

# Lexington Food and Activities

## Compiled by Math Graduate Students

(updated June 2019)

### Food/Coffee by POT

- Coffea**: This is a coffee/tea shop right by POT which is very popular in the math department for meeting to talk math or to stretch your legs during a coffee break.
- Local Taco**: This is a popular location for lunch within the department. It can get pretty busy, but the food is really good. The buffalo chicken quesadilla and southern fried chicken tacos are common favorites. As for portions, you might want to get a couple of tacos with a side or three tacos because they are individually small.
- Ginger and Wasabi**: They have really inexpensive sushi and other Japanese cuisine that is good for the price. Plus, at least for now, they deliver to POT.
- Tolly Ho**: It's open 24 hours for the late night studiers/adventurers.
- Mellow Mushroom**: This pizza place will sometimes have special offers for students, so keep an eye out!

### Food/Coffee around Lexington

Year-Round:

- Bourbon n' Toulouse**: This creole restaurant is a good price and has nice vegetarian and vegan options in addition to dishes with meat. Their bread has a slightly spicy butter sauce on it which you should order extra of with your meal, for sure.
- Bella Notte**: This place has really great Italian food and a revolving seasonal menu. Prices are near Olive Garden level, but the food is way better! They're almost always busy, but if you can get a reservation, it's totally worth it. Would also be a great place to go when family or friends come to visit.
- Cook Out**: This place is open 24 hours for late night snacks.
- Crank & Boom**: Best Ice Cream ever (besides "Homemade" brand ice cream from Kroger).
- Blue Door Smokehouse**: Excellent small BBQ joint open for lunch and for takeout.
- Pies and Pints**: Great pizza and great beer. Another popular destination in the math department.
- Bella Forno**
- Chocolate Holler**: Hot chocolate place -- get the sipping chocolate. Espresso can also be added to most any of their drinks.
- Graeter's Ice Cream**
- Josie's**
- Good Fellas**
- Broomwagon Bikes**
- Cup of Commonwealth**
- The Roastery**
- Drake's**

Seasonal:

- Burger week (7/8-7/14)**: Local restaurants create featured burgers for only \$5 and sell them all this week. This can be a good way of checking out some new areas in Lexington and finding a nice hangout restaurant. More info can be found [here](#)

<https://www.lexingtonburgerweek.com/<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lexingtonburgerweek.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7CAngela.Hanson%40uky.edu%7Ce4e4b52ab3e04ddb88d308d5e5c9d54c%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C1%7C636667577391777707&sdata=qunW43FDH4kCRRdml%2BQc6O32pPi4fGyVDmfn7lyUzIE%3D&reserved=0>>

-**Kentucky Native Cafe** (spring to fall):this place is an outdoor cafe/beer garden and a very relaxed, family friendly place, and a little jewel in the middle of Lexington. <https://www.michlers.com/pages/cafe>

## Bars

-**Whiskey Bear**: If you like Kentucky whiskey, this is a nice place to try a variety of options away from the college scene.

-**The Burl and The Burl Arcade**: The Burl is a rad venue for live music, and just across the parking lot is their sister arcade bar The Burl Arcade.

-**The Beer Trappe**: A bar dedicated to craft beer of many styles, both foreign and domestic.

-**Arcadium**: Another arcade bar known for having a great taplist and drinks. It has fewer arcade games than The Burl Arcade, however.

-**McCarthy's**

-**Best Friend Bar**

## Breweries

-**Country Boy**: This local brewery is within walking distance of POT and is popular among the grad students -- it's not hard to get a group to go. Has a variety of beers on tap.

-**Ethereal**: This brewery is in the distillery district and focuses on Belgian styles of beer. Great outdoor seating area if the weather is nice.

-**Mirror Twin**: In addition to great beer, this is one of the few breweries in Lexington that serves mixed drinks as well (in one of their two buildings right across from each other).

-**Fusion Brewing**: The newest brewery in town, also in the distillery district. A varied selection and plenty of seating.

-**Rock House**: Usually more quiet, has a nice cozy atmosphere and good beer. Usually <10 beers on tap.

-**Pivot**

-**Blue Stallion**

-**West Sixth**: Very industrial (stainless steel seating and tables). There's a fish place next door.

## Activities

-**Thursday night live**: Every Thursday there is a live concert downtown at the Cheapside Pavilion on Main st. There is live music, food trucks, and sometimes art exhibits. Admission is free but obviously food and drink is expensive.

-**The Night market**: Every first Friday of the month. The "Kentucky for Kentucky" group takes over a block on North-limestone rd and host local artists, antique shops, food trucks, crafts stores, performers, and live music! I usually try to go to each of these if at all possible.

-**Music in the park**: Pretty self explanatory, free music in the park.

-**Red River Gorge**: This is part of a National park around an hour from here and is a massive beautiful area. There are dozens of trails and all of them are beautiful. Some of them can be more difficult than

others so be sure to read some online reviews.

(<http://www.redriversgorge.com/><<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.redriversgorge.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7CAngela.Hanson%40uky.edu%7Ce4e4b52ab3e04ddb88d308d5e5c9d54c%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C1%7C636667577391797719&sdata=p5VLX2oyELG2dt8mhnqWVa0xZlCn%2FiATgR7lXbUw0fU%3D&reserved=0>>)

**-Hiking:** Kentucky has a lot of awesome parks for you to hiking, best part is that they are all free. These can be found by just searching for hiking trails in Lexington. Some favorites are Raven Run and Jessamine Creek Gorge.

**-Eckert's Orchard:** In each season, this orchard just outside of Lexington has different produce you can pick yourself and buy. In the summer, they have strawberries, and in the fall there are pumpkins and apples. <https://www.eckerts.com/versailles>

**-Lexington Cemetery:** I know it sounds depressing... but it is a pretty beautiful place to see. They often have flower displays that are amazing and it is always fun to check out some old monuments and gravestones.

**-Fountain Films on Friday:** Free movies shown downtown at Triangle park

<http://www.downtownlex.com/fountain-films-on-friday/><<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.downtownlex.com%2Ffountain-films-on-friday%2F&data=02%7C01%7CAngela.Hanson%40uky.edu%7Ce4e4b52ab3e04ddb88d308d5e5c9d54c%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C1%7C636667577391797719&sdata=jH5T8Ldt55UZCVHj3%2BMycHD9k0vyBxNrbuHUGeIrh8c%3D&reserved=0>>.

**-Gatton Student Center Cinema:** During the school year, there are free viewings of movies for students. These are a mix of movies from our childhood to new releases (out of theatres). You can bring your own snacks if you want or a blanket and cozy up for a good movie. They typically show two a night Thursdays through Saturdays. You can look up the showings in advance or just go and see what's playing.

<https://www.uky.edu/gattonstudentcenter/student-center-cinema>

**-Horse's Mouth Storytelling Night:** One Sunday each month a storytelling night is hosted at West Sixth Brewing. Each month they choose a particular topic and six people tell true ten-minute stories related to the theme. It's a free event, but you can enjoy drinks from West Sixth or food from Smittown Seafood if you want. I believe it is generally held the third or fourth Sunday of each month, but you can follow their facebook or instagram pages to keep up with the specific dates, times, and themes.

**-UK intramurals and club sports:** Several students in the department have wanted to stay involved in athletics or just start up a sport that they can use as a way to stay active and healthy both mentally and physically while in grad school. Some students have participated in and had leadership roles on the Ultimate Frisbee Team and Running Club. Try them out! Last year, we had two of our grad students become NIRCA (National Intercollegiate Running Club Association) All-Americans!

**-Bluegrass Classic Stockdog Trial:** In mid-May each year, Lexington host sheep dog trials where you can watch sheep be sheared, dogs herding sheep, and other fun activities involving sheep and dogs. If you have a dog, you can bring it with you to watch the trials and socialize with other dogs. There are bleachers for seating, but is better to bring lawn chairs and sit under the tents. The trees are shaded, but then you have bird droppings to deal with. If you check the schedule, one of the days usually has funny supplementary commentary which livens up the events. <https://www.bluegrassclassicsdt.com/>