, bars, cafes, and restaurants. There's also lots of other options on Montrose and other area streets. For groceries: There is a large Mariano's and LA Fitness at Ravenswood and Lawrence. There is a Jewel on Lincoln between Montrose and Irving Park, and south of Irving there is also a Trader Joe's. There is an Aldi at Western and Montrose, and on Lawrence and Talman a HarvestTime foods (great for cheap produce). All have parking lots but can become crowded. Ravenswood avenue is home to several breweries and distilleries. There are also a number of good sized parks around these neighborhoods, like Horner Park & Welles Park. The North Shore Channel Trail also begins near HarvestTime foods and is popular for walking/biking/running along the River.

OLD TOWN*

Rent: Chicagoapartmentfinders.com suggests a studio/1 bedroom will be around \$1700, a 2 bedroom between \$2150-2600 a month.

Commute time to school: About 40-50 minutes by train. 15-25 minutes driving.

Commute time to downtown: 10-15 minutes by Brown line, 7-10 minutes by car/taxi.

How accessible is public transportation? Close to brown and red el trains. There are many buses around Clark/LaSalle/Wells, etc.

How available is parking and does it require a permit? Street parking; need a neighborhood permit. Free street parking available on Sedgwick St.

Things to do in the neighborhood: There are many cozy pubs, Second City, shopping, and lots of restaurants down Wells St. Close to Lincoln Park, the Lincoln Park Zoo, Green City Market, and North Avenue beach.

EDGEWATER*

Rent: \$900-\$1000 a month (no sizing given), heat & water included

Utilities: ~\$60/mo for electric and gas

Commute time to school: Metra train or driving, about 45-75 minutes. Red to Brown to Pink line El trains or Damen bus are other options, takes about 60-75 minutes.

Commute time to downtown: 50 minutes by El, 20 minutes by driving

Local conveniences: "LOTS of restaurants! Wonderful food options and reasonably priced. Dominick's grocery, video rental stores, dry cleaners, and gyms are close. I LOVE the diversity!" "2 Jewel-Osco's, a local produce supplier, several convenience stores, Starbucks, Jimmy Johns, Chipotle, etc."

How available is parking and does it require a permit? Usually available within a couple blocks free, some apartments include it. Typically does not require a permit.

Things to do in the neighborhood: "Lots of neighborhood things, very homey and relaxed. Local coffee roaster! I like to walk by the lake and other Andersonville shops." "I like the local bars more than the downtown bars. Wrigleyville is great for Cubs games and dueling pianos at Sluggers (less than two miles from here). In the summer, Foster Avenue is fun and the beach is great!"

Other comments: "Pretty far North, but good for people who want to live up north. Lots of diversity in population and restaurant choices. Close to the lake. A good mix of apartments, condos, and single-family homes." "Casual atmosphere, people say hello to you in the neighborhood – friendlier than my old place near Lincoln Park. Some great coffee shops, great ice cream shops, and bakeries nearby."

WHEATON*

Rent: 1 bedroom ~ \$800-\$1200

Commute to school: ~1.5 hours. This is taking the Metra (Union Pacific West line) from the College Ave. station to Ogilvie, and then taking the Pink Line from the Clinton stop (right next to Ogilvie) to the Polk stop on our campus

Public transit: Other than the Metra, very little available; bus routes are quite limited

Parking: no permit needed on many streets, pay to park very close to the Metra stations

Things to do: It's not super hip like the city, but Wheaton has lots of good restaurants, parks, shops, a great library, a great path for walking/running, movie theatres, etc.

Comments: Wheaton is very safe and has good schools

Why do you enjoy living there? My wife and I own a home and we wanted to stay there even when I was in school; she works in the suburbs and I eventually will be working out in the western suburbs or rural area, so having a home in Wheaton made sense for us

Would you recommend it? I'd recommend living in the suburbs only if one has a good rent situation (living with spouse, parents, etc.)

PORTAGE PARK/JEFFERSON PARK*

This area has a lot of people from eastern European descent (particularly Polish and Russian immigrants) so if you like eastern European food or the Copernicus Center, this is a good neighborhood for you!

Jefferson Park terminal has access to the blue line, metro, and busses.

I have a mortgage, so can't give good info on rental costs.

I drive to campus - commute takes about 30 minutes if I leave by 7 AM.

Commute to downtown takes generally 30-45 minutes depending on traffic

West Side//West Town near West Loop

Location in the city: West loop, right near main UIC campus (East campus)

Rent: \$2,600 for a 2 bedroom 2 bath; It should be noted that the building we live in is not really a building that is frequented by students because of the cost, and I live with my significant other who had lived here prior to me moving to attend school so it just worked out that way!

Utilities: **\$200**

Commute time to school: 30 minute walk, 15-17 minute train ride

Commute time to downtown: 15 minute walk

Parking: Underground garage

Things to do in the neighborhood: West loop is always bustling and you're within walking distance of Randolph street (tons of restaurants and bars), downtown, several parks, and campus

Other thoughts: West loop is definitely a place for those that want a quieter scene! We really don't get any of the "city noise" which is really nice but as a younger student, I do wish that I was able to be in a more affordable neighborhood with a younger crowd. Just things to think about!

LITTLE ITALY

Location in the city: Illinois Medical District and UIC west campus

Rent: ~ \$700

Utilities: ~ \$100

Commute time to school: 15 minute walk

Commute time to downtown: 40 minute walk; 20 minute bus ride

Parking: street parking (pay-per-hour, permit, and free)

Things to do in the neighborhood: You can go to Arrigo Park, there's several restaurants and bars in the area or close by, easy to get to campus gyms/student centers, Italian sports museum and housing museum (coming soon), Grocery stores are within walking distance or a quick bus ride

Other thoughts: **Very convenient for getting to the Applied Health Sciences Building**, has a lot of students and young people in the area, safe to walk or run in the mornings while alone, can get busy on weekends especially in nice weather.

LOGAN SQUARE*

Rent: \$1000 for a spacious 1-bedroom basement/garden unit at Central Park/Diversey (I live with my partner, so my share of rent is \$500).

Utilities: Under \$100 a month usually (electricity and internet paid by renter)

Cost of living: typical for Chicago, affordable relative to Wicker Park, West Town, Ukrainian Village etc

Commute time to school: Public transit = 45 mins to 1 hour (depending on how close you are to the train/bus); car = 20-40 minutes depending on traffic; walking ... 5 hours. ☺ Your CTA commute may involve a transfer - mine is a ten minute walk to the Logan Square blue line then a transfer at Damen to the #50 and takes an hour usually.

Local conveniences: Grocery stores (small, no big chains super close), organic food co-op, lots of drug stores and many restaurants. Pretty quick (~10-15 min) drive to large grocery stores. Logan Square is one of the best neighborhoods for places to eat and drink! Lots of awesome BYOB places! Logan Theatre is super cool and cheaper than other movie theatres. Logan Square Farmers' Market on Sundays is awesome, and you also have Palmer Square Park and Humboldt Park close by.

How accessible is public transportation? Very, the blue line and a number of useful buses are close.

How available is parking and does it require a permit? It varies. Depending on where you live, many streets do not require a permit and you can find free, on-street parking easier than other popular neighborhoods.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Many restaurants, a few parks, and the Congress Theater for concerts.

Why did you choose to live here? "I live with my parents!" "I actually lived in Logan Square for two years before school and was SO sad to move. Because of where my apartment was, the commute via CTA was

going to be an hour. However, if you live closer to the train or have a car, it would be an amazing place to live during grad school!" "It's a fun neighborhood that's relatively affordable and central compared to other neighborhoods I have lived in (such as Andersonville). I already lived here before school, the commute isn't terrible, and most of my friends live here already."

UKRAINIAN VILLAGE

Location in the city: southwest of Wicker Park, northwest of West Loop, north of the Medical District

Rent: 2 bed/1 bath = \$1575/month, completely new build (+ \$125/month for parking in enclosed garage)

Utilities: water included in rent and free laundry in the basement; responsible for internet (\$75/month), gas (anywhere from \$25 in the summer to \$75 in the winter), and electricity (\$35/month)

Commute time to school: 3 miles (12 minute drive)

Commute time to downtown: 3.5 miles (15 minute drive)

Parking: street parking available for free (can be very crowded on the weekends and after work on weeknights), \$125/month for enclosed garage parking in back

Things to do in the neighborhood: coffee shops nearby, 2 blocks south from Division Street (restaurants/shops/bars); a few blocks from the 606 bike bath; Mariano's is within walking distance (.75 miles), Pete's Fresh Market and Aldi are a short drive away

Other thoughts: Very much a neighborhood-y feel with a lot of families! Our street is extremely quiet and I feel very safe running in the mornings.

PILSEN*

Rent: \$700 for a 1 bedroom/1 bath.

Utilities: I pay for gas, electricity, and internet. ~\$100

Cost of Living: I've heard it's slightly cheaper here compared to other parts of Chicago.

Commute time to school: Public transit 15-20 minutes; walking 25-30 minutes; biking 8-10 minutes.

Local conveniences: If you plan on grocery shopping there are many options walking (La Casa Del Pueblo, Meztisoy) or driving (Costco, Cermak Produce, Aldi, Jewel-Osco). If you plan on eating out there is an abundance of authentic hispanic food options, which means cheap and good portions!

How accessible is public transportation? **Very accessible public transit options**– the 50/18/9/60 CTA buses and the Pink Line (18th Street stop)

How available is parking and does it require a permit? My street doesn't require a permit, some do. I've had to move my car around for street cleaning days and haven't really had any issues finding parking since I live by Harrison Park. I always consider moving my car during non-commuter hours. Some apartments have designated parking spaces or garages.

Things to do in the neighborhood: **Vibrant arts culture** – galleries including the National Museum of Mexican Art, murals, Thalia Hall a music venue, and Harrison Park. There's a lot of events that occur in the neighborhood. **So many coffee shops:** The Jumping Bean, Nitecap, Bowtruss, Efebina's, and more. Bars include Skylark, Dusek's/Punch House, Pl-Zen, La Vaca, among others. Plus a lot of restaurants are BYOB. It's close to Taylor Street and all of those restaurants.

Other comments: The community is family-oriented and the growing gentrification of Pilsen is "very controversial." I've never felt unsafe here.

Why did you choose to live here? I wanted to live in a studio or 1 bedroom close to school. **Pilsen is affordable, close to public transportation, and offers many living amenities.**

Would you recommend it? Absolutely!

RIVER NORTH*

Rent: \$1400-2000 for a one bedroom, convertible, or jr. one bedroom

Utilities: \$100

Commute time to school: 30-45 minutes depending where you are (Chicago red line) by El, 15-25 minutes by driving with little to no traffic; 25-35 minutes during rush hour

Commute time to downtown: This is downtown!

Local conveniences: Tons of restaurants, grocery stores (Trader Joes, Whole Foods, Dominick's), and drug stores.

How accessible is public transportation? Very.

How available is parking and does it require a permit? Parking on the street is very expensive and metered. Most apartments charge for parking under building or in lots and it can range between \$175-300 per month

Things to do in the neighborhood: Many great places to go out, meet up with friends, easy to get to other parts of the city from. This is LIVING downtown.

Why did you choose to live here? "I needed to get to school, work, and home easily and can do so safely. Easy access to public transportation, the highway, and safe enough to live by myself." For someone who is new to the city, this is a vibrant place to live and situated in the center of the city, so it is easy to get to friends in all directions.

Would you recommend it? Definitely!! The one thing I will point out is that I was the ONLY person to live in River North this year, so there were many times that I wished I lived closer to other students to get together or study.

WICKER PARK/BUCKTOWN

Location in the city: Far west side of Wicker Park and right by Wicker Park and 6 corners (intersection of north/damen/milwaukee)

Rent: We pay \$1900 for a 3 bedroom/1 bath; Others pay \$3300 for 3 bedroom/2 bath (obviously can vary a lot in this area)

Utilities: ~\$75 per person/month. Fluctuates depending on how much we use the heat/AC

Commute time to school: 15 minute drive, 30-40 minute bus (includes walking time). You can also bike and it's not too bad!, If you live along damen the #50 bus drops off right in front of AHS building which is really nice (about 25/30 min), I have also taken the blue line to the Illinois Medical District stop which is probably about 35/40 minutes

Commute time to downtown: 15-20 minute drive and ~10-15 minutes on the blue line

Parking: Free parking on our street and free parking right around the park (Wicker Park Ave and Schiller)

Things to do in the neighborhood: Outdoors: Humboldt Park and the 606 bike trail. Wicker park has a farmer's market on Sundays when it's nice out, a basketball court and a dog park. Grocery: Cermak, Aldi, Jewel are 7 minutes away or less. I also shop a lot at Target, Michaels, Fresh Thyme, and the Dollar Tree, Old Navy, and Marshalls. All of those places are on Elston or Fullerton, under 13 minutes away from us, AND have big parking lots, which has been a life saver. Shopping on Milwaukee St. A lot of restaurants on Division St. TONS of restaurants and bars on milwaukee/north/damen. Also a lot of art galleries and vintage shops in the area. During non-COVID times there's also a few small concert venues.

Other thoughts: Living closer to Humboldt Park has definitely saved us money! If you like walking and/or have a car, then I think this is a great area for you! We are less than a mile from popular streets like Division and Milwaukee, where there are lots of bars and restaurants. Sometimes we like to walk one way and Uber back, but it's less than a mile and easy (when the weather is nice). This area is VERY pet friendly, which is why I initially picked it. I feel like there are a lot of young people with a mix of some families. I have always felt safe here-- I just stay on main roads if I am out at night. I typically go to Humboldt Park during the day time and stay away at night.

Others: I have absolutely LOVED living in this area - would definitely recommend it. Since I don't have a car, the accessibility of public transportation has seriously been so helpful (#50 bus goes north/south, #72 goes east/west to the lake, and blue line goes into the loop), and with tuition you'll get the UIC U-Pass. I always feel safe walking around, although anywhere in the city you definitely have to be a little more alert.

Our neighbors are a mix of young couples and roommates, and like they said above it's a really pet friendly area!

UPTOWN*

Rent: \$1600 for 2 bed/2 bath condo

Utilities: ~ \$100 a month

Commute time to school: Car – 25 to 30 minutes; CTA (public transportation) – 75 minutes

Local conveniences: Target, Jewel-Osco are very close

How accessible is public transportation? Very! Wilson red line stop is close by, as are the 26/151/express buses. **"You can easily live here without a car."**

How available is parking and does it require a permit? Parking varies. "We have free non-permit parking. Can usually find a space on our street but sometimes must drive around for a spot."

Things to do in the neighborhood: Close to Montrose Harbor and the Lakeshore path, Baker+Nosh and Starbucks are the close coffee shops. Lots of Vietnamese and African restaurants if you're interested in world cuisine! Home to historical venues such as the Green Mill (a jazz club owned by the Al Capone syndicate), the Riviera, and the Aragon Ballroom as well as cultural centers such as the Black Ensemble Theater. We are also close to a lot of other neighborhoods with plenty of activity, like Andersonville and Lake View.

Other comments: Uptown is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the city, both ethnically and economically. Some parts of the neighborhood are grungier than others, but I have never had a safety issue in the three years I've lived here.

Why did you choose to live here? Biggest space for the \$\$, proximity to the lake, food and culture opportunities.

Would you recommend it? **Because of the distance, I wouldn't live here if a long commute bothers you.** That being said, I love this neighborhood and have been very happy living here.

EAST ROGERS PARK*

Rent: \$1200-1300 for a nice 2 bedroom, \$850-1100 for a 1 bedroom

Commute to school: Red to Pink or Blue line El trains or drive.

How long it takes to get to school: 75 minutes on El, 30-35 minutes driving without bad traffic

How long it takes to get downtown: 15-20 minutes by car, 35-40 minutes on El train

Parking: Street parking available, no neighborhood permit needed

Perks of this area: Tons of restaurants, **very close to the lake**, dog-friendly, lots of trees and gardens, diverse and multi-ethnic neighborhood, still has a "college" feel thanks to Loyola University (Loyola's library has a reciprocal relationship with UIC - great place to study!), **easy access to Evanston and the North Shore when you need a break from the city.**

CONS: "That commute time is NOT an exaggeration, and most of the apartments are gorgeous but make sure you see them before you sign anything."

DES PLAINES (Northwest Suburb)*

Mode of Travel to School: El train

How long it takes to get to school: 90 minutes

How long it takes to get downtown: 50 minutes

MELROSE PARK (Western Suburb)*

Commute time to school: 1 hour each way = 2 hours round-trip everyday

Commute: Driving to the Blue Line, taking the Blue Line, and walking to AHSB. If I'm running late, I take 290.

Other comments: The Illinois Medical District stop has been under some construction for some time, but hopefully with the renovations, the other entrances will open up and make for a faster commute.

Why did you choose to live here? It's FREE since I'm living with parents.

LOMBARD (Western Suburb)*

Commute time to school: 1 hour and 20-30 minutes = 3 hours round-trip everyday

Commute: Really easy – take Metra in to Ogilvie and then take the pink line (Clinton stop) to Pink Polk Street station, walk to class from there. Could also take the 157 bus from Ogilvie to campus as well. “If I drive to class I take 290 and that can take 30 minutes – 90 minutes. I park for free by the Children's Advocacy Center, just south of Roosevelt and on Damen.”

Other comments: “**Taking the train is great because it gives you time to do homework everyday.** My train ride is about 40-45 minutes each way, so I have plenty of time to do work.”

Why did you choose to live here? Living with parents.

LINCOLNWOOD (North Shore Suburb)*

Mode of Travel to School: Car / drive

CTA Commute: Use Yellow line (in Skokie) to connect to other trains

How long it takes to get to school: 45-90 minutes (drive but depends on traffic)

How long it takes to get downtown: 45-90 minutes (drive but depends on traffic)

Major highways: I-94 (Edens Expressway)

Surrounding neighborhoods: Skokie, Park Ridge, Niles, Evanston

Why I chose to live here? I own a home and live with my spouse and kids

Comments: If you are able to live near campus, then do so. The commute takes up a lot of time that you can use instead for studying or getting some extra sleep.

ROSCOE VILLAGE (West Lakeview)*

Rent: \$900-1200 for a 1 bedroom; \$1500-2000 for a 2 bedroom,

Commute time to school: Damen bus takes about 35-45 minutes. Is a **convenient straight shot down to AHS building**. By car it's about 25-35 minutes, depending on how close you are to Western Ave. and how far south you live in the village.

Commute time to downtown: 30 minutes by train (Brown line), 15-45 minutes by car or taxi.

How accessible is public transportation? Very. There are two brown line trains that cover the area, Addison and Paulina. The Belmont, Addison and Lincoln **buses can pretty much take you to most of the other north side neighborhoods** and connect easily with the other train lines. Belmont bus also takes you to the Belmont red line stop which is an easy way to get downtown.

How available is parking and does it require a permit? **Great, free street parking.** Some streets are snow routes, so there may be a few days of more difficult parking in the winter. Some apartments come with garage or alley spots at no additional charge. **Most residential streets DO NOT require a permit** and are not difficult to find parking. This is a very rare luxury in the city.

Local conveniences: Lots of new shops are in the area, from great cheap finds to pricey boutiques.

Services abound for restaurants, hair salons, dry cleaning, grocery stores, dog stores pet training/boarding/grooming, dog park. Target, Costco, and several grocery store options close by.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Multitude of restaurants: Vegan, vegetarian, Turkish, Italian, Thai, Japanese, American, and many more. Pubs/taverns, bakeries and coffee shops. Several antique shops. Movie theater and bowling alleys within a mile. There are several parks (one with a dog park) for tennis, softball, swimming, boxing, running, fitness classes etc.

Other comments: “Roscoe village attracts both single people and families and has a very 'neighborhood-y' feel. There are many community-sponsored events throughout the year such as Retro on Roscoe, food

drives, bar crawls, fun runs, holiday events, etc. **The neighborhood is very safe and feels like a small community in a big city.** It's not very crowded because it's a little 'west' of the big action, yet we're still only a mile from Wrigley and a mile and a half from the Lake! Close to both Lakeshore Drive and the Kennedy expressway making getting out of town pretty easy too."

"I enjoy being in a safe and beautiful neighborhood with a community feel. It is very walkable with plenty of great restaurants and cafes as well as parks. I don't want to live in the overcrowded, party atmosphere but when I want to get to "the party" I can easily get to other neighborhoods or downtown via public transport."

GOLD COAST*

Rent: \$1000/person/month (for a 2-bedroom; this is on the low end of our neighborhood)

For a Studio apartment: \$1,000-\$1,100 (<http://bjbproperties.com/>); Utilities: \$20-\$30/month

Utilities: \$100/person/month average for cable & electricity

Cost of living: Depends on your lifestyle; you can live on a budget if you plan carefully

Commute to school: 30 minutes if you make the trains, 45 if the CTA is being its usual lovely self. "I allow an hour just in case."

Commute to downtown: **3 minute train ride** or 15 minute walk

Local conveniences: **Everything – grocery stores, drug stores, restaurants, bars, clothing stores, etc.**

How accessible is public transportation: Very accessible. Easy access to brown and red lines and lots of buses around.

Parking: Expect to pay \$150-\$350/month for parking or ~\$10/hour for garage parking. Very little street permit parking (but it exists!); majority is garages and valets and what little street parking there is is \$3/hour.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Everything! Very close to the lake for beaches/running/biking, very close to downtown. Restaurants and bars everywhere. **A few blocks away from Michigan Avenue shopping and Water Tower.**

Other comments: "I chose to live here because the area has most of the other things I enjoy accessing in the city and is close to several of my friends. It was important for me to have a good balance between school and the rest of my life and living close to so many things I enjoy allows for that. I also do not drive and therefore needed a neighborhood with good public transportation. Safety-wise, use common sense. The area is generally free of violent crimes but muggings are frequent along Michigan Avenue. There are policemen all over the place but I still would not walk around alone at night."

SOUTH LOOP*

Rent: Studio to 3BD \$900-\$3000 (wide range due to how far north/high rises which can be more expensive for renters, it tends to be cheaper the further south you are where it gets more residential)

Utilities: \$80-100/person/month average for cable, electricity, & gas

Cost of living: Depends on your lifestyle; you can live on a budget if you plan carefully

Commute to school: 15 minute drive; 25 minutes on #12 bus down Roosevelt (if further south: add time for 10-15 minute walk north to #12 Roosevelt/ or the #24, 29, 3 buses north to transfer to #12 Roosevelt bus

Local conveniences: Mariano's, Trader Joe's, Jewel, Walgreens, several restaurants & bars, shopping, close to parks and lakefront

How accessible is public transportation: Very accessible. Easy access to red, green and orange lines and lots of buses around.

Parking: Lots of street meter parking and available parking for permit parking (\$100 a year). Expect to pay \$100-\$250/month for parking in high rise or spots available with the apartment).

Things to do in the neighborhood: Very close to the lake for running/biking, parks and dog park, basically downtown or at least very close. Close to the museum campus, Soldier Field, and Chinatown, Icon Theater, shopping, restaurants and a few bars.

Other comments: The South Loop is a common place for young professionals and young families. It is easy to get to 90/94 and Lakeshore Dr. "It is a nice place to live while in grad school, because I am centrally located in the city, but far enough from school to have a balance in life."

Near West Side (Across the street from the United Center)*

Rent: 3 Bed/2 Bath \$2100 (Warren & Paulina), sq. ft. 1,900

Utilities: ~\$190 gas/electric (would be less with only 3 roommates of course), ~\$90 internet (high amount of GB, may not be necessary for you)

Commute time to school: 25 minute walk, 8-10 minute walk, then 10 minute bus ride (50 bus).

Commute time to downtown: 10-20 minutes via public transportation, bus or train - West Loop is very close, walking distance!

Local Conveniences: Pete's Groceries, Walgreens, libraries are all close by via 20 bus. West loop with shopping, restaurants is close by via walking, bus, car, etc.

How accessible is public transportation: Pink and Green line and 20 bus very close by. 50 bus is an 8-10 minute walk away.

How available parking is and does it require a permit: Parking is widely available as long as West Side and City stickers are on your car. Guest passes are needed for guests who visit you - all can be acquired at City Hall.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Union Park is nearby, they have baseball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts. West Loop is nearby and has TONS to do!

UNITED CENTER PARK*

Rent: 2 BD/2 Bath \$1400 (Oakley and Adams)

Utilities: ~\$60 for gas, \$40 electric, and \$40 internet

Commute time to school: 20 minute walk, 10 minute bike ride. Parking will take longer than walking.

Commute time to downtown: via public transportation about 20-30 min by bus or train

Local Conveniences: Pete's Groceries and Walgreens are just up the street. There's also a McDonald's, a Subway, and a Chinese takeout place. Local Popeyes not safe.

Public transportation: Blue line and Madison bus are very accessible.

Parking: Parking is widely available, no permits required.

Things to do in the neighborhood: Everything worth doing is about 1.5 mi away, so everything is just far enough to be inconvenient.

IDEAS FOR RENTING

- Things I didn't think to check were utilities included in rent, washer and dryer cost (or if it is included), and additional storage space (some places have a basement!). Oftentimes if there is radiator heat, the heat and hot water may be included in rent. Some buildings may only have a certain service provider for the internet. If there is no W/D in the unit or in the building, consider nearby laundromats and their condition. Look for mold, leaks, or evidence of pests under sinks/in cabinets when you walk through, and check out the # of outlets in each room. Also check nearby streets to see if the parking is free, permit only, metered, etc.
- If you are planning to take CTA to campus, consider nearest CTA stops to the apartment, bus vs train, etc. Also might be a good idea to look at operating schedules for start/end times of routes.
- We used Craigslist to find places! We looked about 2 months before move in
- We used apps like Zillow, Apartments.com, and Trulia. COVID may have messed up the timeline a bit, but we started searching and then signed in early June and our lease started mid-July.