Campus Life

Where do I go to work out?

Once the semester starts, you will have access to the campus recreation facilities. The list is available at [http://www.campusrec.uiuc.edu/facilities/index.html](http://www.campusrec.uiuc.edu/facilities/index.html). Currently, many of the facilities are undergoing renovations to better provide for U of I students. Parking at the facilities can be an issue, but if you get to IMPE, the main gym at 201 E. Peabody in Champaign, before 8:45, parking is free.

Where can I park on campus?

Parking is a nightmare. It is often difficult to find an open meter near DCL and expensive to feed when you do. If you live on campus your best bet is to leave your car at your apartment and ride the bus or your bike to class. If you live off campus there are options. Go to Campus Parking 1110 W. Springfield Ave., Suite 201 and first see if there are any available lots for graduate student parking. If no University spaces are available, contact the cities of Urbana and Champaign to see if any municipal lots are available.

Information about Champaign lots can be found here: [http://www.ci.champaign.il.us/public_works/pwpk.php#lots](http://www.ci.champaign.il.us/public_works/pwpk.php#lots) and the public works departments, who issues Champaign permits can be reached at (217) 403-7050. Information about Urbana lots can be found here: [http://www.city.urbana.il.us/?URL=/urbana/finance/parking/main.html](http://www.city.urbana.il.us/?URL=/urbana/finance/parking/main.html) and the parking department can be contacted at (217) 384-2346. If you plan to only park on campus every now and then meter hunting may be the best option. Meters near campus are 75 cents an hour and Meters near campus, but in Urbana are 50 cents an hour. The two cities and the University offer an electronic meter payments system (CashKey). This service lets you pay your meter with electronic cash. This is nice because it eliminates the need for having the appropriate amount of change. For more information about CashKey visit: [http://www.parking.uiuc.edu/cashkey.htm](http://www.parking.uiuc.edu/cashkey.htm)

Where is the library?

There are libraries all over campus. Perhaps the one you will find most useful is Grainger Engineering Library (on Springfield across from DCL). This is a great place to study and find journal articles. There are also small meeting rooms which are great for getting together in groups to work on homework. If you are looking for books on something other than the latest network routing algorithms, take a look at one of the dozens of other libraries around campus. The Main Library (1408 W. Gregory Dr) houses the main stacks and several departmental libraries (modern languages, philosophy, special collections, etc.) Go to the library website to find out where the library you are interested in is [www.library.uiuc.edu](http://www.library.uiuc.edu).

The library also has a huge online reference collection ([http://www.library.uiuc.edu/rex/errefs/](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/rex/errefs/)) and an extensive online journal access ([http://www.library.uiuc.edu/or/?mode=J](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/or/?mode=J)). When you find the paper you want on Citeseer but can’t view it because it is a journal article, check the library there is a good chance they will have it.

What fun stuff is there to do on campus?

The Illini Union, at 1401 W. Green St. is a popular hangout for many students. In addition to a food court, it features a computer lab, study space, a bank, ATM machines, billiards, bowling, video games, and vending machines of various sorts. I’m told that there was a Physics TA who had never heard of the Quad and had no idea where it was! The Quad is the large grassy area south of the Illini Union, and is at the center of many campus activities. On any given day, the Quad will be filled with hackey-sack players, sun worshipers, fundamentalist preacher Brother Max, guitar players, and even members of the Illini Juggling and Unicycle Club. One especially important Quad event is the Quad Day. There are also numerous free concerts and movies on the Quad during the year.

Where can my guests stay when they come to visit?

There are guest rooms available in the Illini Union. There are many other hotels around town as well. See the visitor’s guide for a complete listing.

Uh oh, I need legal advice. Where can I go?

Student Legal Services provides legal advice and representation to students in all matters. This registered student organization, like all registered student organizations, is funded by a $4.00 fee each semester, called the SORF fee. Student Legal Services provides legal representation in a wide variety of circumstances, from changing your name to suing your landlord. You can, if you wish, get your $4.00 back from the University. If you do, you will not be eligible for Student Legal Services. Our advice: let the University keep the four bucks.

Where can I buy concert tickets?

Ticket Central in the Illini Union is the only place on campus where you can get Krannertand Assembly Hall tickets at the same location. There are also box offices at each of the two venues. Keep an eye out for off-campus music and theatre too, there is lots to see and do around town.

What’s up with all these passwords?

Section Auto-converted

This section was moved to agora by an automatic script. Until each section is reviewed with someone familiar with the subject, the information may be outdated or incomplete.
Being a graduate student in this department gives you access to large amount of computing resources. You not only have Computer Science Instruction Lab (CSIL) accounts, but you also have accounts provided by Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES) and by the College of Engineering (EWS). Many of these will allow you to put in a public_html directory and have a webpage. For a larger overview of many of the following passwords, go to http://www.cites.uiuc.edu/accounts/netID (Kerberos): Most important one. Used to set all other passwords. Used for registering, checking grades, etc. Stop by the CITES helpdesk in DCL to set it. AD: Log on to some campus machines.

http://accounts.ad.uiuc.edu iCard Password: View your account information and pay fees online.

http://www.icard.ui.llinois.edu/ Express: Your @uiuc.edu email account.

https://www-apps.cites.uiuc.edu/password/ EWS: Your engineering workstation account lets you use EWS machines http://www.ews.uiuc.edu/ews/manual/FAQAnswers.html#passwd CSIL: Lets you use CS machines if you're in a CSIL class (some of CS)

https://www-courses.cs.uiuc.edu /password-change/ If you're clever, you can end up with the same password for all your accounts. The Express email system seems to have the worst restrictions on passwords so you might want to start with that one.

What can you tell me more about computing resources?

Computer Science Instructional Labs The department's instructional computing facilities are funded by corporate grants and the state of Illinois. These are the labs that are in the lower level of Siebel. They are only available to graduate students registered to take classes which have regular programming assignments. For information, see http://csil.cs.uiuc.edu/. They can also be reached at userhelp@cs.uiuc.edu.

Technology Services Group The primary organization for administering computing resources inside the CS department is the Technology Services Group (TSG). TSG is in charge of networking, mail, the department's Sun servers, and laser printers. TSG runs all the machines in individual offices, also, so if you are a TA or an RA, these are the people running your computer. They are also the people to talk to if you have problems or questions relating to anything electronic in Siebel Center. Their webpage is http://tsg.cs.uiuc.edu/, and they can also be reached at userhelp@cs.uiuc.edu.

Engineering Workstation Accounts As a graduate student in the Engineering department, you have an account on the EWS machines. These labs are located throughout campus, and give you both access to nice UNIX machines and 200 pages of free printing. For more information on where to find these labs and how to get a password, see http://www.ews.uiuc.edu.

Communication & Computing Services Organization CCSO is a separate division of the University that shares our building. CCSO's mission is to provide computing resources to the entire campus. With your netID and password, you can log in to computers on the ground floor of the Grainger Library (across the street from DCL). Other labs that are available are listed at http://www.cites.uiuc.edu/ics/National Computational Science Alliance The National Computational Science Alliance is a national supercomputing program headed by the center located at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The local center is also known as the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (conveniently, both acronyms are NCSA). The NCSA is a center for computational science—the use of computers to simulate real-life phenomena; they also provide computational resources to researchers all over the country. The NCSA administers an awesome budget and an awesome pile of high performance computers. Overall, you don't stand a chance of getting anywhere near these machines (unless, of course, they hire you as a research assistant). However, some of their hardware is available for educational use on an allocated basis. Also, you can apply for a grant of computer time, provided you enjoy filling out forms. NCSA has become internationally well-known for its Mosaic software, which allows easy access to the Internet via the World Wide Web. Besides Mosaic, they also have produced several other very useful, if not domain specific, software packages.

What computer tools do I need to know?

The CS department owns and operates many different computers, hence, it is difficult to describe the computing environment of a typical graduate student. Still, there are certain tools that most students will benefit from knowing.

UNIX. A large fraction of machines on campus run some version of the UNIX operating system developed at Bell Laboratories. Even though the different versions are wildly different, they share a common set of tools and a common philosophy of terseness, expressiveness, and counter-intuitiveness. A working knowledge of UNIX will save a lot of time in your programming classes.

E-Mail. You will find many people in the department are easier to reach by electronic mail than by telephone. Unfortunately, the only email provided by the University is web-based client, located at http://express.cites.uiuc.edu.

Newsgroups The CS department has established newsgroups for use within the department and newsgroups are established for most of the classes. Most courses have a newsgroup for questions relating to homework, and there are several newsgroups devoted to commenting and arguing about things going on the department. The webpage describing these newsgroups and how to get access to them is http://tsg.cs.uiuc.edu/services/newsgroups/.

VI or Emacs. You'll need to have facility with some kind of UNIX editor, in order to write electronic mail, debug programs, or post news articles. The two most popular UNIX editors are VI and Emacs (especially GNU Emacs, a version written by the Free Software Foundation). As with Apple Macintosh and IBM PC owners, strong advocates of VI and Emacs should not be placed in small rooms together, as bloodshed will certainly result. So, try both and see which you prefer. VI is arcane, terse, and not programmable, while Emacs is arcane, enormous, and entirely programmable. You are especially encouraged to try out XEmacs, an enhanced version of GNU Emacs which is developed here at the U of I.

Where/how do I have wireless internet access on campus?

The University has begun to make a lot of the buildings on campus available via 802.11 wireless Ethernet. A list of buildings that are wireless, as well as instructions for connecting is available from the CITES website: http://www.cites.uiuc.edu/wireless/ There is also a wireless network in DCL...
that is not managed by CITES. To gain access to this wireless network you must provide a valid (academic) reason for its use. Contact user help@cs.uiuc.edu with questions about DCL wireless access.

If I have other questions, where do I go?

Check out the older version of the guide online first. After that, depending on the type of information you're looking for, there are different places to ask.

The Grad School Fair tells you a lot of random information that you won't even think to ask about (and I think they may serve free lunch). Watch for posters or newspaper ads.

Quad Day is a great time to find out about all of the student organizations on campus. If you have any interest at all, they probably have a club for it. Look for fliers in the Union.

The GEO is the union you belong to as a teaching assistant (TA) or graduate assistant (GA). Research assistants (RA) can ignore them. Their website is http://www.shout.net/~geo/ The CS academic office is a wealth of friendly, knowledgeable people. Frankly, that's where I take all my questions and then they tell me who I should really ask. Finally, the CSGSO is here for you. Send an email to csgsos help@cs.uiuc.edu and ask us anything. And if we don't have the answer, we can at least refer you to the academic office.