

# BECOMING A THRIFTER

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The keys to secondhand success

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Ralph Lauren and all the brands, Grandpa's sweater, denim and leather — what if you could get about all of the these and more for just a few of the crinkled dollars in your pocket? College isn't exactly the stage of life where anyone's rolling in cash. Ames has your back, though — there is a collection of thrift shops and they're stocked with everything a college student needs.



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## Where to go

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### Goodwill

Location: 3718 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA, 50014

(Just a short trip from campus on the Red West Cyride)

Opening Hours:

Monday–Friday – 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Saturday – 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday – 12 p.m.–5 p.m.

Goodwill is loaded with unique clothing items and all your winter needs, keep an eye out for a oneoff sweater to keep you warm this winter.

### Overflow Thrift Store

Location: 202 S Duff Ave, Ames, IA, 50010

(Jump on the Blue South Cyride from Campus to get onto Duff Avenue)

Opening Hours:

Wednesday–Friday – 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday – 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Overflow may have less clothing than Goodwill but it has EVERYTHING that you could need, seriously — and everything you didn't realize you needed either.

### Salvation Army

Location: 207 S Duff Ave, Ames, IA, 50010

411 Kellogg Ave, Ames, IA 50010

703 E Lincoln Way, Ames IA 50010

Opening Hours: The location's opening hours change seasonally but they're only a call away if you would like to find out (515-233-3567).

Salvation Army has a lot of clothing in addition to household needs and knick-knacks galore.

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## Thrift Shop 101

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- If you wouldn't donate it, don't buy it
- Safety, support and hygiene first
- Forget the rules of fashion
- If it is a material you can't wash, it's not worth it
- Remember, you're supporting local charities (and your own bank account) every time you shop at a thrift store, so go all out to help those in need



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## What to Buy

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**Warm Clothes:** Winter coats and jackets are made to last and to deal with the seasonal extremities Mother Nature throws our way — this is why we pay a fortune in store fronts. Luckily, coats and jackets work just as well secondhand and Goodwill is loaded along with the other thrift stores. You can buy lined coats, thick sweaters, weather hardy jackets all for under \$20, making them a mustbuy.

**Statement Pieces:** Everyone enjoys steering clear from the mainstream fashion front at least once in awhile — and there's no better way to do so than with a classic ugly sweater or a heavy and oversized leather jacket. Thrift shops are the perfect place to find that one piece of clothing you want to be

identified by — that makes you, fashionably you. The best part is you know that some other girl or guy won't have purchased the same sweater or coat.

**Denim:** Denim (proper denim, not imposter materials like jeggings) is made to last a lifetime — it gets better with age. For starters, jeans are in one season and out the next, skinnies are making way for flares again and highwaist cuts are on the way out too. Thrift shops have every kind of denim you can imagine in terms of colors, style, sizes and items. There is nowhere better than a thrift shop — except a music festival, maybe — to buy a denim jacket.

**Flannels:** This is Ames, Iowa, land of the farmers, and you can't be a true Iowan without a classic manly flannel shirt. Now, you might be able to find one in Sears or TJ Maxx, but there's no authenticity there. On top of that, good quality flannels aren't cheap, but they will be if you manage to snag one from your local thrift shop. Heads up: these sell out quickly, so make sure you know when they're in stock.

**Designer Brands:** Don't assume that because it is secondhand the brands are second best. If you are lucky, you can snag big brands like Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein among the mess of styles and sizes hanging on the racks.

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## What to Avoid

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**Shoes:** Support and hygiene are two factors that shouldn't be compromised. For the most part, secondhand shoes are not worth buying. They are suited to the shape of someone else's feet, the soles are worn down and, honestly, feet are sweaty. Supporting local charities is important but so are the feet that support you.

**Undergarments:** If you're not willing to keep your underwear that has lost its elasticity or your bra that is faded and stretched, then don't buy secondhand undergarments. Underwear is not made to last and hygienically, they're not the best thing to share. It's worth splashing out an extra five dollars and buying these from a retail store.

**T-Shirts and the Basics:** If you're looking for basics for costumes and so on then shop till you drop. The issue with buying secondhand shirts is that these materials — cotton and polyester — aren't made to maintain color or shape. Considering basic T-shirts and singlets are not too expensive in stores like TJ Maxx and JC Penny, this is one type of clothing best bought new. ☹

