

# Retirement Guide 2011

# Money

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OCTOBER 2010

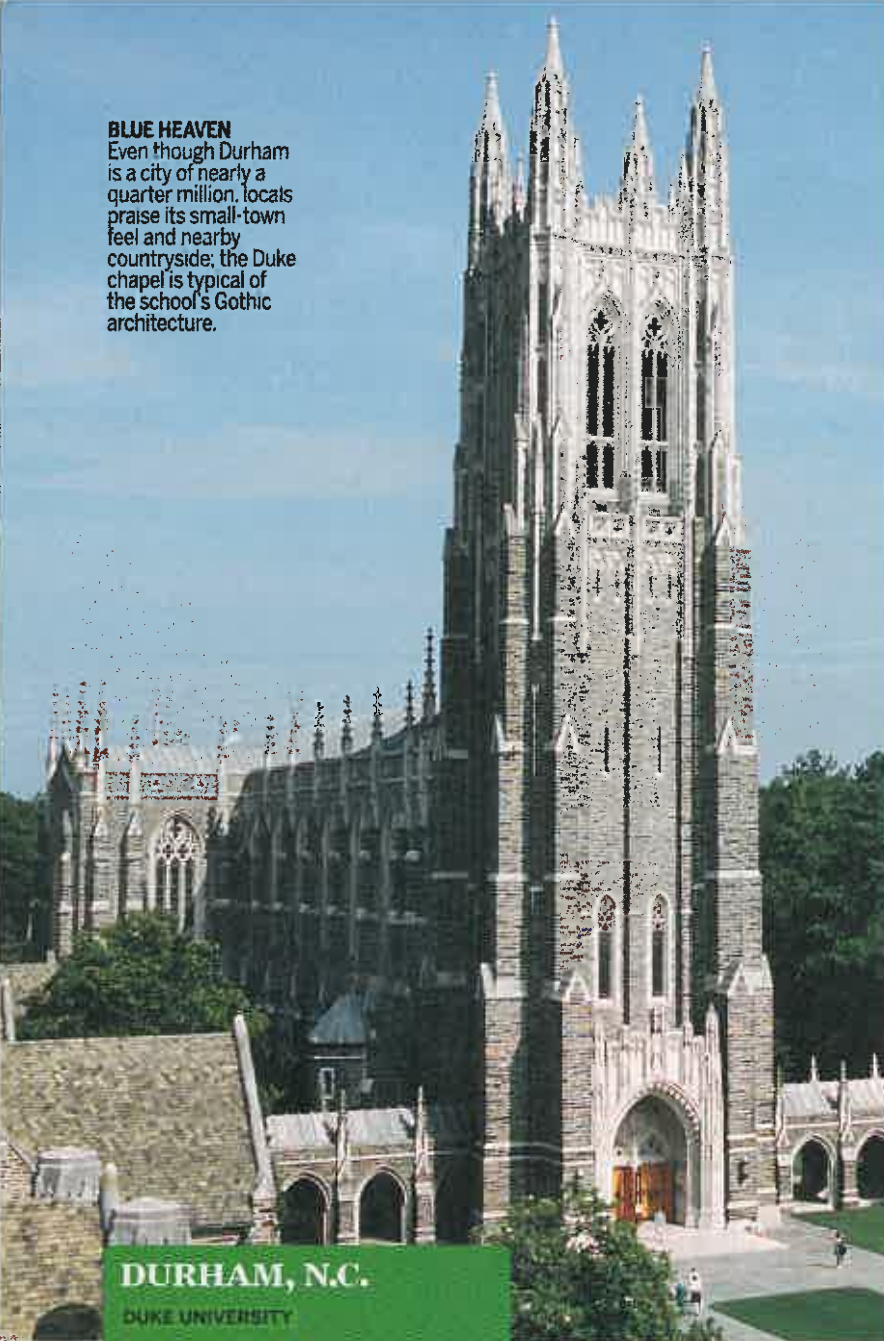
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## BLUE HEAVEN

Even though Durham is a city of nearly a quarter million, locals praise its small-town feel and nearby countryside; the Duke chapel is typical of the school's Gothic architecture.



## DURHAM, N.C.

DUKE UNIVERSITY

ALONG WITH NEARBY CHAPEL HILL AND Raleigh, Durham would most likely rank as a retiree mecca even without Duke University's stellar lifelong-learning program. The four seasons tend not to be extreme—no frigid New England winters in the Carolinas, and summers aren't as stifling as in Florida. The area is dotted with golf courses and parkland, and the region is home to a renowned university medical center, as well as about a dozen continuing-care communities. And with

a median price of \$163,000, homes in Durham are affordable.

This former tobacco town of 223,300 is also a budding cultural haven. The Nasher Museum of Art, opened on the Duke campus in 2005, has a growing modern and contemporary art collection.

The newly built 2,800-seat Durham Performing Arts Center hosts touring musicals and concerts. Every summer a six-week modern dance festival puts down stakes.

With more than 1,500 members, Duke's 33-year-old senior learning program is one of the largest in the country. Members can mix with the younger generation in the student center, libraries, and dining halls. The 100-plus courses every term, most held on campus, cover topics from Introduction to China to Alexander the Great. "There are more classes you'd like to take than you have hours in the day," says five-year member Mike Bahnaman, the Dow Chemical retiree. He enjoys the chance to dig deep into the subjects in the 11-week terms.

What Duke also has is local competition, and not just in basketball. N.C. State in Raleigh, about 25 miles to the southeast, has a similar lifelong-learning arm. The University of North Carolina runs a less extensive senior program in Chapel Hill, a smaller yet pricier college town 10 miles to the southwest. So retirees can sample courses at all three. Just don't show up in the Duke library wearing Carolina blue.

To learn more, 919-684-2703  
[learnmore.duke.edu/olli/](http://learnmore.duke.edu/olli/)  
\$35-a-year dues, \$85 for one class

223,300

POPULATION

25%

OVER 50

\$163,000

MEDIAN HOME PRICE

\$2,300

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX

7.75%

TOP STATE INCOME TAX

7.75%

SALES TAX