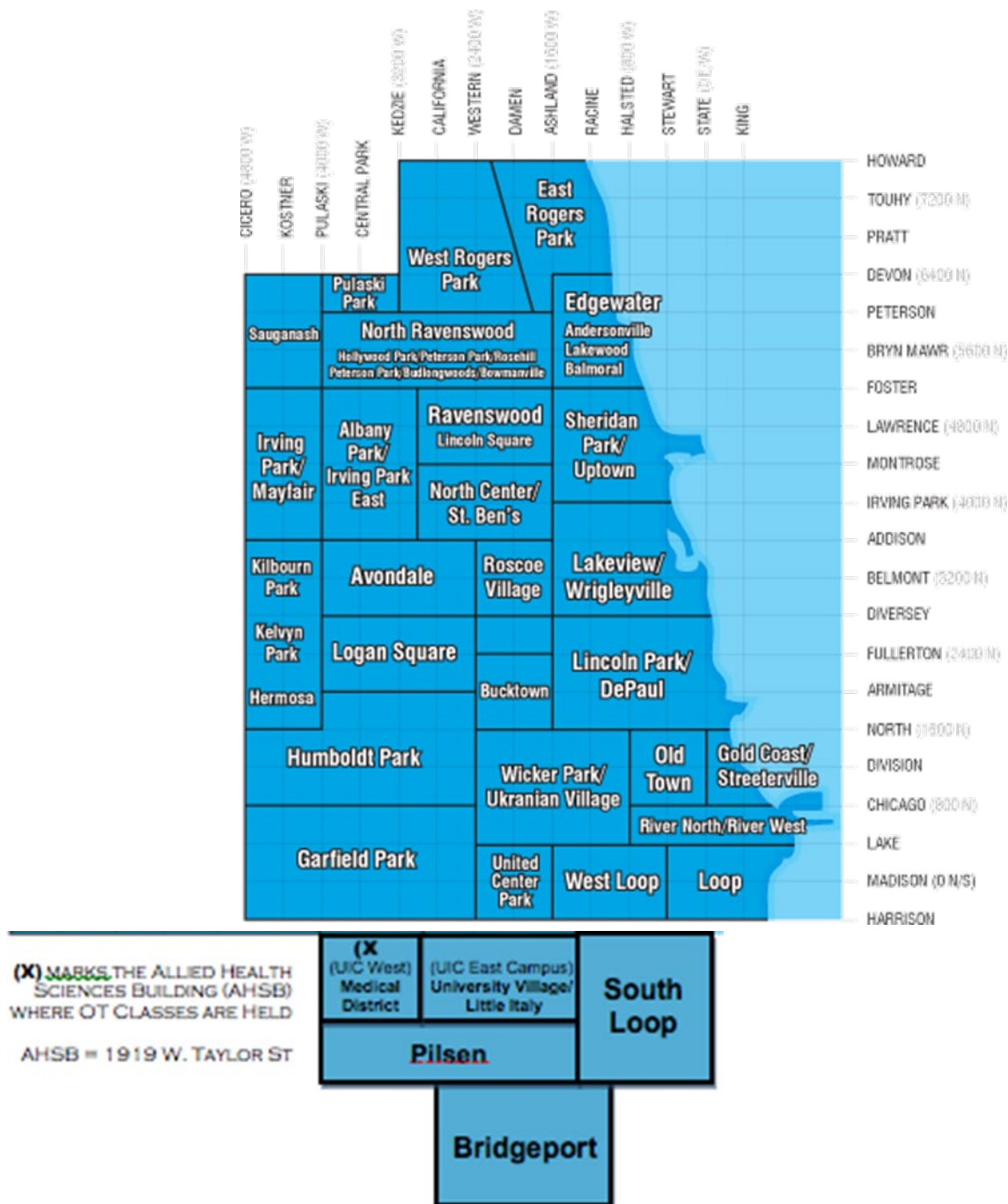


# CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS



## 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](http://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.

**APARTMENT/ROOMMATE LISTINGS:**

**Zillow.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.

**<http://www.chicagoreader.com/>**

Link to classifieds and area activity and business listings

**[www.housing.uic.edu](http://www.housing.uic.edu)**

Link to UIC on-campus housing homepage.

**Domu.com**

Apartment search local to Chicago. Free to search but landlords pay to list so there aren't a lot of repeat or listings. It also lets you search by neighborhood

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

**[www.apartmentpeople.com](http://www.apartmentpeople.com)**

**[www.chicagoapartmentfinders.com](http://www.chicagoapartmentfinders.com)**

**[www.apartmentguysofchicago.com](http://www.apartmentguysofchicago.com)**

## AN OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE CITY

### CAMPUS HOUSING

Single Student Residence Hall (SSR)—West Campus of UIC

*“Rent:”* Varies depending on number of roommates, range from about \$5500 for a 9-month contract to almost \$8000 for an 11-month contract

*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.

### 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, \$1200 for 1 bedroom through Reside Living (2020-2021)

*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.” Very close to the lake, Wrigley field, and Uptown.

*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 coffeehouse 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 neighborhood 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 proximity → can take Bus 157 a few blocks (great when its 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 2-3 ppl

*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 night time 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 minutes 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 35<sup>th</sup> 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. Parking on most neighborhood streets is free.

*Things to do:* **very close to Chinatown, Pilson**, Sox park, all kinds of food places, small grocers, bars (Maria's in the center of Bridgeport has a very impressive beer collection), coffee shops (very cute and cozy Bridgeport Coffee shop-good place for study and meeting, 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 31<sup>st</sup> Street Beach!

### **LAKEVIEW (North)**

*Specifically, near Ashland & Addison and near Montrose and Sheridan.*

*Rent options:* **(Speaks to the variety of location and rent options – Lakeview encompasses many neighborhoods north of the loop.)**

\$800 per person 2 bedroom + 100\$ utilities + 25\$ internet (near Halsted and Cornelia)

\$665 per person in a 3 bedroom with heat and gas, ~\$70/mo for power, cable, and internet.

\$840 for 1BR

\$1700/ month for a 3 bedroom, plus electricity, gas, and cable/internet separately.

*Commute to School:* **Red or Brown line to Pink Polk St./Blue Medical District train stop ~ 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes. By car ~ 30 minutes to 1 hour.**

Near Irving Park and Pine Grove (A few blocks from the lake front trail) 1150/ month w/ heat and water included, 1 bedroom, dogs allowed, pay extra for electricity ~70/ month with takes 45 mins-1 hr on the train from Sheridan stop on red line.

*Accessibility of Public Transportation:* Very accessible! Close to Addison or Sheridan stop on red line and several buses. **\*\*Note:** Lakeview is a very large neighborhood, so check the specific cross streets for how close the public transit is.

*How long it takes to get to downtown:* Takes about 20-40 minutes to get downtown by train.

*Parking:* Street ~\$15 a month. **\*\*Note:** on the east side of Lakeview (near Wrigleyville), "you need Cubs night game parking sticker during baseball season." In some areas parking is free, but beware that means you fight for a parking spot! Parking can be difficult but if you get back before 4/5pm you can find parking fairly easily (street parking with permit).

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* Clark Street bars are very close to East Lakeview – all the Wrigley bars there. All kinds of bars, restaurants, shopping and coffee shops in Lakeview, there is "definitely something for everybody." Cubs games in the summer are close, as are festivals in the summertime. Close to lakefront- running/biking along the trail! Public beach less than a mile away, including dog access if you are a dog person.

*Other Comments:* "Parking is sometimes difficult, especially if there's a Cubs game." **"There are tons of friendly young people in this area and lots of things to do. There are always people out-and-about on my street (lots of dog walking) so it feels pretty safe."** "It's right near lots of fun spots such as Wrigley, Boys Town, and Southport. For transportation, the brown and red El lines are readily available, as well as the buses. I really enjoy this area because there are so many restaurants, places to go for shows, nightlife, etc...but it's not too overwhelming. In general, everyone is so laid back and friendly. I would highly recommend it to anyone new to Chicago!" "From where I live, close to Irving Park, a few blocks north is Uptown which has a few rougher neighborhoods, so beware of that especially at night." "It can be a long commute but the bus on Halsted and the red line allow for a good chunk of time to get reading done."

## **LAKEVIEW (South)**

*Rent:* Most studios are between \$850-1250

3 BD/1 Bath \$2400 (Belmont & Racine)

*Utilities:* ~\$80 for gas, electric and internet

*Commute time to school:* via public transportation about 1 hour (Diversey Brown line → Pink Line), drive time is about 30 mins in traffic via highway

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

*Local Conveniences:* Trader Joes, Walmart, Jewel, Walgreens, CVS, Market Place & 7-11 are all within 5 minutes of my apartment. There are lots of bars and restaurants in this area

*How accessible is public transportation:* Extremely accessible! In addition to Diversey Brown line, Belmont Red/Brown line, I am close to numerous bus stops: Clark 22, Broadway 36, Sheridan 151, and the Stockton express 134 to name a few.

*How available parking is and does it require a permit:* Meter parking is available on major streets. Lakeview has some areas of free street parking. Lincoln park has all permit parking. I always find parking, but sometimes may have to walk a bit.

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* “One of the biggest perks to my neighborhood is that there is always something to do!” There are a wide variety of restaurants (Thai, sushi, Chipotle, Panera, great brunch spots, empanadas, burgers- you name it), bars and coffee shops (your standard Starbucks & Caribou as well as cute little local places). And if you've got a sweet tooth like me, there's several frozen yogurt options and a cupcake shop down the street. ☺ It's just a short walk/run/bike ride to the lake and lakefront path as well as the Lincoln Park Zoo. During the summer, there's a great Farmer's Market and free movies in the park to go too. There is also the lake!

*Why did you choose to live here:* The location could not be beat- I love being close to the lake and having options to go out to eat or grab a few drinks in my neighborhood. Being connected to so many different lines of transportation it's easy to travel further north or downtown to visit friends or take advantage of cool things to do in the city.

*Would you recommend it:* “The commute to school can be a little long at times, but if you can handle that, I'd definitely recommend the area!”

*How did you find your apartment in Lakeview?*

- Apartment People

-Craigslist

-walking around the neighborhood and looking at the property management signs

**\*\*Tip:** If you are looking in the East Lakeview/Wrigleyville area, it may be best to look on a non-game day. Also, when there aren't Cubs games the area is fairly quiet and not too busy.

## **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 really 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.”

*How did you find your apartment in Lincoln Park:*

- Craigslist
- Zillow app
- Easy to come to the area and walk on streets you like about a month before you want to move and look at For Rent signs and call those numbers (lots of For Rent signs in the area during the summer months)

## **OLD TOWN**

*Rent:* Chicagoapartmentfinders.com suggest 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.

*How did you find your apartment in Old Town?*

- Apartment People
- Craigslist
- Zillow

## **EDGEWATER**

General rent estimate as of 2022: \$900-\$1000 a month (studio/junior 1 bedroom), \$950-\$1200 1 bedroom, \$1200-\$1600 2 bedroom)

*Commute time to school:* Metra train or driving, about 30-75 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. W 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.”

This neighborhood may be a bit of a trek to UIC if you’re relying on public transportation, but it is near Northwestern and Loyola universities, the lake, and Andersonville which is a very vibrant neighborhood within Edgewater. It is also more affordable than some of the other Northside neighborhoods a little further south.

## **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 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**

*Rent:*

*Commute:* 18-27 minutes by blue line or bus

*Local conveniences:* Target on Jackson, 7/11 on Adams, near Madison St

*Parking:* street parking around is free, hard to find sometimes during the day

## **LITTLE ITALY**

*Rent:* \$770 per bedroom in a 2 bed/1 bath, 3 bedroom 1 bath rent altogether is \$1800 plus utilities. Large 2 bedroom/1 bath with storage available for \$1800 plus some utilities.

*Commute time to school:* **15-25 minute walk to class or the 157 or 7 bus. 7 minute bike ride.**

*Local conveniences:* 7/11 on Taylor Street, Jewel-Osco grocery store on Ashland and Roosevelt; short drive or bus ride to South Loop Target

*How accessible is public transportation?* Pink and blue lines are close, as are the 157 and 7 buses

*How available is parking and does it require a permit?* Parking is usually easy to find during the day but late at night gets a little harder – you DO need a permit. Living by Arrigo Park is a plus since it makes parking much easier to find.

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* **Lots of great restaurants, a couple of bars, Arrigo park. Many choices but “I find myself travelling outside of the neighborhood for fun and free time.”**

*Other comments:* Area is full of UIC students, medical students, grad students. Had an eh experience with renting from Harris Brothers Apartments- certainly not the worst landlords I’ve had, but not the best either. They frequently had issues with electronic payments which meant you had to drop rent off in person. It’s a pretty quiet neighborhood although hearing faint sirens is pretty common because of proximity to the hospitals/medical district. Living on Taylor Street itself would probably be noisy, but off of it is quiet.

*Why did you choose to live here?* It’s convenient and doesn’t require public transportation to get to class.

*Would you recommend it?* Yes! || Depends. It’s very close to campus and that’s convenient, but the main tradeoff is expense.

*Rent:* \$600 per bedroom in a tiny 2 bed / 1 bath

*Utilities:* \$80-110, depending on the month

*Commute time to school:* **20 minute walk to class** or the 157 or 7 bus (“kind of out of the way to get to class – only used when it was 4 degrees outside or rainy!”)

*Commute time to downtown:* 15-20 minute train ride to Millennium Park and Mag Mile; 25-30 minute train ride to Wicker Park/Bucktown; 30-40 minute bus ride to Wicker Park/Bucktown.

*Local conveniences:* 7/11 on Taylor Street, Jewel-Osco grocery store on Ashland and Roosevelt; short drive or bus ride to South Loop Target, Trader Joes, Whole Foods.

*How accessible is public transportation?* Pink and blue lines are close, as are the 157 and 7 buses

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* Lots of great restaurants (American, Mexican, Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Italian, etc.), a couple of bars, Arrigo park. There are dry Cleaners, hair cutters, Starbucks, Potbelly’s, Italian Ice place, and Subway all on Taylor Street. You can run downtown easily, as well as through the West Loop (I like Randolph Street). Not many social events happen here, most people go to other parts of town and “I end up travelling to get there and have to taxi home.”

*Other comments:* Area is pretty safe, but I don’t like walking around after 11:00 alone. It’s getting better but we still get lots of crime alerts for the UIC Neighborhoods.

*Why did you choose to live here?* It’s convenient and “I wanted a good place to explore Chicago from.”

*Would you recommend it?* Yes, if you want to walk, don’t mind commuting to social events, and are new to the city life.

*Other comments about Little Italy from students and former residents:*

“Easy to get downtown and to the Metra and Amtrak stations.” “Overall, I feel safe here, but I would not go out by myself really late at night. It can be a little shady a few blocks south and east, but overall I feel safe.” “I can wake up 20 minutes before class and still get there on time.”

*How did you find your apartment?*

- Searched on Craigslist
- Altier Realty on Loomis St. & Taylor St.
- Roommates found through class listerv
- New West Realty
- Courtland Associates
- University Rentals
- Apartments.com
- From second year students
- HotPads (it’s an app that’s like Tinder for apartment hunting, great and can use in any neighborhood!)

## **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**

*Rent:* **\$1250 for a 2-bedroom garden (basement) apartment ; \$1450 for a 2-bedroom ground-floor apartment**

*Utilities:* Varies – paid by renter

*Cost of Living:* Typical for Chicago

*Commute time to school:* **15 minutes to school on the bus via #50 Damen.**

*Commute time to downtown:* 20 minutes to downtown on bus via #66 Chicago.

*Local conveniences:* I live one block from the Mariano's on Chicago Ave. It's amazing. There's also a CVS, lots of local restaurants, and small businesses/shops that are super walkable.

*How accessible is public transportation?:* Buses are very convenient; blue line is about 15-20 minute walk away.

*How available is parking and does it require a permit?:* Where I am at does not require permit parking.

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* **Lots of restaurants and bars on Chicago and on Division (~.5 mile walk); "can't go more than 5 feet without running into a coffee shop or bakery." A few small parks and it's a 20-minute walk to more stuff to do in Wicker Park.**

*Other comments:* Mostly young families and young professionals. Very dog friendly and there are always people walking their dogs on the sidewalks.

*Why did you choose to live here?:* I wanted somewhere with restaurants and coffee shops nearby, but was more relaxed and quiet in the neighborhood – plus I have a dog and wanted a dog-friendly neighborhood.

*Would you recommend it?:* Yes! The neighborhood is pretty quiet and relaxed, but there are grocery stores, coffee shops, restaurants and bars nearby. The commute to school is really easy, and a number of my classmates live nearby. I wouldn't live anywhere else!

*Rent:* **\$1250 for a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment**

*Utilities:* ~\$80-100 a month

*Commute time to school:* **20 minutes to school on the bus via #50 Damen, but looking forward to more flexibility by biking down Damen in the warm weather!**

*Commute time to downtown:* 20 minutes to downtown on bus via #66 Chicago.

*Local conveniences:* Dominick's Grocery Store is around the corner, Trader Joes and Whole Foods are a straight shot from here on the 66 bus.

*How accessible is public transportation?:* Buses are very convenient; blue line is about 20-25 minute walk away.

*How available is parking and does it require a permit?:* Ample street parking

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* Few restaurants and bars on Chicago and Damen and TONS on Division and Damen (~.5 mile walk). Wicker Park is close enough to walk in nice weather and there are tons of yoga studios and coffee shops just north of my apartment. Nice routes for running along streets without traffic.

*Why did you choose to live here?:* **"I wanted somewhere with the social atmosphere close by but without a lengthy commute to class."**

*Would you recommend it?:* "Yes!"

## **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, Metzisoy) 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 (18<sup>th</sup> 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**

*Rent: \$1200-2000 for a 1 or 2 bedroom each, \$800 each for a 3 bedroom in Bucktown, \$850-900 each for a 3 bedroom in wicker*

*Utilities: \$100 for 2 bedroom*

*Commute time to school: 25-45 minutes by #50 Damen bus, #9 Ashland bus, #49 Western bus or the blue line (depends on where in Wicker Park/Bucktown you live) (Damen or Western stop → Damen/Illinois Medical District stop—this takes like 40 minutes including a 10 min walk to the AHS building) (variation in commute time depending on how close to Damen or Western you are- add on walking time to Damen stop), 20 minute bike ride (very easy in the fall/spring)*

*Local conveniences: Jewel-Osco grocery store is close, Mariano’s about a 7-15 minute walk or accessible via Ashland bus, Trader Joes in Lincoln Park is a 10 min bus ride away; plethora of local coffee shops, boutiques, tons of restaurants and bars; everything in walking distance; Aldi is very close if you live in Bucktown as well as the 606, an elevated walkway for running, walking, or biking (2.5 miles from one side to the other)*

*How accessible is public transportation? Very – right by the blue line Damen and Division stops; Western stop is good for Bucktown; plenty of buses available too! Specifically super easy to get to campus if you live off Damen bus route*

*How available is parking and does it require a permit? Depends on your apartment - permit parking around and south of North Avenue. At peak hours, the closer to North Ave the harder it is to find parking; but plenty of **free** street parking available north of Wabansia. On the residential streets, street parking is usually free and based upon your address*

*Things to do in the neighborhood: Wicker Park Fitness, Wicker Park Athletic Club, Bucktown Athletic Club, actual Wicker Park - hosts events and farmers markets, Holstein Park in Bucktown has free public pool, tons of bars (“the” alternative place to go out as a young professional, versus in the downtown area), tons of shops, lots of thrifting options, restaurants, great food, prominent local coffee culture - lots of good study spots, several public libraries. Super awesome food and coffee shops that many in the program could recommend near Damen/North/Milwaukee, 606- such a cute walking path!*

*Other comments: **A really great area, interesting and young people, really fun and vibrant.***

*Why did you choose to live here? “Close to school [by way of public transportation]” and safe. **“It’s a fun part of town.”** I love how dog-friendly it is and super accessible. Tons to do within walking distance!; great & safe neighborhood. Pay a little extra for the convenience and safety, but not as expensive as areas like the west loop.*

*Would you recommend it? Yes!!*

*How did you find your apartment in Bucktown? Hotpads; Realtor*

## **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, drug 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<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

*Cost of living:* Depends on your lifestyle; you can live on a budget if you plan carefully<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

*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<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

*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). \$2000 for a 2 bedroom in the southern end of South Loop.

*Utilities:* \$80-100/person/month average for cable, electricity, & gas. Some high rises include utilities!

*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; 30-40 minutes to west campus when taking the Pink line to Polk station.

*Local conveniences:* You have everything you need in South Loop! Mariano's, Trader Joe's, Jewel, Walgreens, awesome Chicago libraries, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, shopping, and 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. If you're close enough to the loop you really don't even need a car!

*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." South Loop is incredible because you get the city experience while still being close to campus, I would highly recommend it!

## **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!

*Why did you choose to live here:* I have lived here for a year before starting school at UIC. My roommates and I all needed a place to live that wasn't too far from West Loop (because my roommates have jobs there) and wasn't too far from UIC (because at the time one of my roommates was going to school there). Also, I needed to be in Chicago because I was doing a service year in Chicago.

*Would you recommend it:* Yes.

*How did you find your apartment in Near West Side?* Trulia

## **UNIVERSITY VILLAGE**

*Rent:* 2 BD/2 Bath \$2060 (Near the university athletic fields on East campus, prices vary because it's a condo building and also vary in the neighborhood)

*Utilities:* ~\$80 gas/electric (cable, internet, water, in unit washer/dryer, one parking spot all in rent included, as well as a gym, pool, patio)

*Commute to school:* campus bus is ~15 minutes, CTA bus ~25 minutes, driving ~10 minutes, biking ~15 minutes

*Local conveniences:* community center/rec center within walking distance, walking distance to Maxwell (Starbucks, restaurants, doctor offices), Little Italy library branch, grocery stores (Jewel, Trader Joe's, Target), CVS is up the road, also close to Taylor St.

*How accessible is public transportation:* Buses - very! Close by the 12, 8, 18. To access the train you always need a transfer from the bus. The campus bus stop is ~3 minute walk to

*Parking:* Free street parking no permit required but near some zone parking a couple streets over

*Things to do in the neighborhood:* We live very close to campus so any campus activities! Close to different parks and lots of restaurants near-by!

*Why did you choose to live here:* We wanted to live close to campus but it doesn't feel like you're living on campus. It feels safe and it is quiet! The rent wasn't too obnoxious for living relatively close to downtown.

*Other comments:* The area is very dog friendly and residential. There are several parks/fields for a dog to run around. We feel as safe as you can be as two females living in Chicago. The UIC police station is within walking distance as well as a Chicago Police and Fire department. We do live in a loft style, so our biggest con is the walls don't go all the way up to the ceiling. It is a relatively quiet area, which is nice! We often see set-up for the TV show Chicago fire (very cool!).

*Would you recommend it:* Yes.

*How did you find your apartment?* We used the Compass Realtor App. We also searched on apartments.com, Zillow, DOMU.

## **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.

*How accessible is public transportation:* Blue line and Madison bus are very accessible.

*How available parking is and does it require a permit:* 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.

*Why did you choose to live here:* I had a month to move to Chicago, knew nothing about the city, and this was one of the few places I could rent and have three dogs. It was also close to school. I am planning on moving due to concerns about safety.

*Would you recommend it:* No.

*How did you find your apartment in United Center Park?*  
Zillow

## **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 tenant. Electric and "cooking gas" is typically paid by tenant. Water and garbage should be paid by 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.

### **IDEAS FOR RENTING**

- I rent through Reside Living, which offers gut-rehabbed studios/1BR/2BR/3BR w/ great amenities. It's great for people who don't have much time to "set up shop" before classes start, since the units are freshly painted/cleaned/etc. and the appliances are all new (at least mine were-Buena Park). Maintenance service is A+ and the company offers a lot of perks (discounts, social calendar, happy hours, intramural sports teams, iPad raffles! -- I did not win one, unfortch) to its residents. They have properties in multiple neighborhoods around the city, so it might be worth offering their website link to the new students: <http://resideliving.com/>
- I rent through Local by Laramar and highly recommend
  - **Medical District Apartments:** There is a \$500 refer award when you refer others to live here. Here is the link, <http://www.medicaldistrictapts.com/>