GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE GUIDE

Start with the Housing Facts section. This section should help you determine the type of apartment you’d like to live in and how much you should expect to pay in rent.

Read about different neighborhoods and narrow down your search to parts of the city that you like most.

Use the Apartment Ratings section to identify the best apartment buildings across the categories (e.g. best amenities, highest rated) that matter most to you.

Visit VeryApt.com to read reviews, get pricing, and set up appointments for the apartments you like most.

ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS GUIDE

All of the data in this guide are based on feedback from real renters in Durham. We asked students to rate their apartments on a scale of 1-10 across six categories:

- Overall
- Value
- Management
- Amenities
- Location
- Safety

Based on their feedback, we compiled a list of the best apartment buildings for Duke Med students. If you are interested in additional data that is not in the guide or have a housing question, you can reach us at contact@veryapt.com.

DISCLAIMER: The reviews and ratings presented throughout the guide and the VeryApt website do not reflect the opinions, position, or endorsement of VeryApt. The responses and reviews presented are solely those of the survey respondents. VeryApt assumes no responsibility for readers’ or users’ interpretation of the data. The results do not in any way constitute a warranty or representation by VeryApt as to the quality, safety, or other features of a property. We encourage you to check all available sources of information about properties prior to renting.
Where Duke Med students live

Erwin - LaSalle: 50%
Downtown Durham: 20%
Old West Durham: 10%
Ninth Street: 10%
Other: 10%

Who Duke Med students live with

Alone: 25%
Spouse/partner: 15%
Roommate (excluding spouse/partner): 60%

What type of properties Duke Med students live in

Large property (50+ units): 80%
Small property (2-9 units): 10%
Mid-size property (20-49 units): 10%

What size residences Duke Med students live in

Studios: 5%
One bedrooms: 35%
Two bedrooms: 45%
Three or more bedrooms: 15%

Distribution of property ratings

0 - 6.9: 10%
7 - 7.9: 15%
8 - 8.9: 35%
9+: 40%

Average rent by apartment size

$1,070: Studio
$1,260: 1BR
$1,850: 2BR
$2,150: 3BR

Rent versus own

85% Rent
15% Own

Commute methods

Walking: 40%
Driving: 40%
Public Transit: 15%
Biking: 5%

8% of Duke Med students live with pets
Rent with Confidence

Time Savers

All the information you need in a single place. Photos, prices, floor plans, maps, and amenities - VeryApt has you covered.

Concierge Service

On demand rental experts that can provide apartment recommendations, set up apartment tours, and help you with your rental application - all at no extra cost.

Intelligent Search

Personalized apartment recommendations based on the amenities you want, your proximity to school or work, and your desired price range.

Trusted Reviews

Hundreds of verified apartment reviews from current and past tenants that help you make an informed decision about where you want to live.

WHY WE STARTED VERYAPPT

VeryApt was born from the simple realization that the small things about an apartment are often the most important: a friendly doorman, lots of sunlight in the living room, a running trail nearby, or that amazing hole-in-the-wall Thai restaurant across the street. We understand that the frustrations of apartment hunting are universal, but share a belief that it doesn’t have to be. We know what makes an apartment truly feel like home is unique for each person and that’s why our focus is on bringing you personalized recommendations based on timely, relevant, and real user reviews. We’ll be there every step of the way to help you find your perfect apartment.

Julia Rizio
VP Operations
juliar@veryapt.com
NEIGHBORHOODS EXPLAINED
An overview of the most popular neighborhoods for Duke Med students

1 Erwin - LaSalle
50% of Duke Med students
This area includes Erwin Road and LaSalle Street which run just north of Duke’s campus. Duke Med students here enjoy the area for its convenience to campus and the fact that it’s considered the hub of graduate student life.

2 Downtown Durham
20% of Duke Med students
Downtown Durham is rated as one of the cleanest and safest city centers in the country, with the main area being The Historic Parish Street. Although it’s a bit farther from campus, you’ll experience more of a "city feel" if you choose to live here.

3 Old West Durham
10% of Duke Med students
Old West Durham is conveniently located right next to Duke University and Ninth Street. This provides for easy access to classes and the popular grad student nightlife scene. There are also usually more affordable rent prices in Old West Durham.

4 Ninth Street
10% of Duke Med students
Ninth Street is arguably one of the most popular nightlife spots for Duke graduate students and young professionals in the area. Although it’s not as popular for medical students, you’ll find a lot of other graduate students here.

Other Neighborhoods
less than 5% each

5 Trinity Heights
6 Duke Forest
7 Brightleaf
8 American Village
ABOUT ERWIN - LASALLE

The area has some popular amenity apartment buildings like The Belmont, Lofts at Lakeview, and The Heights, which offer quieter alternatives to the more-social apartments like Station Nine. If you like to go out, prepare for plenty of rides to Ninth Street and Downtown as they host the main strip of bars. In general, Duke Med students enjoy the area for its convenience to class and generally quiet scene.

MEDIAN RENTS IN ERWIN - LASALLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Studio</th>
<th>1 Bedroom</th>
<th>2 Bedroom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
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WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT ERWIN - LASALLE

Review by Med Student

Neighborhood beyond the apartment is fine. There’s some good restaurants well within walking distance. However, there’s not really many small shops or stores within walking distance in case you need to buy some last minute toiletries or food. Lots of bus lines next to my apartment.

Review by Med Student

Safe, close to school/campus, and a short drive to grocery stores and restaurants. Being right in between downtown, Chapel Hill, etc. makes it not too far from any of the major attractions.
Downtown Durham
Lively City with a lot to Offer

ABOUT DOWNTOWN DURHAM

Downtown Durham is one of the cleanest and safest cities in the country with the main area being The Historic Parish Street. Popular spots here include Taste Carolina, Fullsteam Brewery, and Doyle’s Vineyard. It’s grown in popularity over the last few years as more and more Duke graduate students begin to branch out here.

Bustling  Clean  Safe
Lots of Bars & Restaurants

MEDIAN RENTS IN DOWNTOWN DURHAM

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Studio</th>
<th>1 Bedroom</th>
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WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT DOWNTOWN DURHAM

Review by Med Student  
VAN ALLEN APARTMENTS

The neighborhood is good; very centrally located to Downtown Durham and Duke East Campus. The neighborhood is a lot of families, although this apartment’s block tends to be younger people.

Review by Med Student  
LIBERTY WAREHOUSE

There is always something to do while living in town and it has lots of places to eat nearby and bars to go out to. Be aware that the prices for living in Downtown can be more expensive.
Old West Durham is just North of Duke University. It's an older neighborhood with some charm and provides easy access to campus. It's also conveniently located next to Ninth Street, which is home to a plethora of bars/restaurants, so you get to enjoy the best of both worlds.

Charming  Next to Ninth Street
Affordable Rent

MEDIAN RENTS IN OLD WEST DURHAM

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<td>2 Bedroom</td>
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</table>

WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT OLD WEST DURHAM

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Review by Med Student 2503 ENGLEWOOD

Old West Durham is great! Lots of nice places to run and easy access to tons of great restaurants. There are many students but it doesn’t feel like you’re living on campus.

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Review by Med Student RESIDENCES AT ERWIN MILL

Has everything pretty close by! Groceries, bars, coffee, etc. It’s a super relaxed as well.”
Ninth Street
Great Nightlife & Popular for Duke Grad Students

ABOUT NINTH STREET

Expect frequent pregames, pool parties, and barbecues at Station Nine, and plenty of nearby events like Tav Tuesdays. Beyond the social scene, Ninth Street is also a convenient neighborhood by most measures. There’s a Harris Teeter within walking distance and a restaurant for every occasion. This small area offers a lot to do.

Great Nightlife  Social  Harris Teeter  Very Walk-able

MEDIAN RENTS IN NINTH STREET

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<th></th>
<th>Studio</th>
<th>1 Bedroom</th>
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<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$1,550</td>
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WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT NINTH STREET

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ Review by Med Student  BERKSHIRE NINTH STREET

Lots of shops/bars/restaurants (including amazing breakfast spot, Monuts Donuts)! Close to E.K.Powe elementary as well, lots of families and young children surrounding my place, very family friendly!

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ Review by Med Student  STATION NINE

The 9th street area has grown rapidly in the last few years. There are multiple great restaurants in the area, including Monuts Donuts, Mad Hatters, Happy & Hale, Juju, Burger Bach, and the new Saint & Co. There are two nice grocery stores (Harris Teeter and Whole Foods) within walking distance. I often go on runs or walks around the East Campus loop, which is just two blocks over from 9th street.
## APARTMENT RATINGS

### KEY

- **** Excellent for a category
- *** Great
- ** Average
- * Below average

- $$$$ $1290+ per renter
- $$ $1050- $1289
- $$ $870- $1049
- $ < $870

* Prices subject to change and may vary significantly by room type

** Buildings with fewer than 3 reviews are not listed in this guide but reviews can be found online at VeryApt.com.

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</table>
The most popular buildings tend to have:

- Excellent location
- Reasonably-priced apartments
- Solid amenities

**Studio**
- $1,070

**1 BR**
- $1,260

**2 BR**
- $1,850

**3 BR**
- $2,150

### Top 5

1st **Lofts at Lakeview**
- Erwin - LaSalle
- $$$$$
- 30+ people

*Review by Duke Med Student*

“Excellent apartment complex with 2 pools, weight room, fitness room, billiards, shuffle board, and a home theater!”

2nd **Trinity Commons at Erwin**
- Erwin - LaSalle
- $$$
- 25+ people

*Review by Duke Medical Student*

“I’ve loved living at Trinity Commons. The staff here is so friendly and helpful! They respond to maintenance requests almost immediately during business hours. They often host things in the lobby (halloween/holiday treats, hot chocolate, popcorn, etc.), and have started having biweekly group fitness (Zumba) classes. Best amenities in Durham, and the closest residency location to the hospital & medical school. The rent is more expensive than average in Durham, but for the location and amenities (and wonderful staff), it could be worth it for you.”

3rd **The Heights at LaSalle**
- Erwin - LaSalle
- $$$
- 20+ people

*Review by Duke Med Student*

“Maintenance is super nice and responsive here. Gym is open in the club house at all hours. Free breakfast in the clubhouse from 6-9am on weekdays. Leasing office is helpful whenever you need anything.”

4th **Station Nine**
- Erwin - LaSalle
- $$$
- 15+ people

5th **Alden Place**
- Erwin - LaSalle
- $$
- 10+ people

Read more reviews at VeryApt.com
HIGHEST RATED

Buildings with the best overall ratings

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What the highest-rated properties typically offer:

- High-end amenities
- Close proximity to work/school
- Nearby stores/grocery
- Excellent management

TOP 5

1st
SOLIS NINTH STREET
Old West Durham, 810 9th St
$\$$ 9.7 OVERALL RATING

Review by Duke Med Student
“Great place to live as a DukeMed student! 10 minute bus or bike ride to the front of TSCHE. The bus (Duke's H2) runs all day and has a stop -30 seconds from the apartment front door. Also conveniently located on Ninth Street (near grocery stores, restaurants, and bars). In terms of amenities, nice gym (better than other complexes), great pool and grilling area, and free garage parking. Apartment itself is spacious and includes stainless steel appliances.”

2nd
PHILLIPS RESEARCH PARK
Durham
$$ 9.5 OVERALL RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“Rent is very cheap for the Durham area. The apartment complex is high quality with lots of space too. Down side is it is a 14 minute drive to the parking garage. But you are close to Southpoint mall and not far from Chapel Hill.”

3rd
BERKSHIRE NINTH STREET
Ninth Street, 749 9th St
$$$$ 9.1 OVERALL RATING

Review by Anonymous
“Good space. Love the home appliances, maintenance is very efficiency and reception very useful. Most of my friends live very close to me, is easy to do work, have parties and find/give rides. Being 2 minutes from Harris Teeter (Grocery Store) is absolutely great! Can be a bit noisy sometimes, but nothing major.”

Studio 1 BR 2 BR 3 BR
$1,170 $1,360 $1,950 $2,250
BEST FOR AMENITIES

Highest-rated properties for amenities

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What top amenity properties typically offer:

- Great common spaces
- Convenient location
- Excellent management
- Newer construction

Studio 1 BR 2 BR 3 BR
$1,270 $1,460 $2,050 $2,350

TOP 5

1st
300 SWIFT
Duke Central Campus
$ $$ $
9.3 AMENITY RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“I’ve lived here for about a month now with my Husband, dog and cat and we are SO in love with the apartment complex and Durham in general. The apartment complex is unbelievably spacious, the gym is amazing, and there is a large separate private yoga studio! There is covered parking in a parking garage and the pool is always a perfect temperature. The wood floors are high ceilings in each apartment just add to my love for this place. Would highly recommend to anyone!”

2nd
THE FLATS AT THE EXCHANGE ON ERWIN
Erwin - LaSalle, 2610 Erwin Rd
$$ $
9.0 AMENITY RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“I’ve enjoyed living at the flats. I love that it’s within walking distance of the hospital (makes my commute a breeze). There is plenty of parking for residents right outside the buildings. Having doors inside a locked building makes me feel very secure.”

3rd
SOLIS NINTH STREET
Old West Durham
$$$$
8.9 AMENITY RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“Great location to live in Durham - slightly further away from the medical campus to provide some needed separation but with easy access to the hospital and school via a Duke bus (comes every 12 minutes) and bike. Very pet friendly - tons of cute dogs around”
BEST FOR VALUE

Highest-rated properties for value

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What top value properties typically offer:

✔ Great price-to-space trade off
✔ Good location
✔ Solid amenities and basic features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studio</th>
<th>1 BR</th>
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<tr>
<td>$970</td>
<td>$1,160</td>
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TOP 5

1st
ARiUM PINNACLE RIDGE
Durham

9.7 VALUE RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“Reasonably sized/apartment but nothing fancy -- dishwasher, washer/dryer, deck included. Very close to bus stop to local university. Safe location (gated community), close to shopping. Responsive management. Nice amenities (pool, hot tub, sports court, dog park, gym) at no extra cost. Reasonable rent.”

2nd
CHAPEL TOWER APARTMENTS
Erwin - LaSalle

9.5 VALUE RATING

Review by Duke Med Student
“It is within walking distance of Sanford, and the Law and Business schools as well as the rest of West campus. It also affordable. If your priorities are budget and a convenient location, I highly recommend it.”

3rd
GARRETT WEST
Garrett Road

9.2 VALUE RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“I love Garrett west! Chapel hilo and downtown Durham are both approx 15 min away. You definitely need a car to get to school though (so then you’ll need to purchase a parking pass). But a perk of living further away is that you can get a better-quality apartment for a more affordable price.”

4th
PHILLIPS RESEARCH PARK

9.1 VALUE RATING

5th
TAYLORS POND

9.0 VALUE RATING
Townhomes
Smaller properties and how to find them

ABOUT TOWNHOMES

Townhomes are apartments in older buildings, typically a few stories tall. They usually do not have a doorman, an elevator, or many amenities, but can be cheaper and more spacious than the apartment and condo units in high-rises.

Finding a townhome

Townhomes can be challenging to find because they tend to be individually owned and do not have full time leasing managers. Townhome listings are typically available ~60 days in advance. You can find a townhome by searching online listings, contacting a landlord directly, or by working with VeryApt's Concierge Team who can help identify some options.

Preparing for a townhome search

Most Duke Med students opt for larger properties in order to live closer to other students and simplify the housing search. That said, there are plenty of wonderful townhomes - be prepared to visit more properties to find that perfect home, carefully examine the pros/cons, and move quickly if you find a unit you love.

TIPS AND ADVICE

Reliable Landlords
Check online reviews and talk to previous tenants to find out about your landlord. Look for one that responds quickly to maintenance requests and has a history of returning deposits.

Noise and Neighbors
Sounds often travel well through townhomes and you can easily be disturbed by barking dogs, music, or construction. Check out the surrounding area to get a sense for what it may be like.

Lease Terms
Leases with independent landlords are negotiable. Check your lease for restrictions on sub-letters and visitor policies. You may be able to avoid a rent increase by locking in a longer lease.
**Landlord Grades**

Grades were assigned to landlords by using a combination of management ratings and overall ratings for the properties they manage.

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<th>GRADE</th>
<th>LANDLORD</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>10 Federal Management</td>
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<tr>
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**Understanding THE RENTING PROCESS**

If this is your first time renting, here is a heads up on what the process is like:

**Application process**

You will be asked to **fill out an application** for an apartment. Likely this will include an **application fee ($30-50)** and potentially a deposit (up to one month’s rent). If you’re an international student, you **may have to provide alternate information** - in the absence of a social security number, bank accounts, etc., often landlords will accept your visa documents and acceptance letter. Landlords will use your information to approve you based on your credit history and income. In the event where there are issues, a landlord may grant the application on the condition that a guarantor cosigns the lease.

**After you’re approved**

A landlord will often ask for a **security deposit** and **prepaid rent**. A landlord typically charges up to two months’ rent as a security deposit and will ask for up to two months in prepaid rent. Anything beyond this is more than normal. At the end of your lease and after you **give proper notification that you are moving out** (typically 60-90 days), the landlord has **30 days to return the security deposit at the end of the lease**. The landlord may not return the deposit in full if there are claimed damages to the property or other charges outstanding.

**What to look out for**

Check for additional charges or obligations that could cost you more than the listed price of a property. This could include move-in/move-out fees, renters insurance requirements, condo fees, common electrical fees, etc. Definitely ask about what previous electrical/utility bills have been to get a feel for any additional monthly costs there may be. Be sure to research the landlord and management company before placing any sort of deposit. If you have any specific questions, feel free to reach out to us at contact@veryapt.com.