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: 55%
- Downtown Durham: 20%
- Old West Durham: 10%
- Ninth Street: 10%
- Other: 5%

Who Duke Med students live with

- Alone: 30%
- Spouse/partner: 20%
- Roommate (excluding spouse/partner): 50%

11% of Duke Med students live with pets

What type of properties Duke Med students live in

- Large property (50+ units): 55%
- Small property (2-9 units): 25%
- Mid-size property (20-49 units): 20%

What size residences Duke Med students live in

- Studios or efficiencies: 5%
- One bedrooms: 30%
- Two bedrooms: 50%
- Three or more bedrooms: 15%

Distribution of property ratings

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

Average rent by apartment size

- $1,150 Studio
- $1,200 1BR
- $1,500 2BR
- $1,750 3BR

Rent versus own

- Rent: 85%
- Own: 15%

Commute methods

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

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**
   55% 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**
Erwin - LaSalle
Quiet and Convenient

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.

Close to Campus  Stores  Quiet

Suburban

MEDIAN RENTS IN ERWIN - LASALLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$1,000</th>
<th>$1,250</th>
<th>$1,600</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Bedroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Bedroom</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT ERWIN - LASALLE

★★★★★
Review by Duke Med Student  TRINITY COMMONS
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.

★★★★★/5
Review by Duke Med Student  LOFTS AT LAKEVIEW
The dining options within walking distance are ok in this area (some good options, but you could get tired of them after a while). However, you can’t beat how close it is to the hospital. There are a decent number of students that live in this neighborhood (at least half) so there’s a good community of medical students within walking distance as well. You probably need a car for groceries/to get downtown (part of living in Durham).
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 Fuqua students begin to branch out here.

Bustling  Clean  City Life
Bars and Restaurants

MEDIAN RENTS IN DOWNTOWN DURHAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rent</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2 Bedroom</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT DOWNTOWN DURHAM

★★★★★
Review by Duke Med Student  VAN ALEN APTS.
Great experience. Some of the best bars ans restaurants are in Downtown, as well as the DPAC, Bull's stadium and other things to do. It's close to the American Tobacco Campus and Trail. One of the "busiest" places in Durham.

★★★★★
Review by Duke Med Student  WHETSTONE
I love the neighborhood -- it is very walkable with many young professional and students around. It is a little quieter during the week, but that may be due to the pandemic and less people commuting to downtown for work.
Old West Durham
Charming & Next to Ninth Street

ABOUT OLD WEST DURHAM

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
- Easy Access to Campus

MEDIAN RENTS IN OLD WEST DURHAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Bedroom</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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</table>

WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT OLD WEST DURHAM

🌟🌟🌟🌟
Review by Duke Med Student 📍1001 CAROLINA AVE
Close to 9th 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 Duke Med Student 📍611 HICKS ST.
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. You can get to the school by bus (45 mi) or by car (10 min). Carpooling is very commom.
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.

Nightlife  Social  Grocery Store
Walkable  Restaurants and Bars

MEDIAN RENTS IN NINTH STREET

$1,200  $1,400  $2,400
Studio  1 Bedroom  2 Bedroom

WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT NINTH STREET

Review by Duke Med Student  810 NINTH STREET

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 can walk to several coffee shops. I often go on runs or walks around the East Campus loop.

Review by Duke Med Student  THE RESIDENCES

Living on 9th Street is great! There’s a grocery store just steps from my door and many cute restaurants. It’s also nearby Duke’s Brodie Gym.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Most Popular</th>
<th>Best for Pets</th>
<th>Best for Families</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Social</th>
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<tr>
<td>810 Ninth Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berkshire Ninth Street</td>
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<td>$$$$$</td>
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<td>BullHouse Apartments</td>
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<td>Lofts at Lakeview</td>
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<td>$$</td>
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<td>Southpoint Glen</td>
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<td>Station Nine</td>
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<td>$$$</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$$$$$</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Heights at LaSalle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity Commons at Erwin</td>
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<td>8.1</td>
<td>$$$</td>
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<td>**</td>
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</tr>
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<td>West Village</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

** Buildings with fewer than 3 reviews or ratings below 7.0 are not listed in this guide but reviews can be found online at VeryApt.com.

*** Some buildings with fewer than 3 reviews are included above because of high ratings but do not appear in the top 10 lists.
MOST POPULAR
Buildings with the most Duke Med students

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What students typically look for:

- Excellent location
- Reasonably-priced apartments
- Solid amenities

Studio $1,150
1 BR $1,200
2 BR $1,500
3 BR $1,750

TOP 5

1st
TRINITY COMMONS AT ERWIN
Erwin - LaSalle
$$$
25+ PEOPLE

Review by Duke Med Student
“The apartment is very luxurious with amazing amenities on property: Hot tub, sauna, pool, gym, game room. It is located across the street from the hospital. Management is incredible. They often have events for the residents including dinner, Breakfast, bingo with prizes. They are very responsive to maintenance requests. Even though it is expensive, it is definitely worth it (and with a roommate it is not so bad cost wise).”

2nd
LOFTS AT LAKEVIEW
Erwin - LaSalle
$$$
20+ PEOPLE

Review by Duke Med Student
“I really enjoy living at the Lofts. It is definitely one of the pricier options in the area- but you’re paying for proximity to Duke and modern amenities/apartment style. I have only had pleasant experiences with the apartment staff and maintenance crew, have never had issues with noisy neighbors or pest problems, and love living close enough to walk and being able to forego a parking pass.”

3rd
THE FLATS AT THE EXCHANGE ON ERWIN
Erwin - LaSalle
$$$$
15+ PEOPLE

Review by Duke Medical Student
“Really convenient to campus. Tons of light and great management. Overall, feels very spacious!”

4th
THE HEIGHTS AT LASALLE
Erwin - LaSalle
$$
10+ PEOPLE

5th
THE BELMONT APARTMENTS
Erwin - LaSalle
$$
10+ PEOPLE
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

Studio | 1 BR | 2 BR | 3 BR
-------|-----|-----|-----
$1,350 | $1,400 | $1,700 | $1,950

TOP 5

1st
GARRETT WEST
Garrett Road, 4130 Garrett Rd
Review by Duke Med Student
“A little further away from Duke (same distance as Alden Place) but much cheaper than the closer locations. Right off of 15 501 so easy access to groceries and other shopping/restaurants. The pool area is beautiful, the apartments are very nice, and there is a theater room and a gym.”

2nd
WHETSTONE
Downtown Durham, 501 Willard St
Review by Duke Med Student
“Right next to downtown. A bit pricey but worth it, never loses power during storms because of its central location. Has a gym and pool. Very pet friendly. Lots of dogs, in fact might be a bad place if you are allergic.”

3rd
300 SWIFT
Duke Central Campus, 300 Swift Ave
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!”

4th
SOUTHPOINT GLEN

5th
BULLHOUSE APARTMENTS

$9.8 OVERALL RATING
$9.5 OVERALL RATING
$9.4 OVERALL RATING
$9.3 OVERALL RATING
$9.1 OVERALL RATING

$9.8 OVERALL RATING
$9.5 OVERALL RATING
$9.4 OVERALL RATING
$9.3 OVERALL RATING
$9.1 OVERALL RATING
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

TOP 5

1st
810 NINTH STREET
Old West Durham, 810 9th St

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”

$4,000
9.8 AMENITY RATING

2nd
SOLIS BRIGHTLEAF
Brightleaf

Review by Duke Medical Student

$4,000
9.6 AMENITY RATING

3rd
BULLHOUSE APARTMENTS
Downtown Durham

Review by Fuqua MBA Student
“Good enough. A lot of room, decent location, good management, trash services”

$4,000
9.5 AMENITY RATING

4th
300 SWIFT

$4,000
9.3 AMENITY RATING

5th
THE FLATS AT THE EXCHANGE ON ERWIN

$4,000
9.0 AMENITY RATING

Studio
1 BR
2 BR
3 BR

$1,550
$1,600
$1,900
$2,150
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

Studio   1 BR   2 BR   3 BR
$950     $1,000  $1,300  $1,550

TOP 5

1st
SOUTHPOINT GLEN
Durham
9.9 VALUE RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“This is a GREAT place to live. It’s super quiet, pretty, affordable, safe. There is a great walking trail and forest within walking distance. Amenities like grocery stores, malls, pharmacies etc are within 5 min driving. Plus the management is really attentive and helpful and reasonable.”

2nd
BLUE CREST
Erwin - LaSalle
9.6 VALUE RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“I have had a great experience at my Blue Crest townhouse. The value of the home is great, and I pay a very low price for rent for a 2bd 2.5ba. The half bathroom downstairs is great for guests. As far as things to be improved upon, it would be great if there was some sort of balcony/porch to sit outside. Also, the townhouse complex has a park bench in the middle of the complex, but no other amenities.

3rd
RETREAT AT RTP
Durham
9.2 VALUE RATING

Review by Duke Medical Student
“Spacious apartments with excellent amenities at a competitive price in the Durham/Triangle area. Located in South Durham (closer to airport), it is a 12-14 minute drive mostly on the highway to the parking garage on campus. Lots of green space and privacy as well as sidewalks/trails, but no restaurants/grocery stores/bars in walking distance.”

4th
TAYLORS POND

5th
CHAPEL TOWER APARTMENTS

9.0 VALUE RATING
8.8 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.

WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER A TOWNHOME

- CHEAPER
- LARGER FLOOR PLANS
- 3+ BEDROOMS AVAILABLE
- MORE PRIVACY

WHY YOU MAY WANT TO AVOID A TOWNHOME

- NO DOORMAN
- LESS CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
- OLDER CONSTRUCTION
- LIMITED AMENITIES
- MORE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

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 and the Renting Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Landlord</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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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 only 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.