

UIUC SSA Dorm Review 2014

Dear Freshies,

This housing guide is put together by the SSA seniors to help you select the dorm that most fits your needs. However, this list is not exhaustive, as we only included feedback on dorms we have lived in. Hope it's useful!

Love,
Seniors

Getting started:

- 1) There are **2 main types of housing** you can choose from, **university residence halls** and **private certified housing**.
- 2) Look through the pros and cons, and **prioritize** what is important to you e.g. Location, food, study environment etc.
- 3) **Contact details** of seniors are written next to the dorms, if you have further questions

I. University Residence Halls

- Busey-evans(all women)
- Ikenberry Commons North
Barton(all women), Lundgren(all men), Hopkins, Weston, Nugent
- Ikenberry Commons South
Snyder, Scott, Taft-Van Doren, Bousfield(new!)
- Illinois Street Residence (ISR)
- Pennsylvania Avenue Residence (PAR)
- Florida Avenue Residences (FAR)
- Lincoln Avenue Residence (LAR)
- Allen hall

II. Private Certified Housing

- Hendrick House
- Illini Tower
- Armory House
- Bromley Hall
- Presby Hall

*disclaimer: not all halls are covered/have feedback

PROs and CONs of the dorms

I. University Residence Halls

(<http://www.housing.illinois.edu/Future/Freshmen/Great%20Locations.aspx>)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to eat at all University Housing residential halls with same meal plan (6 dining halls over campus) • All dorms have a communal kitchen with oven, stove, refrigerator, microwave • Some dorms have Living Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No free break housing (except for Global crossroads LLC) • Food quality varies vastly across different residential dining halls

<p>Communities (LLC): communities that have special focus on diversity, innovation, music, etc. There will be a full-time program coordinator who plans programs for everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common area with TV • Computer with scanning and printing (5cents/page) available • Active dorm life- most dorms will plan their own dorm activities, opportunities to make new friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal toilets (some dorms have suites- i.e. private toilet) • Difficult to get single rooms, usually get a double (with a roommate) • Rooms are generally smaller than those in private certified housing • Though most dorms use wireless, some still require the ethernet cable
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II. Private Certified Housing
<http://certified.housing.illinois.edu>

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More privacy • More living space, since rooms are bigger than the average ones in university residence halls. • Semi-private bathrooms (4 people to 1) • High speed wireless provided • More RAs per student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only able to eat at your own private housing dining hall • Generally less social compared to university housing • Slightly more expensive than university housing • no LLCs

Housing Details

University Residence Halls

1) Busey-evans

- Petrina (pkoh2@illinois.edu)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of campus • 5min walk to the quad • 710 mart across the road (korean minimart if you need anything)
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety and good quality food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lots of fruits and vegetables ◦ Awesome desserts and smoothies for late night • Busey Beanery - buy snacks and smoothies with cafe credits • Oodles (specialty restaurant) on Fri

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ live station where pasta is cooked on spot based on your selected ingredients ○ delicious cheesecake ○ lots of fruits • Dining hall closed on Saturdays and only has food from 12-6pm on Sundays
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-conditioning • Wifi in rooms • Carpeted rooms • Common lounge with tv, and pianos • Computer lab and library for studying • Shared kitchen
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-girls dorm • Quiet studying environment • Floor events and hall events organized by RAs • Harder to meet new people unless you actively seek them out • no LLC
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good mix of students, both American and Asians

2) Ikenberry Commons (Nugent Hall, Snyder Hall, Lundgren Hall)

- Snyder Hall: PeiQi (peiqi94@yahoo.com.sg)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest corner of campus • 10min walk to the main quad, 5min walk to the south quad • Directly opposite the ARC (gym) • Close to business classes, further away from engineering classes • Many buses available, bus stop at the dining hall building; highly accessible
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biggest dining hall out of all the university residential halls with the widest variety/selection of food • Inconsistent food quality • Can use credits to buy steak/ good burgers during meal times (a la carte) • Can use credits at the I-57 North convenience store which is open till 12am daily
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly opposite ARC (4-level gym with 2 swimming pool, indoor track, basketball courts, rock climbing wall, soccer, all the gymming equipment you need), biggest gym on campus • SDRP/ Ikenberry commons (the dining hall building) is a common area for all the people living within

	<p>ikenberry, it has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ library (equipped with computers, scanner, photocopying, printing, books) ○ another small gym ○ project rooms ○ Caffeinator (can use credits to buy coffee or delicious smoothies!) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikenberry lawn: an open space for activities (football, snowball fight, dorm activities) • Each dorm has their own common area/ lounge area (tv, computer, printer) and shared kitchen • Some dorms have AC (snyder, scott, nugent, bousfield...), some don't
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depends on the culture of your dorm, each dorm is different • Good social life • Conducive studying environment in dorm (alternatively there is the ike library or study rooms), weekends tend to get noisier • Snyder has active hall activities (e.g. Dial-a-carol: sing carols for ppl who dial in from all over the world) • Hopkins: LEADS LLC • Weston: Weston Exploration LLC • Snyder: substance-free (people still go out and party, but the good thing is that they cannot come back drunk, and "no drugs/substances" rule implemented)
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known informally as the "six pack", sometimes known as the party dorms • More americans, but good mix of students

3) Illinois Street Residence (ISR)

- Boyi (boyiguo2@illinois.edu)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of main quad • Closest residential hall to engineering quad • <5 walk to the main quad where most freshman classes are • 8 min walk to CRCE (gym)
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good variety of food, but quality is average • Asian food night on Wed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generally satisfying, but authenticity and quality inconsistent ○ yummy food such as potstickers, mochi, red bean bun • Dining hall open for Late night (supper) 8-12am

Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-conditioning • Conducive study rooms, study carrels (really quiet study rooms) • Computer lab open 24/7 • Gym room • Lounges available for booking (table tennis table and tv)
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good social life • Always activities, many active floor activities • Quiet in selective areas, if you need silence from noise, there is the study carrel • Many international asian students
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation LLC - quite active, programs for entrepreneurship • Wardall Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 12 stories high ◦ Separate floors between Male and Female ◦ Fewer rooms per floor than Townsend-easier to get to know people • Townsend Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 5 stories high ◦ Guys and Girls are on same floor

4) Pennsylvania Avenue Residence (PAR)

- Saunders Hall: Kenneth (kkoh3@illinois.edu)
Gregory (gasim2@illinois.edu)
Kane (kkjacob2@illinois.edu)
- Babcock Hall: George (zzhng112@illinois.edu)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast corner of campus • Far from main quad (20min walk) • Regular and extensive bus services such as 12teal, 13silver and 22illini make up for huge distances from school buildings • Close to south quad, great for those in college of ACES. • Close to CRCE (smaller gym) • Next to Illini grove and tennis courts
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decent food quality and large variety • Only dining hall with stir-fry, tastes pretty good but has insanely long queues. • Late night offered from 8pm-12am • can use credits at Penn Station
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room is pretty small if furniture is not lofted. • Library, computer lab, private piano room that you need to check out keys for, and a couple of

	<p>lounges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community kitchen is in an undesirable state • No air conditioning • Decent wifi throughout dorm but nothing fantastic
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of the most social dorms around, can get a little noisy at night due to LLCs & late nights • LLCs eligible for some classes that are held in PAR. • Intersection LLC in Babcock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ mix of exchange, international and local students ○ regular info nights about different countries, Conversations about Diversity (CODES) and assigned mentors ○ music lottery, free trip 2D1N trip to Ohio etc. ○ eligible for researcher's initiative where you are paid \$8.50/h to do research • Global Crossroads LLC in Saunders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ free break housing! ○ great opportunity to meet lots of international students from extremely diverse backgrounds ○ positive, friendly environment ○ very active with events such as a free Chicago trip, reindeer ranch trip, capture the flag and other ad-hoc events organized by RAs.
Others	nil

5) Florida Avenue Residences (FAR)

- Andy

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast corner of campus, next to PAR • 10 min bus ride from the quad
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soul food night on Thursday • Breakfast for dinner on Tuesday • Food not the best, but decent • Food gets repetitive after a while, just head over to PAR for a change
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rooms slightly larger than PAR • Computer lab • A library and lounge on every floor • Airconditioned
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually quite quiet, good studying environment • Occasional activities organized by RA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no LLC
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larger population of asian american and african american students • generally large international student population

6) Allen Hall

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of campus • Right next to CRCE (gym), super convenient if you like working out • close to major libraries, ACES library and undergrad library • 5-10min walk to main quad
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food is pretty decent • it gets repetitive, lack variety • Good fruits • Leafy (specialty restaurant) on Wed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ vegetarian dinner served with many fruits, fancy cheese, cheesecakes and desserts
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No air-conditioning, so fan might be necessary • Music practice rooms (you get free music lessons if you are part of the LLC) • Lounges • Study rooms
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather Artsy environment with alot of music going on • Relaxed environment, easy to make friends with people on your floor • Good mix of all types of people of all majors • Unit one LLC - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ free music lessons for different skills including singing ◦ guest-in residence prog: where
Others	nil

7) Lincoln Avenue Residence (LAR)

- Samantha (siau2@illinois.edu)
- Vivian (wqiang2@illinois.edu)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of campus, near Allen hall • next to CRCE and Mckinley; near krannert • main quad is within walking distance
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dining hall shared with Allen hall • decent food

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no late night
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • largest rooms out of all the university housing dorms • in-room wireless (new!) • no air con
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artsy and quiet environment • Sustainable LLC focuses on sustainability in many aspects ranging from housing to electronics. Events may involve other RSOs such as Habitat for Humanity and includes stuff like talks, seminars and puppet projects.
Others	nil

Private Certified Housing

1) Hendrick house

- Xuan Hao (xuanhao92@gmail.com)
- James Kok (jameskokjx@gmail.com)
- Ganshun (glim6@illinois.edu)
- Clara (xgao26@illinois.edu)
- Samantha and Vivian (contact details under 7) LAR)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast edge of campus • Along green street; 5-10min walk to engineering quad • 15min walk to main quad • Buses within short walking distances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 Green is right outside Hendrick ○ 22 Illini is a 3-5min walk away at west Illinois street ○ 10 Gold & 13 Silver are a 5min walk north of Hendrick
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best dorm food around • Good variety of food with the specials changed daily (student special request can be made) • Variety in the form of different types of cuisine, from Indian to Mexican to Jap • Healthy- salad bar always filled with fresh veggies from local farms. • Only those with a 19credit meal plan can sign others in • No dinner provided on sundays
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break housing available but additional payment is required • Several common areas for studying (equipped with pool table, foosball, pianos, TV, pingpong table etc.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small gym and computer lab in the basement • Air conditioned • Weekly housekeeping • High speed wireless
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet dorm with a conducive studying environment • not very social apart from the occasional welfare event
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$50 for 3.5 GPA ◦ \$75 for 4.0 GPA

2) Illini Tower

- WanTing (wlim6@illinois.edu)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West of campus • 3-5min walk from main quad, near green street, armory and ice arena • Many buses available- transit plaza is just a 5min walk away and 22 Illini stops right outside Illini tower
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below average and inconsistent food quality • Extremely repetitive menu • Panini bar is the only consistent thing there
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suite living- spacious rooms equipped with a private bathroom, kitchen, and living area. • Small gym, study lounge, music room, flix (mini movie theatre), pingpong table and pool table provided • Wireless internet • Air conditioned • Netted windows-no problems with bugs • Break housing available at an additional cost of \$175, regardless of duration
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge mix of international students • Relatively quiet environment • Several dorm events organized throughout the academic year such as IT got talent, Bingo night, Resident Appreciation week etc • Additional floor events organized by your RA (resident advisor).
Others	nil

3) Armory House

- Cheryl (cherylchm94@gmail.com)
- Jonathan (jonckr@gmail.com)

	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest corner of campus • 10-15min walk to main quad • 5-10min walk to ARC, ice arena and green street • Far from engineering quad; relatively close to south quad and business buildings • 22 Illini is 1 street away • Surrounded by fraternities and sororities
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor food quality • Repetitive menu • Creation station available • No late night and no dinner provided on sundays • However, there is a cooperative food agreement with Hendrick House (meal plan can be used there but not to sign others in)
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large rooms in both main and suites • Small lounge (equipped with movies, Xbox and a piano), study lounge and gym • Ethernet cable and high speed wireless provided • Weekly bathroom cleaning • Air conditioned • Community kitchen shared by main and suites automatically locked at 12am • Free break housing offered (a deposit is required but will be returned in full upon return of break housing key) • No lifts in AH main, only at AH suites. RAs help you carry your stuff up during move-in day.
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducive studying environment except on fridays and weekends as the numerous fraternities/sororities nearby start partying. (The noise dies down during cold weather/winter) • Extremely helpful staff that attend to maintenance requests quickly • Balanced mix of international and local students • Very few social events organized.
Others	nil