

How Universities and Colleges Have Affected the Number of Restaurants in Surrounding Areas

Introduction/Business Problem

I will use the Foursquare API to examine whether having a large university in my state, Tennessee, impacts the restaurant industry in the area where the college is located. In order to do this, I will use the Foursquare API and Folium to display the number of restaurants in all of Tennessee. Then, I will look specifically for restaurants clustered around a specific area.

I will try to filter out areas that are inherently tourist attractions (such as Nashville) and focus on smaller areas that tourists would not normally visit, such as Cookeville, Knoxville, and Harriman. I will also research other colleges around Tennessee, and I will use Folium to display their locations on a separate map. Finally, I will superimpose one map on top of another to see if there are any trends.

This project can be useful to restaurant owners seeking to open a restaurant in Tennessee or elsewhere, as the results I receive could be generalizable to other areas. In addition, this information could be useful to college students in certain fields, such as culinary students who may be seeking internships in restaurants around their college.

Finally, the information I hope to glean from this project may also be useful to parents of prospective college students, as they can see restaurants around the area of a college and use that information to determine the approximate nutritional value of the foods served by restaurants around the area to their children. Note that the term “restaurants,” as used in the context of this project, includes fast food chains.

This information could also be relevant for college students with food allergies or other factors that limit what kind of food they can eat.

Data

I will use data from the Foursquare API, as well as data from a separate CSV file detailing all the colleges in Tennessee, and their respective addresses. I will then use the Geopy module in Python to convert these addresses to coordinates.