

Where to get essentials

Meredith Zhou

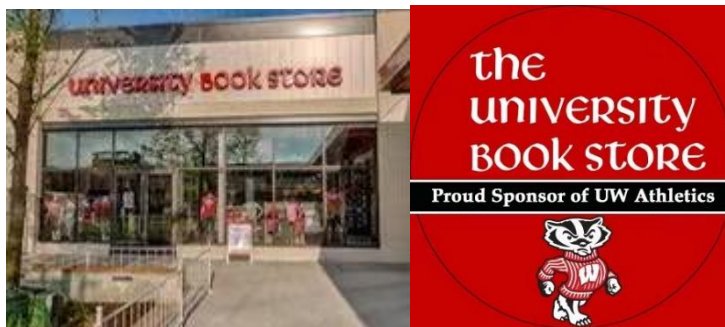
It's always a thrilling adventure for international students to start college with only a few giant luggages. A lot of students are looking for places to get essentials and here are some tips before you start.

- 1、make a shopping list before shopping
- 2、figure out the priority of essentials
- 3、for used-goods trade, watch out for frauds
- 4、contact the dorm/apartment manager for options to receive packages before checked in, so you could shop online and have everything ready in the mailroom waiting for your arrival

If you are ready to make a fun shopping plan, here's some place you might be interested.

1\University bookstore

It's a place not only contains souvenirs but also various essentials with badger print. Surprisingly, it has a small apple store inside, beauty products, clothes, and stationaries. The largest store building is on the state street.



2\Walgreens

There's two Walgreens close to UW campus, one on states street, crossed the street of university bookstore, and the other one at the corner of university avenue 333. The later one is slightly larger with medical essentials. Walgreens is a convenience store with food, water filter, personal cares.



3\Target

Large super market with almost everything you need. There's bus available to the nearest Target. It is recommended to share an Uber on your way home because everyone I know went there brought too much to carry. It's also recommended to shop online and have these mailed to the dorm or apartment because it's a better deal to purchase essentials comes in larger packs.



4\Fresh Market

A grocery store close to University Avenue 777, mainly sells fresh groceries but also has various essential product.



5\Best Buy for electronics

The Best Buy Store nearest to campus still needs Uber trip to visit. If you are looking for specific electronic product, I would suggest you to shop online and have it mailed to your place.



Every year, when students are moving from one place to another, graduate or temporarily moving, a lot of people would choose to sell their belonging as used goods. Here's some platform for goodie digging. It's also a very affordable way to purchase furniture because it usually come with good deal.

!!! Please watch out for scam when dealing with individuals online. If you decide to trade offline, choose a public environment instead of visiting other's apartment. Delivery versus payment would be suggested.



1\Facebook market place

There's many UW-Madison used goods trading group on Facebook, it's a great place to find out good deal. Most students using it are local students because they use Facebook more often. If you are new to Facebook, it might take a while to understand the platform and find all the buttons. Facebook also is a great platform to find roommate or apartment for subleasing.



2\WeChat& WhatsApp

A lot of international students has specific social app that are most common in their culture community. There's many unofficial trading group chat on these platforms. I'm sure there are certain essentials that are only used by few cultures community so it would be a great platform to access these. You could ask other students or alumni for resources.

3\Freecycle

A website of offered and wanted item, all for free.

Some local store to visit for used goods.

1\St. Vincent de Paul Madison

It's a franchise store operates on Willy Street, accessible by bus. It has large selection of furniture and books as well as clothes and household items.

2\Rethreads& Rag stock& Upshift Swap Shop

All clothing store in downtown area, a lot of great fashion deals.