

Guide to Study Spots at UNT

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Contents

Introduction	v
Method	1
Results	3
Art Building.....	4
Auditorium Building.....	4
Business Leadership Building	4
Chilton Hall	4
Environmental Science Building.....	4
Life Sciences Complex Building.....	4
Matthews Hall	4
Radio, TV, Film & Performing Arts Building	5
Sage Hall.....	5
Sycamore Hall	5
Terrill Hall	5
Willis Library.....	5
Wooten Hall	5
Conclusion & Recommendation	7
Conclusion	7
Recommendation.....	7

Introduction

Finding a suitable spot on campus to study can be quite the challenge. There are many factors that go into finding the right spot. There has to be access to outlets for electronics, access to refreshments, and the noise level and crowding has to be at a bare minimum. Our team went out to investigate and rate the best study areas on the University of North Texas' campus. We decided to investigate the areas in the afternoon which is considered to be the busiest time on campus.

Method

We determined the best place to study through five factors rated on a scale of 1-10. Noise level, outlet access, crowding, access to refreshments, and overall quality. We felt these five factors are very important to any student who needs a place to sit down and study or work on class assignments.

Noise level – Noise level can be pretty important when trying to get school work done. It's not possible to get any work done if you can't even hear yourself think. On the other hand, if you're in a quiet environment, you'll be able to focus. We walked into each location to get a first impression for noise level and whether or not it got quieter or louder 30 minutes into our study session.

Outlet access – Whether it's for your laptop that you're doing school work on, or for your cell phone, most students prefer to have an outlet at their disposal. Study areas with no outlets near by won't seem very appealing to a student who will need to charge their devices. The main thing we looked for in each location was how many outlets there were next to each study area.

Crowding – The more crowded a room gets, the more likely it is for people in the room to start talking and creating distractions. We checked each area to see how crowded it was at the busiest hours, and whether or not the people got louder as time went on.

Access to refreshments – People need energy. It's a part of life. Especially for the college student who's preparing for finals by studying for hours on end and needs a bite to eat or a nice hot coffee to keep them awake. We checked to see how close each study area was to the food pavilion and whether or not each area had vending machines or coffee and drink stands.

Overall quality – For overall quality, we took all four of the main factors into account to create our overall rating.

Results

Buildings	Noise	Outlet Access	Seating Availability	Access to Refreshments	Quality	Total
Art Building	5	7	8	9	10	39
Auditorium Building	4	3	5	4	4	20
Business Leadership Building	6	8	7	10	8	39
Chilton Hall	7	5	8	3	5	28
Environmental Sciences Building	7	5	5	8	8	33
Life Sciences Complex	8	6	8	7	8	37
Matthews Hall	4	7	4	7	5	27
RTFP Building	8	7	7	5	8	35
Sage Hall	5	6	6	8	8	33
Sycamore Hall	4	10	5	10	7	36
Terrill Hall	6	3	5	5	6	25
Wooten Hall	3	3	3	6	4	19
Willis Library	10	8	5	10	8	41

Art Building – This building has an excellent atmosphere with lots of seating in a very calm gallery area. Outlets are scattered throughout the building. There isn't much food in the building; however it is a 5 minute walk from UNT's food pavilion (Taco Bell, Chick-Fil-A, et cetera and very close to Crooked Crust, Jimmy Johns, Chipotle, Pie Five, and lots of other places).

Auditorium Building – There is very little seating in this building. The best availability is on third floor, but is likely to only be helpful to people who are taking technical writing classes since computer labs are closed to other students. There are a few outlets throughout the building and a number of vending machines. The noise level is just okay, not super noisy but never completely quiet.

Business Leadership Building – The Business Leadership Building offers multiple group study rooms on the ground level of the building. The rooms are not that full in the afternoon and the noise level is doable. This building also offers computer kiosk stations and there is outlet access all throughout the building. There is a snack lounge located on the ground level of the building and a café that includes Starbucks on the first level.

Chilton Hall – Most people are usually in the classroom of Chilton, making the public areas very quiet. There are outlets next to some of the seats and tables. Because most people are in the classrooms, study spots aren't very crowded. Except for a few vending machines, Chilton is far from any food places.

Environmental Science Building – Although there are people sitting and relaxing in the lounging areas, most people are in class making this building a pretty quiet place. There are outlets scattered throughout the building but not enough for all students. There is a convenient snack bar located in the middle of the building.

Life Sciences Complex Building – Although it's a public area, almost everyone keeps quiet and uses this place for studying. There are only outlets at each corner of the room. Although many people show up here, there is more than enough room and seats for the area not to crowd.

Matthews Hall – This building can get very loud and very crowded in the afternoon. There isn't much seating available for students. However, there is a specific outlet area on the 3rd floor of the building that offers seating for students with electronics. There are a few vending machines in this building.

Radio, TV, Film & Performing Arts Building – There is lots of seating and a good amount of outlets throughout this building. It also has a cool atmosphere and interesting architecture. There isn't any food in this building but it is pretty close to UNT's food pavilion. This building was pretty quiet when we visited but could get loud and distracting if a performance is going on.

Sage Hall – This building has lots of seats but most are located in the middle of the room. This building can get crowded near lunchtime making it hard to find a decent spot. There are an okay amount of outlets but you have to get a seat near the wall for one. This building can get noisy since most people are eating and hanging out, not just studying. It is located near UNT's food pavilion.

Sycamore Hall – Sycamore Hall is the public commons library, making it a great place for people to talk as much as they would like. There are outlets next to every seat. People walk in at all times, making it a very crowded place. Fortunately, Sycamore is next to the food pavilion.

Terrill Hall – Terrill Hall is a quiet place but without private rooms, therefore people would talk if they felt the need to. Most of the seated areas have no outlets nearby. Some students would sit on the couches and take up a lot of room. There were a few vending machines located throughout the building.

Willis Library – The Willis Library has floors designated for individual and group studying. The lower level, also known as the "quiet zone" is designated for individual studying and the 1st and 2nd floors are designated for group studying. Along with a computer lab, this building also offers laptop kiosk stations. There is a snack lounge on the lower level and a Cyber Café on the 1st level of the building.

Wooten Hall – Wooten Hall is very busy and loud in the afternoons making it difficult to study. It is hard to find available seating and all the computer kiosk stations are full. There are very few outlets available. There is a vending machine located in the building.

Conclusion & Recommendation

Conclusion

Finding a good study spot on UNT's campus is pretty easy, but how do you know if your study spot is truly great? You may not have time to check dozens of buildings looking for the right place. This guide was created to take the guesswork out of finding a study spot so that you can get to the important part – studying.

We found the top study places to be the Art Building, the Business Leadership Building, and Willis Library. These places all had lots of seating, a number of places to plug in a laptop or other devices, close proximity to snacks, a low noise level, and what we felt to be overall good atmosphere and quality.

Recommendation

Our final recommendation goes to the study spot with the highest score – Willis Library. It's no surprise that UNT's multistory library building would be a great spot. It has tons of tables and seating with lots of outlets for laptops, which are even available for rental on the first floor. It also features a number of computer labs if you'd prefer a desktop computer. Willis Library even has its own café, The Study, which sells hot drinks and healthy snacks to fuel you throughout your study session. The library also has a good balance of noise levels. The first floor is a bit noisier, since it's popular for group work, but other floors stay quiet for studying alone. Overall, Willis has everything you'd expect from a traditional library but its added features like computer access and a café make it stand out as the best study spot at UNT.