Getting Around

Airports
The Chicago area has two main commercial airports (O’Hare and Midway). O’Hare, located in the northwestern part of the city, is the bigger and busier airport (in fact, it’s the nation’s busiest airport). The fact that it services virtually all major airlines as well as its relative proximity to Evanston makes O’Hare the preferred airport in Chicago. Midway, located in the southwestern part of the city, is the Chicago home of Southwest Airlines as well as many of the smaller and cheaper airlines that service Chicago. In addition, a few of the major airlines that service O’Hare may also have flights arriving in and departing from Midway. Traditionally, flights out of Midway were considered to be cheaper than comparable flights out of O’Hare. These days, a diligent value shopper can often find equally cheap flights out of O’Hare through last minute value fare programs.

O’Hare Airpor t
www.ohare.com/ohare/home.asp

Parking
Daily Parking: Call for status of daily parking at (773) 686-2853.
Valet Parking (Garage A, Level 1 - A): First hour $10, $32/day.
Hourly Parking (Garage A, Level 1): $3/hour, $21/4 hours or $50 for 9-24 hours.
Garage A Levels 2-6, Lots B and C: First hour $3 or $23/day. (Serves Terminals 1, 2 and 3.)
International Terminal 5: First hour $3, $30/day.
Economy Lots E and G: First hour $2 or $13/day. (A “People Mover” takes you from the parking lot to the airport terminals; about 20-30 minutes)

Via Car
O’Hare is located 15 miles west of Evanston and is usually about a 30-40 minute drive. However, when traffic is bad, the trip can take more than an hour. From Evanston, take Emerson Street west. This street becomes Golf Road. Continue on Golf Road for about 10 miles to Potter Road and take a left. (If you pass the I-294 overpass, you’ve gone too far.) Take a right at the second stop light onto Dempster Road. Take a right onto I-294 South (1/4 mile). (Another alternative is to take Dempster Road all the way from Evanston to I-294, however be prepared for some traffic.) Follow I-294 for about 2 miles to the O’Hare exit. There is a $0.40 toll going to the airport and a $0.50 toll coming back.

On the Web
Surfing the Web for cheap tickets? Try these sites:
www.orbitz.com
www.priceline.com
www.cheaptickets.com
www.travelocity.com
www.expedia.com

Via Airport Bus/Van
Airport Express leaves from the Omni Orrington Hotel, Holiday Inn, and (closest to Kellogg) Foster/Walker Complex at 1927 Orrington Avenue. Home pick-up and drop-off is available for an extra charge. Fares are $17 each way. Make sure you mention that you are a student at Northwestern and be prepared to show your WildCard ID to receive the university’s pricing. The service operates between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Reservations for travel to the airport must be
made 24 hours in advance by calling (800) 654-7871 or (847) 825-9500. For return trips, report to one of the Airport Express reservation counters located in Terminals 1, 2, and 3 near the baggage claim and in Terminal 5 just outside U.S. Customs.

**Via Public Transit**

If you are traveling at peak times and are able to catch an express purple line El train to downtown Chicago Loop, the directions are as follows: take the purple line to Clark/Lake, transfer to the blue line and travel to O’Hare. If you are traveling at an off-peak time when the express trains are not running, take the purple line to Howard, transfer to the red line and travel to Washington/State. Walk 0.1 miles to the blue line at Washington/Dearborn and take the blue line to O’Hare. It is a 0.5 mile walk from the O’Hare El stop into the airport. Both trips will take just over an hour and a half, but at a mere $1.50, public transit is a great option if your luggage is not too cumbersome.

**Via Taxi and Car Service**

Chicago cab companies do not offer flat rates for a return trip from O’Hare and add surcharges for travel to Evanston. Therefore, it is wise to call an Evanston cab for travel to and from O’Hare. For an Evanston cab, call one of the following cab companies after you have collected your baggage and tell them in which terminal you are waiting. After you have ordered the taxi, you will be given the cab number. Go out to the middle lane in front of the terminal and look for the cab with that number.

- Norshore Cab: 847-864-7500
  Fare: flat rate of $23 + $1 per additional person; does not accept credit cards.

- 303 Cab: 847-256-0303
  Fare: flat rate of $23 + $2 per additional person; accepts credit cards.

For just a few dollars more, you can enjoy a comfortable sedan ride from Evanston to the airport (especially if your future employer is picking up the tab).

- ABC Limousine: 847-677-8816
  Fare: flat rate of $35 + $5 per extra person over 2 people + $5 per additional stop with-in Evanston; accepts credit cards.

- Northbrook Limousine: 847-272-9350
  Fare: flat rate of $44 for a private car (one person) + tolls and tax; $30 per person for a shared car, including tolls and tax; accepts credit cards.

**Midway Airport**

**Parking**

- Hourly Parking (Parking Garage, Level 3): First hour $3, $7/3 hours, $50/day.
- Daily Parking (Parking Garage, Levels 1, 4, 5, and 6): First hour $3, $22/day
- Economy Lots (East of Cicero Avenue, and west of Cicero Avenue on 55th Street): First hour $2, $9/day with a complimentary shuttle bus service running every 15 minutes included.

**Via Car**

Midway Airport is located south and west of downtown Chicago and is a 1 hour drive depending on traffic. But on a bad day, be prepared to sit in traffic for 2 hours or more. From Evanston take Sheridan Road south to Lake Shore Drive. Follow the Drive south to I-55 South. Take I-55 South to Cicero exit. Follow the signs to Midway Airport. An alternate route is to take Dempster Street west to I-94/I-90 East and this will take you to I-55 South. Be warned that during rush hours (or any other hour for that matter), any route down to Midway is bound to be one continuous traffic jam.

**Via Airport Bus/Van**

See information under Directions by Airport Bus/Van to/from O’Hare. Fares to and from Midway are $28. Note however, that Airport Express now requires reservations 24 hours in advance, secured by a credit card, for return travel from Midway to Evanston.
Via Public Transit

The El is a good option both time and money-wise for travel to Midway. It costs $1.50 and takes about 1 1/2 hours. Take the El from Evanston to downtown Chicago Loop. If you take the Evanston Express, exit at Clark/Lake stop and board the orange line to Midway from the same platform. Otherwise, transfer to the red line at Howard and exit at the Washington/State stop. Walk up to street level. You'll be on Washington. Walk 0.2 miles to State/Lake Street and board the orange line to Midway. The orange line runs to the airport and it is a short walk over a pedestrian bridge to the terminal.

Via Taxi and Car Service

One way fares from Evanston to Midway Airport cost at least $40. Be sure to make friends with generous people who have cars to avoid this painful hit in your pocket.

Norshore Cab: 847-864-7500
Fare: flat rate of $42 + $1 per additional person; does not accept credit cards.

303 Cab: 847-256-0303
Fare: flat rate of $44 + $2 per additional person; accepts credit cards.

ABC Limousine
Fare: flat rate of $50 + $5 per extra person over two people + $5 per additional stop within Evanston; accepts credit cards.

Northbrook Limousine
Fare: flat rate of $56; accepts credit cards

Getting to Chicago

Via The El (Chicago’s Elevated Train System)

www.transitchicago.com

The “El” is the cheapest, best way to get downtown and avoid parking headaches. A one way fare is $1.50. Fare cards can be purchased at the El stations per ride and cards can be “recharged” at any CTA machine. Jewel and Dominick’s food stores, currency exchanges, and CTA’s main office sell $10 and $20 fare cards. CTA does not offer student discounts, however you can return on a transfer for free within two hours of getting off the El. The purple line (nice of the CTA to recognize NU, isn’t it?) runs north and south through Evanston. The three stations closest to campus are: Davis, Foster, and Noyes Streets just west of Sherman Ave. Dempster and Main Street are two more Evanston stops for those who live further south. Trains run about every 15-20 minutes; wait is longer on nights and weekends. While the trains are generally very clean and safe, it is not advisable to ride the trains alone after 10:00 p.m.

Maps and schedules are available from El stations, but even more useful is the “Trip Planner” facility on the CTA’s Web site at www.transitchicago.com/maps/tripplanner.html This facility will give you door to door train, bus and even walking directions.

To get to Chicago, take the purple line, direction Howard. During off-peak hours, the purple line ends at Howard Street (Evanston city limits). To get downtown, stay on the platform and wait for the red line, direction Dan Ryan. This way takes about 45 minutes to get to the Loop. During peak hours (Mon-Fri, 6:30-9:30am and 3-6), the purple line becomes the “Evanston Express” and runs downtown. It skips most of the red line stops and takes only about 30 minutes (the same as driving, only without the parking issue). Important stops include: Addison (red line) for Wrigley Field, Belmont for the Lincoln Park bars, Chicago (red line) for the Magnificent Mile and NU’s downtown campus, Monroe (red line) or Madison (purple line) for the Art Institute.

Via Metra Commuter Train

The Metra is faster and more comfortable than the El, but runs less frequently. It runs on the Metra/Union Pacific North line, stopping at Main and Davis Streets in Evanston and Madison and Canal Streets (far west side of the Loop) in Chicago. Don’t expect to walk anywhere from the downtown station in less than 20 minutes. Adult one-way fares are
$2.75 (downtown). You can purchase your ticket on the train, but it will cost $1.00 extra if the ticket window at the station is open. Discount fares are available for monthly and 10-ride tickets and Metra sells a $5 weekend pass for unlimited rides on Saturday and Sunday (read, “not Friday night”).

**Via Taxi or Car Service**

Taxi service is available at all hours, and costs about $30 (plus tip) to the Loop. Limousine sedan service generally runs $44 from Evanston to Chicago (without stops). Refer to the Airport section for local taxi and limousine companies. Taxis can also be found at the taxi rank outside the Omni Orrington Hotel.

**Via Car**

Sheridan Road and Lake Shore Drive. From Evanston, take Sheridan Road south (follows the lake). For 4-6 miles, Sheridan winds through Evanston and Rogers Park before running into Lake Shore Drive (looks like a freeway). Take a left onto Lake Shore Drive (at Hollywood) and follow into downtown. Travel time is 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the traffic. Alternate access route to Lake Shore Drive: To avoid being stuck on Sheridan Road traffic, follow Ridge Avenue from Evanston into Chicago. Take a left onto Hollywood, which dead ends into Lake Shore Drive.

**Lake Shore Drive Key Exits**

- **Irving Park**: use for Wrigleyville area and Cubs games.
- **Belmont**: access to north Lincoln Park bars.
- **Fullerton**: use for North Beach and zoo parking, Lincoln Park bars and restaurants, and DePaul area.
- **LaSalle/North**: Rock 'n Roll McDonald's, Planet Hollywood, Jordan's and other touristy places.
- **Michigan**: Magnificent Mile shops and Rush Street bars.
- **Jackson**: Loop, Art Institute, Sears Tower, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

**I-94/I-90 (also called “Edens Expressway”)**

From Evanston, take Dempster Street west to I-94 East (toward Indiana). After 4-6 miles, I-94 merges with I-90 that takes you to the city. This route usually takes longer than Lake Shore Drive due to traffic, but it's a good route if you are going to the west side of Chicago.

**Via Northwestern Shuttle**

The super cheap, although less destination convenient, way to get to Chicago is via Northwestern's intercampus shuttle. The shuttle runs Monday through Friday between the Evanston and Chicago campuses and is free to Northwestern students. Go to [www.unitsves.northwestern.edu/Parking/int.htm](http://www.unitsves.northwestern.edu/Parking/int.htm) for an up-to-date schedule of shuttle departures.
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