Healthier Dining on Campus

A guide to healthy eating at USC
Brought to you by USC Hospitality in partnership with USC WorkWell Center

Last updated: Jan. 2024
Access and availability of healthy foods and beverages plays an important role in an individual’s overall health and well-being. The link between diet and health has been well documented in scientific literature for many decades, and there is continuously growing evidence showing that food and beverage environments conducive to healthy dietary patterns can help individuals achieve and maintain good health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases throughout different life stages.

The USC WorkWell Center and USC Hospitality is pleased to share the Healthier Dining on Campus guide to support the USC community to choose healthier food and beverages on campus and improve overall health and quality of life. Recommendations in this guide are based on 2020-2025 USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Menus of Change, and reviewed by Lindsey Pine, MS, RDN, CLT, Registered Dietitian.

PLEASE NOTE: Some meals ordered on the Campus Dining app and kiosks may not allow for customization. If this is the case, please talk to a staff member at the venue about customization immediately after placing your order on the device.

We encourage you to use this guide as reference when dining at the many eateries on campus. If you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, please contact:

Julie Chobdee, MPH,  
Associate Director, Health & Well-being Program,  
WorkWell Center,  
jchobdee@usc.edu

Lindsey Pine, MS, RDN, CLT,  
Registered Dietitian,  
USC Hospitality,  
lpine@usc.edu
Brand new for Fall 2023!

USC Hospitality is pleased to introduce EatWell branded meals. These specially curated meals fit within a set of nutritional guidelines developed by USC Hospitality Registered Dietitian (RD) with input from other RDs, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025, The Culinary Institute of America’s Menus of Change, and guidelines from other universities.

These wellness meals will be identified by an EatWell logo icon on the campus dining mobile ordering app, ordering kiosks, online menus and/or in-store signage.

For all questions, please contact the USC Hospitality Dietitian: [https://hospitality.usc.edu/dietitian/](https://hospitality.usc.edu/dietitian/)

### Entrees, Sandwiches, Salads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Limit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories</td>
<td>≤650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calories from saturated fat</td>
<td>≤10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans fats or partially hydrogenated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
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<tr>
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<td>≤10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fried foods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit, veggies, whole grains, legumes</td>
<td>1 serving of at least 1/2 cup</td>
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### Soups (per 8 fl. ounces)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calories from added sugar</td>
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### Salad Dressings and Condiments (per 2 tablespoons)

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<tr>
<td>Trans fats or partially hydrogenated</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>≤300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calories from added sugar</td>
<td>≤10%</td>
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### Smoothies and Fresh Juices

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<td>nuts, products, and yogurt)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>≤250</td>
</tr>
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<td>no added sweetener</td>
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</table>
Seeds Marketplace

Breakfast
- EatWell Veggie Scramble Bowl
- EatWell Breakfast Buddha Bowl
- EatWell versions of the following salads:
  - Rock Roots Reggae
  - Woodstock & Curry
  - Backyard
  - Santorini Greek

Modifications
When ordering made to order salads, omit fried crunchies, cheese, toasted sweet coconut, or croutons
Order the official EatWell salad dressing: Raspberry Maple Thyme Vinaigrette

Lunch
Mushroom Tofu Bowl
Poke Bowls and Original Bowls
  - Omit extra sauces like sriracha mayo, wasabi aioli, and teriyaki sauce
  - Omit the white rice if looking for a lower carb meal

Grab n’ go
Positive Foods
- Breakfast and main meal options
  - EatWell options:
    - Lemon Blueberry Overnight Oats
    - Lemon Roast Chicken Breast
    - Roast Salmon with Sage Tomato Jam
    - Herb Chicken Green Goddess Salad
    - Spicy Chicken Quinoa Bowl
    - Vegan Kimchi Fried Rice
    - Hummus Mezze box (slightly above saturated fat allowance)

Seeds—Café Gratitude

Burger Crush
Healthier entrée options
- Single crush instead of a double crush
- Lettuce wrap option for beef patty
- Meatless Impossible patty

Seeds—Positive Foods

Seeds—Café Gratitude

Healthier snack options
- KIND Bars
- Fresh fruit
C&G Juice Co

EatWell items
- FightOn Smoothie
- Mango Tango Smoothie
- Tropical Breeze Smoothie
- Protein Power Smoothie
- Mother Nature Juice (mostly veggies!)
- Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice 16 oz size

To lower the calories and sugar: create your own açai bowl instead of ordering one of the suggested combinations

To create a better-for-you bowl:
- Order without agave and/or granola
- Add nutrient-rich spinach, kale, cacao nibs, chia or flax seeds

TacoTaco

Healthier options
- EatWell Guacamole Bowl (vegan)

Healthier entrée options: instead of a burrito, try grilled chicken, carne asada or veggie bowl/street tacos/salad

Healthier mix-in options: mixed greens, black beans (instead of refried), brown rice, fajita veggies, onions, corn, cilantro, salsa, pico de gallo, and shredded lettuce

Healthy tip: instead of cheese and sour cream, choose guacamole which has fiber and heart healthy fats

Filone’s

EatWell items
- EatWell Italian Chop Salad with Raspberry Maple Thyme Vinaigrette
- EatWell Pasta Pomodoro
Starbucks at Trojan Grounds

Snacks
- Pistachios and almonds
- Oh Snap Carrot Cuties
- Perfect Bar
- String cheese
- Belvita Biscuits
- Fresh fruit

Light bites
- Oatmeal
- Berry Trio Grain Parfait
- Egg Bites

Handhelds and boxes
- Spinach Feta & Egg White Wrap
- Turkey Bacon, Cheddar & Egg White Sandwich
- Roasted Tomato and Mozzarella Panini
- Eggs & Gouda Protein Box
- Cheese Trio Protein Box
- Kikka Sushi
- Kikka Shrimp Spring Rolls

EatWell items
- String Bean Chicken as a single entrée or with the steamed white rice side
  (String bean chicken with mixed veggies side does not meet EatWell sodium requirements, but other nutrients do)
- Broccoli beef as a single entrée or with either the mixed veggies or steamed white rice as a side

“Wok Smart” items
Entrées that are less than 300 calories and have at least 8g of protein:
- Mushroom Chicken
- String Bean Chicken Breast
- Kung Pao Chicken
- Broccoli Beef

Healthy tips: choose Mixed Veggies Super Greens (mixed veggies, broccoli, kale, and cabbage) or steamed white rice as the side instead of fried rice or chow mein.
Law Café

Customize your rice bowls to create a healthier option

Choose house salad or brown rice as the base, heavy on the veggies, light/omit teriyaki sauce, and light/omit sriracha mayo

Order an extra side of veggies

A smaller “lighter portion” of the Chicken Teriyaki Bowl is offered

Make a meal from the “Sides” menu that includes salmon, rice, avocado, and veggies

Fertitta Café

Healthier salad options

Chinese Chicken Salad with dressing on the side and omit fried wontons, or order the “Lighter Portion” option

Customize your Bibimbap bowl

Choose tofu for a plant-based protein option

Choose house salad or brown rice as the base

A “Lighter Portion” of all Bibimbap bowls is offered

Popovich Café

Healthier option

Mixed Berry Acai Smoothie
Café Annenberg
- EatWell items
  - EatWell White Bean and Farro Soup
  - EatWell Roasted Chicken Salad
Farro and Kale Salad (this item does not meet the sodium limit for EatWell, but all other nutrients do)

Tutor Hall Café
Customizable bowls and salads
- Salmon Salad, easy on dressing
- Chinese Chicken Salad, easy on dressing and omit wontons

Healthier entrée options
Chana Masala and white basmati rice with a smaller serving of rice (or save some for later!)
  - Add toppings like cilantro chutney, pickled carrot/jalapeno/red onion, and kachumber
  - If you don’t want the rice, order a side of Chicken Masala instead
Miso Salmon Bowl with plain basmati rice, omit the crispy wontons, and add extra veggies

Farmer’s Fridge
These healthy, smart vending machines sell a variety of fresh options including salads, bowls, wraps, and breakfast items

Farmers Fridges are located in Harris Hall and the Carol Little Building (CAL) on the University Park Campus and at the Soto Building and Seaver Hall on the Health Sciences Campus

Don’t forget to bring your container back to the machine to recycle!
USC Village Dining Hall, EVK, and Parkside

Residential Dining is open to staff, faculty, students and their guests! In addition to in-person dining, food to-go is also available. To check out sustainable, reusable containers for to-go dining, please get started by downloading the Usefull app in the Apple App or Google Play stores.

Prepare beforehand
Check out the daily online menus prior

Use the “plate method”
¼ plate veggies, ¼ protein, ¼ grain/starch

Don’t underestimate the salad bar
Choose the salad bar with veggies, whole grains, beans, and lean protein

Try some healthier sides
Try hot veggies, legumes, whole grains, and fruit as sides

Hydrate
Drink water instead of soda

Try a plant-based meal
Vegan and vegetarian entrees are available
Large plant-based station at USC Village Dining Hall
Plaza Marketplace Grab n’ Go

Customize your salad
Freshly prepared made to order salads are customizable
- Mediterranean Salad
- Sesame Ginger Salad
- Southwestern Salad
- Apple-Walnut Salad

Healthy tips
Go light on add-Ins such as wonton strips, tortilla strips, candied walnuts, and cheese
Use half of the dressing

Grab n’ Go options
Pre-made salads
- Kikka sushi and shrimp spring rolls
- Edamame
- Mixed fruit

Panda Express
“Wok Smart” items
- String Bean Chicken
- Mushroom Chicken
- Kung Pao Chicken
- Broccoli Beef

Healthier sides
Choose mixed veggie and brown rice sides

Taco Taco

Healthier entrée options
- EatWell Guacamole Bowl (vegan)
- Grilled chicken, carne asada or veggie bowl
- If ordering the street tacos, omit the tortilla chips

Healthier sides and mix-ins
- Homemade guacamole
- Black beans (instead of refried)
- Cilantro lime brown rice
- Fajita veggies
- Corn tortillas
- Cilantro and onions
- Lime wedges
- Salsa

For more information and support, please visit: USC Hospitality or the WorkWell Center
APPENDIX
Map of HSC Dining Locations

USC DINING LOCATIONS | HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS
FALL/SPRING SEMESTERS 2022/2023

1 STARBUCKS
PANDA EXPRESS
VERDE
THE EDMONDSON
**ORDERING A HEALTHIER STARBUCKS DRINK**

**Mind Your Milk**

- **Almond**
  - Almond milk offers a light nutty flavor

- **Coconut**
  - Coconut milk makes for a rich, creamy drink

- **Low-Fat**
  - Low-fat milk is a healthier version of classic dairy milk

- **Oat**
  - Oat milk is a tasty allergen friendly option

- **Soy**
  - Soy milk has 8 grams of plant protein per 1 cup!

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**Adjust Sweetness**

- **Ask for unsweetened or “half-sweet”**
  - A typical 16oz Starbucks drink had 40g of sugar. Excess sugar has been associated with chronic disease

- **Opt out of whipped cream & artificial sweeteners**
  - Although lower in calories than sugar, artificial sweeteners have been linked to weight gain and health issues

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**Choose a smaller size**

- **Tall**
- **Grande**
- **Venti**
- **Trenta**

Ordering a smaller size can save you both calories and money. "Tall" is 12 oz, "Grande" is 16 oz, and there's even an 8 oz size ("Short")

Questions? Please visit [https://hospitality.usc.edu/ask-the-dietitian/](https://hospitality.usc.edu/ask-the-dietitian/)
WHAT IS A BALANCED PLATE?

DON’T FORGET TO ADD:

WATER
• Hydrate with water instead of sugary beverages

HEALTHY FATS
• Plant based oils (e.g. olive oil)
• Avocado
• Nuts / Peanuts/ seeds

CALCIUM RICH
• Dairy
• Almonds
• Broccoli & Dark Leafy Greens
• Oranges
• Tofu
• White Beans

GUT HEALTHY
• Probiotics: Sauerkraut, Yogurt, Tempeh, Miso, Kefir, Kombucha, Kimchi
• Prebiotics: Onions, Garlic, Apples, Bananas, Asparagus, Beans, Wheat, Barley, Flax

COMPLEMENTS TO A HEALTHY PLATE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fun Fitness</th>
<th>Reduce Stress</th>
<th>Stay Social</th>
<th>7-8 Hours of Sleep/Night</th>
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</thead>
</table>

For more information go to our dietitian page: hospitality.usc.edu/dietitian/