

College Life in Auburn

A student's guide to Auburn University

AUBURN, ALABAMA

Auburn is a college town in the truest sense — with roughly 30,000+ students and a city population near 80,600, Auburn University shapes nearly everything about daily life here, from the economy to the weekend calendar.

Quick Facts

University	Auburn University — SEC, Division I FBS
Enrollment	About 34,195 total students
City population	Approximately 80,600
Nickname / colors	Tigers — burnt orange & navy blue; “War Eagle”

Housing & Cost of Living

Many students move off campus after freshman or sophomore year for more independence and lower cost. One-bedroom apartments near campus typically run \$800–\$1,300/month, while shared two- and three-bedroom units bring per-person cost down to \$500–\$850. Some options start under \$600/month with utilities included.

- Historic District, Tiger Town, and Shanes Park are popular student neighborhoods
- Magnolia Avenue, Donahue Drive, and South College Street are the closest streets to campus
- Off-campus housing here is built around student life — it’s the norm, not the exception

Getting Around

Auburn is genuinely walkable. Downtown nightlife concentrates around College Street and Magnolia Avenue, close enough that a full night out rarely requires a car. A car is still useful for groceries, errands, and weekend trips, but day-to-day campus and downtown life doesn’t demand one.

Food & Nightlife

Downtown Auburn is the city’s eating, nightlife, and live-entertainment hub, and bar-hopping is easy thanks to how compact it is. SkyBar Cafe is a favorite for its rooftop, live music, and karaoke nights. For food, students gravitate toward The Hound, Acre, Little Italy, and Hamilton’s on Magnolia for steak and seafood; Coffee Cat, Toomer’s Coffee, and Mama Mocha’s are the go-to study spots.

Things to Do

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Toomer's Corner — where fans roll the trees in toilet paper after a win — is Auburn's most iconic tradition and dates back to the 1890s. Chewacla State Park, just minutes from downtown, offers hiking trails and waterfalls for a quick outdoor break, and Lake Martin is a short drive for a full day out. Throughout the year, Auburn hosts SummerNight Downtown Art Walk, Auburn CityFest, Cheers on the Corner, and a seasonal Downtown Farmers' Market.

Staying Safe

Auburn's compact, walkable downtown generally means a lot of foot traffic and street activity even at night, which many students find reassuring. As with any campus, it's worth checking current safety resources and alerts directly through Auburn University's Department of Campus Safety and Security rather than relying on hearsay.

Questions Students & Parents Ask

How far is Auburn from Birmingham?

About 115 miles, roughly a 1 hour 45 minute drive.

What airport is closest to Auburn?

Auburn University Regional Airport handles general aviation only. For commercial flights, Columbus Metropolitan Airport (CSG) in Georgia is closest (about 32 miles) with limited service; most families fly into Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson (about 110 miles) for more options.

Do I need a car in Auburn?

Not for daily campus and downtown life — it's walkable — but a car helps for groceries, errands, and day trips.

Looking at a home or investment property near Auburn's campus? I work with families across Alabama's college towns and I'm happy to help you get oriented.