

Best Food and Activities near SMU (according to 2014 Daily campus)

Best BBQ – Peggy Sue’s

6600 Snider Plaza, Dallas Texas, 75205

The place to try the most authentic Texan BBQ cuisine, within a 5-minute walk from the SMU Department of Physics. A homey barbecue joint serving Southern smoked meats (brisket, sausage, ham, turkey, pulled pork) & sides (beans, okra, coleslaw, etc.). Finish with a totally addictive hot peach cobbler with ice cream or fried pies for a dessert. <http://www.peggysuebbq.com/>

Best Breakfast – Café Brazil’

6420 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75205

Open 24 hours with a full menu always available, Café Brazil is renowned for having one of the best, biggest, and wallet-friendly breakfasts around. Whether breakfast comes more often as a late night meal or at normal brunch hour is inconclusive, but regardless, the make-your-own pancakes are a must-try.

Best Burger – Twisted Root

5609 SMU Blvd #102, Dallas, TX 75206

Twisted Root not only has great burgers but when you stop you can get a celebrity name! Featured on the hit Food Network series “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives,” Twisted Root is a celebrity itself.

Best California-style seafood sandwiches – Dive Coastal Cuisine

3404 Rankin St, Dallas, TX 75205

Best Chicken – Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers

5030 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75206

Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers is a regional fast food chain that has only bounced onto the scene within the past ten years. However, that hasn’t stopped this chicken finger powerhouse from constantly luring in customers. From their unique Cane’s sauce to their warm, buttery Texas toast this chicken joint is impossible to turn down for a quick chicken fix.

Best Chinese Food – P.F. Chang’s

8687 North Central Expressway #225

Dallas, TX 75225

Best Coffee – Starbucks on Hillcrest Avenue and Coffee Shop in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center

Best Cupcakes and Dessert– Sprinkles Cupcakes and Ice Cream

Plaza At Preston Center, 4020 Villanova St, Dallas, TX 75225

Sprinkles Cupcakes, located in the Plaza at Preston Center, serves freshly baked cupcakes daily. Sprinkles has a variety of flavors from the traditional red velvet to the more unique salty caramel. The store even offers gluten-free cupcakes. The flavors vary by day, but one thing stays constant: the cupcakes are always fresh, moist and delicious. Unique ice cream flavors sandwiched between two cupcake halves provide an out of this world experience for any sugar lover with a particularly large sweet tooth.

Best Donuts – Mustang Donuts

6601 Hillcrest Ave, Dallas, TX 75205

Mustang Donuts may only be open from 5 a.m. to noon, but it is worth waking up for. This historic donut shop has been serving breakfast to SMU students since 1983! But be sure to take cash and try the blueberry donut.

Best Frozen Yogurts – Yumilicious and I Heart Yogurt

6627 Snider Plaza, Dallas, TX 75205 (Yumilicious)

Inwood Village, 5450 W Lovers Ln, Dallas, TX 75209 (I Heart Yogurt)

Best Italian Food – Patrizio’s

Highland Park Village, 25 Highland Park Village, Dallas, TX 75205

Best Food Truck- Ruthie’s Rolling Café

Ruthie’s Rolling Café (location varies) can be found out by the flag pole on most Thursdays and in various locations in Dallas. Ruthie’s offers the best build your own grilled cheese in Texas!

Best Quick Food (15 minutes or less) – Einstein Bagels

Student Center

Best Lunch Deals – Chik-Fil-A and Jimmy John’s

6411 Hillcrest Avenue, Dallas, TX 75205

Jimmy John’s really serves your sub so fast you’ll freak. With a large menu and a delivery service, Jimmy John’s offers the meal deals for the student on the go.

Best Mexican Food – Mi Cocina

Highland Park Village, 77 Highland Park Village, Dallas, TX 75205

Best Pizza – Olivella’s

Hillcrest Village, 3406 McFarlin Blvd, Dallas, TX 75205

Olivella’s has some of the best pizza available in Dallas, and has even been recognized by USA Today as the best pizza in Texas. Tucked away in a corner of Snider Plaza, Olivella’s has an exceptional selection of artisan pizzas and specialty toppings. With selections like pancetta, prosciutto, fried eggs, truffle oil and even the juniper-flavored cured ham called speck, the crispy, thin crust pizzas here are

always unique and delectable.

Best Salad – Eatzi’s

Pavilion On Lovers Lane, 5600 W Lovers Ln #136, Dallas, TX 75209

Best Sandwich – East Hampton Sandwiches

6912 Snider Plaza, Dallas, TX 75205

Best Seafood – Pappadeaux’s

3520 Oak Lawn Ave, Dallas, TX 75219

Best Steak – Nick & Sam’s

3008 Maple Ave, Dallas, TX 75201

Nick and Sam’s is arguably the most famous Dallas steak house...and with good reason! The wait staff is renowned for their attentive service and explanation of each item on the menu with detail. It’s a great spot to take your family and friends to ‘wow’ them with a fine dining experience of Dallas’ finest cuisine.

Best Sushi – Sushi Kyoto

6429 Hillcrest Ave, Dallas, TX 75205

Sushi Kyoto (6429 Hillcrest Ave, Dallas, TX 75205) is located directly across the street from the SMU campus, and offers a full menu of reasonably priced sushi options and classic Japanese cuisine. Saki bombing is a popular attraction for students prior to going out, and even on weeknights the restaurant is rarely empty. SMU senior Chloe Carabasi describes Sushi Kyoto as “a good way to satisfy your sushi craving quickly and efficiently.”

Best Tacos – Torchy’s Tacos

Torchy's Tacos, SMU Boulevard, Dallas, Texas

Torchy’s “Damn Good” Tacos began with a food trailer and a red vespa scooter. After maxed out credit cards and a mortgaged house, Torchy’s made its home in Austin, Texas in 2006. Now it serves many taco lovers across the Texas and the Dallas Metroplex. Menu choices include Mexican-style or Tex-Mex tacos for no more than \$10, but their specialty is the Torchy’s Diablo Hot Sauce.

Best Thai Food – Royal Thai Palace

Old Town In the Village, 5500 Greenville Ave #608, Dallas, TX 75206

Best Vegetarian Food - Zoe’s Kitchen

5710 W Lovers Ln, Dallas, TX 75209

Best Grocery Store – Central Market at Lover’s Lane and Greenville

5750 E Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75206

Central Market has a way of making the grocery shopping experience feel trendy, fun, glamorous and even wholesome. In other words, it’s anything but ordinary. Their selections range from exotic European chocolates to local Texas grown grapefruits. The deli has been reviewed as equating “perfection.” The organic selection will make your jaw drop and may even leave you scratching your head with fruits and spices you never knew existed.

Best Beer Selection – World of Beer

5600 SMU Blvd #101 Dallas, TX, 75206

World of Beer first opened on December 11, 2012. With over 400 different types of beer available World of Beer is truly a unique experience every time you go.

Best Margarita – Bandito’s

6615 Snider Plaza, Dallas, TX 75205

Bandito’s has long been an SMU hotspot, largely due to its margarita. The classic is popular but it’s hard to miss the pink sangria swirl in the “Ethyl Margarita,” which boasts a two-drink limit. The popular “Mama Grande” includes an upside-down Coronita in its fishbowl glass.

Best Movie Theaters: Angelika Film Center AMC at Northpark Center

Mockingbird Station, 5321 E Mockingbird Ln #230, Dallas, TX 75206 (Angelika)

8687 N Central Expy #3000, Dallas, TX 75225 (Northpark)

Angelika is an upscale theater showing critically appraised, independent, and art films. It offers upscale sandwiches, pastries, beer & wine, and is surrounded by terrific restaurants and shops.

Best Place to Go Jogging/Walking – Katy Trail

The Katy Trail is a 3.5-mile trail that runs from SMU’s campus through Uptown and Oak Lawn and ends at the American Airlines Center. It has a concrete path for bikers and pedestrians and a rubberized running path. Many students take advantage of the secluded path that runs through our beautiful city. To enter, take Airline Road south from Mockingbird Lane for four residential blocks.