

LIVING IN MADISON GUIDE 2025

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GENERAL HOUSING INFORMATION

TYPES OF BUILDINGS

Many rentable housing options in the greater Madison area are double- or triple-deckers or single-family homes (some later divided into apartments), built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. It can be hard to find one-bedroom apartments in areas where this type of housing predominates. Downtown Madison has plenty of apartment buildings, and there are several newer apartment buildings along Washington Avenue and Monroe Street, and near the Hilldale Shopping Center on University Avenue. Depending on your budget, buildings built more recently typically have higher rental costs than the double- or triple-decker and single-family homes located a bit further from downtown Madison.

LEASE DURATION

Most leases in Madison, and especially near campus, extend from August to August. Don't be too surprised if your property management/landlord asks you if you'd like to renew your lease in December/January.

FINDING HOUSING

[Off-Campus Housing Marketplace](#) is a university-run tool that can help you find housing, roommates, and sublets. You can also look on Craigslist, Zillow, Apartments.com, or [Madison Campus and Downtown Apartments](#). Or you can look up individual buildings in which you are interested. If you are apartment hunting from afar, you can also use the Google maps street-view function to "stroll down the street" to look at apartment building exteriors to find buildings. If you are interested in boarding with other La Follette students, consider posting in the La Follette Facebook Group.

[The Graduate School's Housing and Transportation web page](#) is also an excellent resource. The web page provides information regarding campus housing and off-campus housing, tenant rights, and Madison neighborhoods. The webpage also provides information on transportation options.

TENANT RESOURCES

Your landlord is required to provide a safe, healthy home with working heat and plumbing. Your apartment should also have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It should be free from pests. Do not hesitate to seek help if these requirements are not met. [Tenant Resource Center](#) provides a variety of services to renters, awareness of tenant rights, conflict mediation and attorney

references. The City of Madison also offers [resources for tenants](#). You should always Google your prospective landlord before signing a lease.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

Most students live in private housing located off-campus, but the university also offers convenient housing in three neighborhoods: Eagle Heights, University Housing, and Harvey Street Apartments. Eagle Heights and University Housing are great options for students with families, while single students tend to live in Harvey Street Apartments. More information is available on the University Housing [website](#).

MADISON NEIGHBORHOODS

UNDERGRADUATE NEIGHBORHOODS

The shaded areas on the map below indicate where the highest concentration of undergraduates live. These areas tend to be more boisterous and active especially at night and on the weekends. If you prefer a quieter building or neighborhood, we recommend looking at neighborhoods outside of these areas.



MIFFLIN/STATE/LANGDON



This area has a lot of undergraduate housing, but close to campus. Close to many bars and restaurants. Mifflin is popular for social gatherings, State Street connects the Capitol to campus, and Langdon is home to many Greek life houses.

Points of interest

- **Target** - 610 State St
- **Capital Centre Market** - 111 N Broom St.
- **Fresh Madison Market** - 703 University Ave.
- **UW Credit Union** - 662 State St
- **U.S. Bank 389** - E Campus Mall
- **Many restaurants, stores, and cafes**

UNIVERSITY AVE/HILDALE/NEAR WEST



Extends far west of campus but is connected by the main thoroughfare of University Ave. Older rental housing, with several apartment buildings, is abundant along Old University; Hilldale has some new high-rises. This area is near the Hilldale Shopping Center, Target, and Whole Foods. There are fewer bars and restaurants in this area. The university-owned single graduate-student Harvey Street apartments are just off University Ave. There are many buses that run through this area, so it is easy to get to campus.

Points of interest

- **Metcalf's Market** - 726 N Midvale Blvd,
- **Crescendo Espresso Bar** - 719 Hilldale Way
- **Chase Bank** - 758 N. Midvale Blvd
- **Hilldale Shopping Center** - 726 N Midvale Blvd

The map displays the following locations and features:

- Neighborhoods:** Shorewood Hills, Regent, DUDDEON-MONROE, GREENBUSH, STATE-LANGDON, DOWNTOWN, MARQUETTE, TENNEY-LAPHAM, EMERSON EAST, NEAR EAST SIDE, NEAR WEST SIDE.
- Parks and Green Spaces:** Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Baker's Recreation & Wellbeing Center, Camp Randall Stadium, Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Winnequah Park - Dream Park, Tenney Park, Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara.
- Landmarks and Institutions:** University of Wisconsin, Capitol, Henry Vilas Zoo, The Edgewater, The Sylvio.
- Water Bodies:** Lake Monona, Monona Bay, Picnic Point.
- Streets:** HOLLAND AVE, SWEDEMAN RD, WINNEBAGO ST, JOHN WALKER DR.

MONROE/GREENBUSH

This neighborhood is just south of campus and consists of many old houses with a few apartment buildings. The proportion of undergraduates decreases as you go further south. It is a short walk to campus.

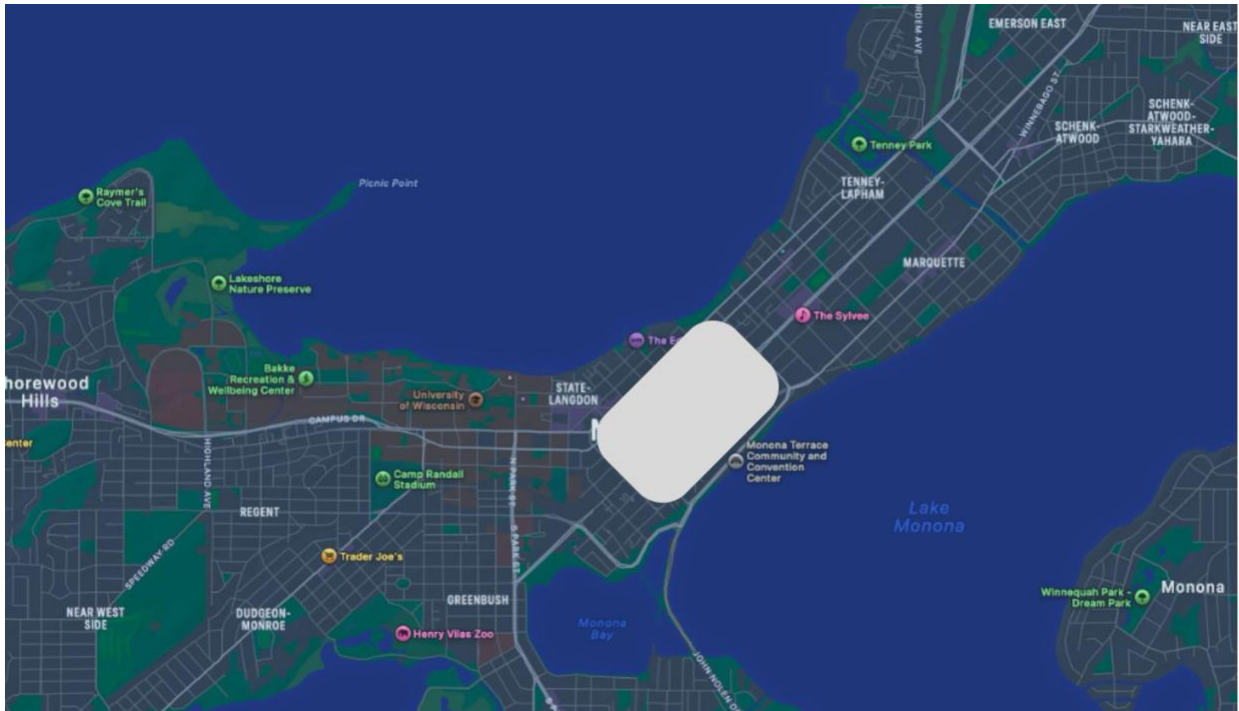


Points of interest

- **Leopold's Books Bar Cafe**- 1301 Regent St.
- **Regent Mart & Cafe, (Indian)** 1401 Regent St,
- **Barriques** – Monroe St - 1825 Monroe St
- **Colectivo Coffee**– Monroe St - 2530 Monroe St
- **Trader Joe's** - 1810 Monroe St
- **Henry Vilas Zoo and Park** - 702 S Randall Ave
- **Camp Randall UW-Madison Football Stadium** - 1440 Monroe S
- **UnityPoint Health Meriter Hospital** - 202 S Park St
- **SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital** – Madison - 700 S. Brooks St
- **UW Health – West Clinic** - 451 Junction Rd.

CAPITOL SQUARE

The Capitol Square neighborhood offers many amenities within walking distance of the Wisconsin State Capitol. This area is home to high rise apartments, government buildings, banks, and is a hub for nightlife in the city.



Points of interest

- **Chase Bank** – 1 S Pinckney St
- **Associated Bank** – 10 W Mifflin St
- **BMO Harris Bank** – 1 W Main St
- **U.S. Bank** – 1 S Pinckney St
- **UW Credit Union** – 44 E Mifflin St
- **Michelangelo's Coffee House** - 114 State St.
- **Wonderstate Coffee** - 27 W Main St.
- **Collectivo Coffee (Square Location)** - 25 S Pinckney St
- **Ancora Cafe + Bakery** - 107 King St.
- **Barriques Coffee Traders** - 127 W Washington

JAMES MADISON PARK / OLD MARKET PLACE



The James Madison Park neighborhood is near the beautiful James Madison Park. Many graduate students and young professionals live in this area and it has direct access to the D and 28 Bus Routes along Gorham St. and Johnson St. This quiet neighborhood offers plenty of greenspace for events, basketball and volleyball courts, and direct access to Lake Mendota.

Points of interest

- **Festival Foods Grocery Store** - 810 E. Washington Avenue
- **Madison Food Mart** - 902 E Johnson St.
- **Cargo Coffee** - 750 E Washington Avenue
- **Bradbury's** - 127 N Hamilton St
- **Breeze Stevens Field** - 917 E Mifflin
- **James Madison Park** - 614 E Gorham St.

WILLIAMSON-MARQUETTE



A long walk from campus, but accessible by the 38 and C routes or the Capital City and Isthmus bike paths. This area has a lot of old Victorians and a handful of apartment buildings. Willy Street has a lot of bars that are generally free from undergrads, as well as restaurants, and retail.

Points of Interest

- **Lazy Jane's Cafe and Bakery** - 1358 Williamson St
- **Willy Street Co-op** - 1221 Williamson St
- **I/O Arcade Bar** - 924 Williamson St
- **Madison Sourdough** - 916 Williamson St
- **St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store** - 1309 Williamson St, Madison

SCHENK-ATWOOD-STARKWEATHER-YAHARA (SASY)



Located on the near-east side of Madison just past Willy St. It stretches from the Yahara River on the west to the Starkweather Creek on the east and is made up of small family homes to split unit apartments serviced by the same lines and bike routes as Willy St.

Points of Interest

- **Jenifer Street Market** - 2038 Jenifer St
- **Olbrich Park** - 3527 Atwood Ave
- **Olbrich Botanical Garden** - 3330 Atwood Ave
- **Garver Feed Mill** - 3241 Garver Green
- **A Room of One's Own Bookstore** - 2717 Atwood Ave
- **Forward Craft & Coffee Co.** - 2166 Atwood Ave

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL GROCERY STORES

- **Asian Midway Foods – 301 S Park St.** - A large selection of East and Southeast Asian ingredients, fresh produce fish, meat, sauces, and frozen goods.
- **Oriental Shop – 1029 S Park St.** - Specializes in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean pantry items.
- **Yue-Wah Oriental Foods – 2328 S Park St.** - Popular for Chinese groceries, sauces, and fresh vegetables.
- **Regent Mart & Café** - 1401 Regent St, - Complete Indian grocery store.
- **Bombay Bazar** - 753 S Gammon Rd, - Grocery store supplying a wide range of Indian and Pakistani foodstuffs.
- **Jenifer Street Market** – 2038 Jenifer St. - Local grocery with imported cheeses, wines, and specialty products.
- **International Market** – 4261 Lien Rd Suite Q, - Grocery store stocking Asian, African, and Indian products.
- **Fresh Mart (Halal)** – 3313 University Ave, - Grocery store with American and international products, a bakery, and a coffee shop.
- **Istanbul Market and Café, Bakery (Halal)** – 745 S Gammon Rd, - Halal international cuisine and groceries.
- **African & American Store** – 2750 E Johnson St, Humble shop featuring African-style clothing & fabrics, plus grocery items & accessories.
- **La Hispana** – 3060 Fish Hatchery Rd. - Mexican and Latin American groceries.
- **Gooh Grocery** - 3554 E Washington Ave, American staples as well as harder-to-find East Asian and West African foods
- **Global Market & Food Hall** - 2161 Zeier Rd, large, diverse Asian-centric grocery store with an adjoined food court of local eateries.
- **InterMarket** - 5317 Old Middleton Rd, import specialty grocery featuring mostly packaged foods from Eastern Europe and Russia.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS) & CAMPUS RESOURCES

- **International Student Service (ISS)** - 702 Langdon St, Suite 130 <https://iss.wisc.edu/>
- **Multicultural Student Center** - 716 Landon St, Red Gym, Second Floor. <https://msc.wisc.edu/>
- **English as a Second Language** - 5134 Helen C White Hall, 600 North Park St. <https://esl.wisc.edu/>
- **SuccessWork** - 711 State St, Suite 300. <https://successworks.wisc.edu/>
- **The Writing Center** - 6171 Helen C White Hall, 600 North Park St. <https://writing.wisc.edu/>

HOSPITAL AND DOCTORS

Madison is serviced by two main health networks; SSM Health and UW Health. UW Hospital is located to the west of campus, along University Avenue and accessible by public transportation. The UW Hospital address is 600 Highland Ave, Madison, WI 53792.

UW also owns Meriter which may be more easily accessible as it's just south of campus on Park St. The Meriter hospital address is 202 S Park St, Madison, WI 53715. Consult your insurance provider or the University to refer you to the provider network to avoid out-of-network cost.



BANKING

If you're looking for a Madison bank, UW Credit Union has the best branch service, with several locations near campus. Use LSSA's referral code (7B65B37C33) when setting up your account and you and LSSA will both get \$50.

TRANSPORTATION

Check Google maps to see how long it would take to bus/bike/walk/drive from a neighborhood or prospective apartment to campus or other important locations (bars, grocery stores, coffee shops, jobs).

As noted above, the [Graduate School's Housing and Transportation webpage](#) has a variety of information on transportation. The website includes information on Madison Metro Transit, the Accessible Circulator Shuttle, bicycles, cars and parking, mopeds and scooters, walking, and traveling outside of Madison.

CAR OWNERSHIP

Car ownership is definitely not necessary to enjoy living in Madison as there are numerous different modes of transportation available. Some La Follette students own cars while others do not.

PARKING

Parking can be expensive downtown. If your property owner does not offer parking, you can find a spot from city garages, private garages, or on Craigslist. On-street parking can be a cheaper option if you are not downtown; however, this may require a parking permit. The University offers a variety of parking options students can purchase. More information can be found on their [website](#).

BUSES

Every UW–Madison student, including La Follette Students, are provided with a free bus pass that allows for unlimited rides. This pass is provided by Associated Students of Madison (ASM) and paid for by segregated fees paid by each student with their tuition. Graduate students who delay payment of segregated fees are eligible for a student bus pass, even if the segregated fee isn't paid yet. Fall bus pass pick up begins August 18 at Gordon Dining or Kronshage Hall. Click here to find how to claim your bus pass. [Click here for more information](#).

Madison's new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a new transportation route that offers transportation to UW-students across the isthmus and toward the south of the city. These buses have

dedicated covered stations, dedicated lanes, and offer frequent stops (every 10-15 minutes during peak times). Key stops on campus include East Campus Mall, Nicholas Recreation Center, and Engineering Hall. Click here to view the BRT Routes. The A Route transports students from the East Side to the West Side and the B Route cuts through the East Side down South to Fitchburg. [Click here to view the BRT routes.](#)

UW-Madison students can utilize other bus routes including the D and 28 Routes that run through campus via University Avenue, the C Route to reach the UW-Hospital, R to reach the Capitol and many others. [Click here to view all of the Madison Metro Bus Routes.](#) The 80, 81, 82, and 84 routes cross campus and are free to UW students without a bus pass. Google and Apple Maps allow students to view the closest bus routes.

GETTING TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT

The Dane County Regional Airport is to the north of the Isthmus about 15 minutes from the Capitol. One of the most expensive airports in the country, but expanding to service more cities hopefully for less. Security is often shorter than many other larger airports, with the busiest times being 6am flights, Monday afternoons, and Thursday evenings.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Route D(2) runs between the Dane County Regional Airport thirty minutes during weekdays, and hourly weeknights, weekends and holidays. For service from the Airport to downtown Madison or the UW campus area, passengers should board buses reading "D2 – MCKEE" and can make transfers with other routes to provide service elsewhere in Madison. Ride shares and taxis are easy to book with there being one primary terminal.

BADGER BUS

Badger Bus offers daily routes between Madison and Milwaukee, where you can often find cheaper and more direct flights. You can view their schedule and [buy tickets online.](#)

COACH USA/VAN GALDER BUS

Another bus line that services from campus to Chicago O'Hare Airport. See the schedule and [buy tickets online.](#)