

2021 UIUCSSA

Residence Hall Review

Dear Freshies,

This housing guide is put together by the SSA seniors to help you select the residence hall 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! You can also talk to us directly to know more about the halls we stayed in. There is a contact list at the end of this booklet.

Regards,
Your 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 us to find out who has stayed in which hall, should you like to understand more.

I. University Residence Halls
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Busey-Evans (all women)• Ikenberry Commons North<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Barton (all women), Lundgren (all men), Hopkins, Weston, Nugent• Ikenberry Commons South<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Snyder, Scott, Taft-Van Doren, Bousfield, Wassaja (new!)• Illinois Street Residence (ISR)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Wardall, Townsend• Pennsylvania Avenue Residence (PAR)• Florida Avenue Residences (FAR)• Lincoln Avenue Residence (LAR)• Allen Hall
II. Private Certified Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hendrick House• Illini Tower• Armory House• Bromley Hall• Presby Hall• Newman Hall

Pros and Cons

I. University Residence Halls

PROS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to eat at all University Housing residential halls with same meal plan (various dining halls over campus)• All dorms have a communal kitchen with oven, stove, refrigerator, microwave• Some dorms have Living Learning 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• Computers with scanning and printing (USD0.07cents/page) available• Active hall life: most halls will plan their own hall activities, opportunities to make new friends
CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No free break housing (except for Global Crossroads LLC)• Food quality varies vastly across different residential dining halls• Communal toilets (some dorms have individual use bathrooms)• Difficult to get single rooms, usually get a double/triple (with a roommate/s)• Rooms are generally smaller than those in private certified housing• Though most dorms use wireless, some still require the ethernet cable (As of 2022, not sure which dorms still require ethernet)

II. Private Certified Housing

(<http://certified.housing.illinois.edu>)

PROS
<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-to-1)• High speed wireless provided• More RAs per student
CONS
<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

CONTENT PAGE

	HALL (Housing Details)	PAGE
I.	University Residence Halls	4
	Busey-Evans	4
	Ikenberry Commons	5
	Illinois Street Residence (ISR)	7
	Pennsylvania Avenue Residence (PAR)	9
	Florida Avenue Residence (FAR)	10
	Allen Hall	12
	Lincoln Avenue Residence (LAR)	13
II.	Private Certified Housing	14
	Hendrick House	14
	Illini Tower	16
	Armory House	17
	Newman Hall	18
III.	SSA Members' Past Residence Halls	20

Housing Details

University Residence Halls

Busey-Evans

Feature	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• East of campus• 5min walk to the quad, Krannert Center,• Good bus connections (10 Gold, 12 Teal, 22 Illini, etc.)• 710 mart across the road (korean minimart if you need anything)
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Busey-Evans dining hall is permanently closed• Refer to ISR dining hall review (5 min walk)
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air-conditioning• Wifi in rooms• Carpeted rooms• Common lounge with tv, and pianos• Computer lab for studying• Shared kitchen (need to check-out key to rent, inconvenient)
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All-girls dorm (Busey)/All-guys dorm(Evans)• Quiet studying environment• Floor/Hall Events are crafty (e.g. Canvas Painting, Planting Flowers, Paint a Mason Jar)• Hard to meet new people unless you actively seek them out/go to Hall Events• No LLC
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good mix of students, both American and Asians

Ikenberry Commons

Feature	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 and outside Scott; highly accessible • Weston is the closest to the dining hall
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent food quality • Can use credits to buy steak/ good burgers/ salmon during mealtimes (a la carte) • Can use credits at the I-57 North convenience store which is open till midnight 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 ikenberry, it has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Library (equipped with computers, scanner, photocopying, printing, books) ◦ Another small gym ◦ Project rooms (Can be used for studying) ◦ Caffeinator (can use credits to buy coffee or delicious smoothies!) • 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, Wassaja), 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 and Scott has active hall activities (e.g. Dial-a-carol: sing carols for ppl who dial in from all over the world) • 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 loosely implemented)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nugent: Good facilities (connected directly to dining hall) but could be harder to get in. • Wassaja: hard to get in because it's newer and popular (social scene might not be as good as around half are upperclassmen)
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 • Wassaja provides break housing (Provided you pay for it): Get to stay in your own rooms during the breaks.

Illinois Street Residence (ISR)

Feature	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of main quad, at the eastern bound of campus • Closest residential hall to engineering quad • 5-10min walk to the main quad where most freshman classes are • 8 min walk to CRCE (gym/recreation center) • Bus 22(0) to ARC • Bus 5(0) to Green St
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovated in Aug 2020 (Townsend)/2021 (Wardall), pretty decent • Good mix of cuisines (Asian, Mexican, Western etc.) • Terrabyte <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Convenience store ◦ A la carte hot foods & drinks • InfiniTEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Apparently Nitro tea is gas ◦ Strawberry Lemonade smoothie is fire
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-conditioned rooms • Conducive study rooms, study carrels (really quiet study rooms) • Computer lab open 24/7 • Gym in the basement with machines, but no bench press or squat racks • Lounges available for booking (table tennis table and tv) • Multi-purpose Rooms that can be booked for studying or hanging out • Both Townsend and Wardall Halls have lifts • Lots of open study places
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average social life, depends on how much you want to engage your floormates • Many activities organized by the hall council to engage residents • Many international Asian students, Koreans and Chinese
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation LLC - quite active, programs for entrepreneurship - depends, not much activity during covid • Honors LLC - not much activities/programs, other than a reading club thing • Has a nice courtyard that Townsend residents staying along the inner corridor can overlook, good for frisbee or other sports - closed during covid • 1 of the dorms, along with PAR and FAR and Wassaja, that provides housing over spring and fall breaks (i.e.: you can stay in your own room), at an added cost • Lots of Asians

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wardall Hall<ul style="list-style-type: none">o 12 stories higho Guys and Girls are on same flooro Fewer rooms per floor than Townsend - easier to get to know peopleo Individual use toilets - may become dirty depending on your floormates• Townsend Hall<ul style="list-style-type: none">o 5 stories higho Guys and Girls are on same flooro Individual toilets are good, but don't stay too near to them - very loud opening and closing
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Pennsylvania Avenue Residence (PAR)

Feature	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 12 Teal, 13 Silver and 22 Illini make up for huge distances from school buildings • Close to south quad, great for those in college of ACES. • Close to CRCE (smaller gym complex) • Next to Illini grove and tennis courts • Near the Japan House, which is a lovely place to visit during Spring when the cherry blossoms are out
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-12mn • Can use credits at Urbana South Market (PAR 1st floor)
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room is pretty small if the furniture is not lofted. • Library, private piano room that you need to check out keys for, and a couple of lounges. • Computer lab with 2 EWS (Engineering Work Station) • Community kitchen is in an undesirable state • Has very strong air conditioning • Decent wifi throughout dorm • Has private bathrooms (individual restrooms that are big but used by all genders)
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 ◦ 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! ◦ Positive, friendly environment meeting students from around the world who appreciate diversity (about 50% Americans, 50% Non-Americans) ◦ Very active with events such as a free Chicago trip, reindeer ranch trip, capture the flag and other ad-hoc events organized by RAs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mainly choose this if you are sure you need break housing ● Floors are mixed gender, rooms are single gender
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides break housing: You have to pay for (except Global Crossroads) but you get to stay in your own room

Florida Avenue Residence (FAR)

Feature	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Southeast corner of campus, opposite PAR ● 15 min bus ride from the quad ● First stop for 13 Silver and 22 Illini (advantage especially during winter) ● Near Campus Recreation Centre – East ● Near tennis courts
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 ● PAR has relatively more options and better food (pizza, stir-fry) and has breakfast
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rooms slightly larger than PAR ● Wifi throughout the building ● A gym ● Computer lab ● A library ● Pool table ● Table tennis ● Music room w/ piano (loan key from desk) ● Lounge on every floor ● Air-conditioned ● Co-ed by floor
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Usually quite quiet, good studying environment ● Toilet is NS style, where there is a row of showers, toilets and sinks. ● Hot water not able to reach the upper floors ● Fire safety highly questionable ● Occasional activities organized by RA ● Two LLCs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oglesby: Health Professions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usually has a short trip each semester ○ Research opportunities available ● Trelease: WIMSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has a short trip each semester ○ Research opportunities available

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WIMSE EWS lab located on 2nd floor ● Both Health Professions & WIMSE are eligible for LLC courses held in PAR/FAR/Allen, e.g. free music lesson by lottery, math discussion held in Allen Hall rather than Altgeld
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides break housing: You have to pay for it, but you get to stay in your own room ● Larger population of asian american and african american students ● Generally large international student population

Allen Hall

Feature	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 Undergraduate Library (UGL) • 5-10min walk to main quad
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food is pretty decent • It gets repetitive, lack variety • 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 a lot 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 program
Others	NIL

Lincoln Avenue Residence (LAR)

Feature	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of campus, next to Allen hall • Next to CRCE and McKinley; Near Krannert • Main quad is within walking distance
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two dining halls: One dining hall shared with Allen hall and the other with Specialty Restaurant • Field of Greens: Vegetarian dining hall with delicious stir-fry lunch and dinner and smoothies available daily • DISH: Specialty Restaurant with family style dining - servers, etc. Food is always good at DISH. • 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

Housing Details

Private Certified Housing

Hendrick House

Feature	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 (brings you around most of campus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 5 Green is right outside ◦ 22 Illini is a 3-5min walk away at West Illinois Street ◦ 10 Gold & 13 Silver are a 5min walk north of Hendrick • Best caters to Engineering, LAS, Music majors, but Business majors should consider as there are buses that lead directly to the business buildings
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best hall food around • Good variety of food with different specials daily (student special request can be made through online form) • Variety in the form of different types of cuisine, from Indian to Mexican to Japanese • Healthy - salad bar always filled with fresh veggies from local farms. • Only those with a 19 credit meal plan can sign others in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Can sign people in during late night ◦ Pizza night for late night Fridays • No dinner provided on Sundays • Shares the same meal system as Newman Hall (another private housing)
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break housing available but additional payment is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Cheaper than any university dorm • West-side dorms → Twice the size of most dorm rooms on campus • Private washrooms shared only between suitemates (max 4 person) • Several common areas for studying and leisure (equipped with pool table, foosball, pianos, TV, table-tennis table etc.) • Small gym and computer lab in the basement • Air conditioned (Personal air-con/heater for West side) • Bike room for storage (paid), free sheltered bike parking area • Weekly housekeeping • High speed wireless internet

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheapest self-service laundry room on campus
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet dorm with a conducive studying environment • Small dorm = easy to make friends • Staff are super friendly • Movie marathons and game nights held at the North Lounge • Not very social apart from the occasional welfare event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Can be social if you hang around with the crowd
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$50 for 3.5 GPA o \$75 for 4.0 GPA • Free tickets to shows and performances that are sponsored by HH

Illini Tower

Feature	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West of campus • 3-5min walk to main quad, near green street, armory and ice arena • Many buses available - transit plaza is 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), table-tennis 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

Armory House

Features	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

Newman Hall

Feature	Description
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best centralised location you can find. It is right beside the quad. • 3min walk to BIF, UGL, Quad and Union Bookstore • Housing is right beside St. John Catholic Newman Chapel
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares the same meal system as Hendrick House (another private dorm), meaning that if you stay in Newman Hall you can dine at Hendrick House, and people staying in Hendrick House can dine in Newman Hall as well. • One of the best food served • 24/7 COFFEE • Special meals that are uniquely Newman are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Taco Tuesdays ◦ Wednesday Chef's Special Fried Chicken ◦ Sunday Brunch • Special "Late Plate" Order - if you are unable to make it for dinner, you can order a late plate and your dinner will be packed in a box and ready to be picked up at the Student Kitchen when you return to Newman Hall
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets you stay in dorm during Fall and Spring Breaks for free! • 500 pages of Free BW Printing at their computer lab (this is a huge convenience as you do not have to travel to the library to print documents) • Color printing available at front desk • Many spacious lounges with pool tables, table tennis and foosball • Student Kitchen available for rent • Music Room with piano • Laundry • Gym with a variety of machines and equipments • Internet is very stable
Living Environment/ Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although it is a Catholic Dorm, there is a large population of non-Catholic residents here so you need not worry if you are not Catholic. Newman Hall is very accepting! • Generally quiet • Newman Retreats are worth participating • Basically, Newman Hall has two types of Dorms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional Dorm on the South 2. Single or Suite Style on the North • Tradition Dorm on the South: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Singles, Doubles and Triples Rooms ◦ Shared Communal Bathroom ◦ More traditional, more open interactions with your neighbors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Weekly house-keeping o Air conditioning and heater can be controlled by you • Single or Suite Style on the North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o North Rooms are newer than South Rooms, hence more expensive o Singles Private Rooms, Doubles Suite and Singles Suite o One bathroom and a living room to each suite o Less traditional, more private, less interactions with your neighbors o Weekly house-keeping o Air conditioning and heater are centrally controlled
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be considered as pricey but it is definitely worth it if you make use of their free printing and other facilities as well as cleaning services

SSA Members' Past Residence Halls

Non-Exhaustive List

(Do ask Exco for contact details of the SSA member)

Hall	Academic Year	SSA Member(s)
Busey-Evans	2019 - 2020	Ho My Xuan
	2017 - 2018	Pan Kehan
Ikenberry Commons	2021-2022	Davis Zhang , Hanpu Liu
	2019 - 2020	Lydia Ng, David Sentosa
Illinois Street Residences	2021-2022	May Lee (Honors LLC), Jiajun Cheng (Innovation LLC)
Hendrick House	2019 - 2020	Daniel Lee, Ooi Ren Yi
PAR	2021-2022	Jennifer Lahey
	2019 - 2020	Leck Kirk Shen (Global Crossroads LLC)
		Liu Zhu Xuan
	2017 - 2018	Han Jia Ling (Global Crossroads LLC)
FAR	2021-2022	Ethan Handojo
	2019 - 2020	Gouri Vinod
	2018 - 2019	Ho Yi Shian, Tan Yong Zhi, Goh Hao Wei
Allen Hall	2018 - 2019	William Sun