OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING
College town hotels that make the grade

Georgia’s Graduate Athens hotel offers a retro vibe.

STONE PORCH BY THE LAKE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Campus tour: Thirty minutes from downtown Chicago, this restored 1860 Tudor mansion across from Lake Michigan is the first boutique lodging in Northwestern University’s hometown. Top grades: The inn features geothermal power and guest rooms outfitted with organic mattresses, linens, and eco-inspired toiletries. Extra curriculars: Rent a sailboat or paddleboard at the university’s new Wildcat sailing center for an alternative to the many cultural offerings on campus. Tuition: From $27,500.

HOTEL CASA 475
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Campus tour: Soak in the Southern California lifestyle at this modern hacienda-style hotel (55 miles east of L.A.) built around a courtyard in artsy Claremont, home to the Claremont Colleges (aka 7Cs) three blocks away. Top grades: The 28 spacious rooms, with soaking tubs and outdoor patios, echo the overall glossy white theme. Extra curriculars: Complimentary bicycles and “Vino & Vinyasa” yoga and wine tastings on select Sunday afternoons in the Casa courtyard. Tuition: From $10,950.

GRADUATE ATHENS
ATHENS, GEORGIA

Campus tour: Honey charm is enhanced with touches like University of Georgia bulldog desk lamps and chalkboards in each of the 122 rooms. Top grades: Guests mingle in the hotel’s living-room reception area, fueled by locally roasted coffee and complimentary jelly beans. Extra curriculars: Athens was founded on cotton wealth; today, it’s a haven for music lovers. Music biographer Paul Batchelor leads tours highlighting hangouts of groups with roots here like R.E.M. and the B-52s. Tuition: From $10,000.