

FOOD FRENZY

A Student Perspective

One of my favorite things about USI is the diverse selection of food options we offer. Our Loft has several eateries, including Chinese, Italian, and home-style American. The Loft also includes a salad bar, grill, desert table, and pre-made, hot-and-ready pizza buffet. Especially for those living on campus, there are breakfast, lunch, and dinner options in addition to the weekend brunches. There are also vegetarian options and Sodexo, USI's food provider, can cater to individual and cultural preferences.

Personally, my favorite selections at the Loft are the Texas Toast Burger and USI's pizza. The Texas Toast Burger is essentially a hamburger made on toast (which is essentially grilled bread) that is topped with a slice of American cheese, a burger patty, and a fried egg. I first tried it my freshman year thinking I would not like it, but it is surprisingly amazing!

In addition, the Loft and the Community Center also offer a large variety of different pizzas. The Loft has a more traditional selection (such as sausage and pepperoni, supreme, plain cheese, etc.), but the Community Center offers more specialized options (i.e. chicken bacon ranch, buffalo chicken, etc.). Side items such as breadsticks, cheesy bread, and wings are also available. This is in addition to the sizable selection of groceries and drinks the Community Center keeps in stock.



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Sodexo also operates USI's SubConnection, Cyclone Salads, and Fiesta Fuego. SubConnection is essentially a sandwich shop that creates personalized wraps and sandwiches. They also sell bags of chips, cookies, and drinks. Cyclone Salads also offers sandwich options, baked potatoes, personalized salads, and a fruit bar. Fiesta Fuego is a Tex Mex eatery that offers quesadillas, tacos, burritos, and a number of other tasty food items. Other dining options also include Americanized fast-food such as Chick-fil-a and Steak 'n Shake, as well as USI's Simply To Go and Red Mango, a smoothie/snack stop.

Outside of USI's campus, Evansville itself also offers a large variety of food selections. There are several places in the local area to order pizza, such as Azzip's and Papa John's, as well as pick up fast food. A local and historical Evansville favorite, J.D. Ritzy's offers classical hamburgers, chilli, chicken tenders, and homemade famous ice cream. There are also multiple restaurants on the West side (where USI's campus is located) in addition to shopping options.

Another one of Evansville's most iconic eating traditions is our local Fall Festival. Taking place during the first week of October, this is essentially a week-long event where the community gathers to raise money for local charities and eat deep-fried foods. Other fun local Evansville eating selections are local food markets and a newly-started food truck festival. For German students, a local favorite is the Gerst Haus, an authentic Evansville original located on Franklin Street. Evansville also offers several Mexican, Italian, Indian, Chinese, and Japanese options. Lastly, there are also several classic American-style restaurants and, of course, fast food outlets.

