

# Lexington Food and Activities Guide

Compiled by Math Graduate Students

(updated Spring 2025)

## Local to POT

The following are recommendations that are close (within walking distance) to Patterson Office Tower.

### Food

- Local Taco
- GirlsGirlsGirls Burritos
- El Mariachi
- Han Woo Ri
- Okome Grill - DIY Asian Bowls. Have both gluten free and vegan options available!

### Coffee and Desserts

- A Cup of Commonwealth
- Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii
- Starbucks - Located in the Student Center.
- Old School Coffee - A bit of a walk from POT but worth it for the coffee.
- Chaotic Good - Part coffeehouse, part board game central. Come here as a place to unwind with some friends, grab a drink and play a board game before you go back to work.
- The Peach Cobbler Factory

# Places around Lexington

The following are places around Lexington that the department has recommended.

## American Cuisine

- Kentucky Native - Immaculate vibes. Restaurant inside a greenhouse. Small plates and brewery.
- Dad's Favorite Deli. - A very popular sandwich stop, but is only open during lunch hours on weekdays.
- Honeywood - Dedicated to using as much locally-grown meat and produce as possible.
- Windy Corner Market - Both a restaurant and a market where you can find delicious locally sourced products.
- Beau's Cafe - A popular spot for breakfast, brunch, and lunch, known for its fresh, healthy options and cozy atmosphere.
- Lockbox - Fresh, farm-to-table options with a rotating seasonal menu.
- Jack Brown's - A burger joint with a passion for craft beer.
- Bella Cafe and Grill - Elevated everyday favorites.
- Doodles - Comfort food with a conscience.
- Sedona Taphouse - American cuisine with a Southwest inspiration. A good gluten free option.
- Bear and the Butcher - Premium steakhouse meets timeless speakeasy.

## Asian Cuisine

- Tachibana - An authentic Japanese restaurant whose goal is to enhance your enjoyment through the five senses.
  - A quote from a graduate student: "Probably the best Japanese (and in general Asian) food in Lexington. It is a bit pricey, but it is very good."
- Sumo Hibachi & Sushi - Offers an extensive selection of dishes that includes all-time favorites like sushi, sashimi, hand rolls, and other Japanese food items.
- Ume Ramen - Casual eatery specializing in ramen and other Japanese dishes, with vegetarian options.

## BBQ

- Red State BBQ - An award-winning BBQ restaurant.
- County Club Restaurant - An upscale BBQ restaurant that refuses to stick to the script.

## Cajun Cuisine

- Bourbon N' Toulouse - Good food at a great price! Has good gluten free and vegan options available.

**Italian Cuisine/Pizza**

- Bella Notte - A local Italian restaurant with similar prices to Olive Garden but much better quality.
- Pies and Pints - Great pizza and great beer. A popular destination for some Math Department events.
- Goodfellas - New York style pizza. Can get pizza by the slice or an entire pie (they sell very large pies). They also have extra-long breadsticks.
- Pearl's - Wood fired pizza.
- Puccini's - A good gluten free pizza option.

**Mexican/Latin Cuisine**

- Cinco de Mayo - Authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex cuisine in a warm and inviting atmosphere.
- Corto Lima - A modern take on Latin American cuisine, including cuisine from Mexico, The Caribbean, Central and South America, and the American Southwest.
- Agave and Rye - One-of-a-kind tacos and margaritas.

**Seafood**

- Smithtown Seafood - Traditional and modern seafood dishes with an emphasis on local ingredients.

**Thai Cuisine**

- Osha Thai - Authentic Thai cuisine with a bar. Includes many vegan options.
- Taste of Thai - Casual restaurant offering Thai specialties.

**Ice Cream Spots**

- Graeter's Ice Cream
- Crank & Boom - Both locations are great, although the Distillery District is a pretty unique spot in Lexington.

# Activities

These are some activities that people in the department enjoy doing while they are not doing math.

## UK Events

- Basketball Games at Rupp Arena
- Football Games at Kroger Field
- UK intramurals

## Entertainment

- Bear and the Butcher - trivia on Tuesdays
- GirlsGirlsGirls Burritos - karaoke
- Trivia - there's at least one happening somewhere every night
- Keeneland Races - even if you do not particularly like horse races, there is morning practice sessions where you can see the horses jog along the tracks
  - This is very popular with families with young kids
- The Burl - old arcade games
- Tee Dee's Lounge - blues music lounge that is only open Mondays
- Constitution - speakeasy
- Art Gallery at 21c Hotel - it's free!
- Woodland Arts Festival (fall)
- Movies at the Kentucky theater
- Quaker meetings

## Outdoors

- Walking around the UK Arboretum
- Hiking at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary - a great place for bird watching
- Hiking at Red River Gorge
- Lexington Cemetery
- Public Parks - one specific park recommended is Woodland Park

## Cute Stores/Thrifting

- Uptown Cheapskate
- the Domestic
- Street Scene
- Poppy and Pomelo
- Friends Cellar - Used bookstore under the Lexington Public Library