As a residential college, Davidson College provides on-campus housing for approximately 95 percent of the student body. We believe students are more likely to be invested in the life of the college and grow emotionally, spiritually, socially and intellectually in residence hall settings. Most students (including all first-year students) are required to live on campus all four years, although some upper-class students may live off campus with permission from the Residence Life Office (RLO).

Accommodations and Furnishings
Davidson College offers a wide range of living options. Some buildings are traditionally styled with corridor bathrooms and double or single rooms. Others offer suites with semi-private baths or full apartments for four or five students. All rooms are outfitted with cable television and data connections, a bed, mattress, desk, desk chair, chest of drawers and closet or wardrobe for each student. Each common area offers one telephone line. Many rooms include a sink. Apartments have additional living room furnishings and major appliances. There is no storage for personal items beyond the room, suite or apartment, so students are encouraged to check with roommates before bringing large items (stereos, refrigerators, etc.) to avoid duplication and clutter. Floor plans and additional information are available at www.davidson.edu/hh.

Roommates and Hall Communities
All students reside in single-gender rooms in coed residence halls. Upper-class students choose their own roommates and participate in a seniority-based lottery process to choose their rooms. First-year students are assigned to halls with approximately 30 of their classmates and upper-class Hall Counselors, who help ease the transition to college life. First-year students may be paired with a roommate of their own choosing if both students request it. However, the vast majority of first-year students are paired by the Residence Life Office staff.

Davidson takes extraordinary care in pairing roommates and enjoys an excellent success rate. Each year, approximately 40 percent of the first-year class chooses to remain with the same roommate for sophomore year. In one recent year, 80 percent of seniors chose to share an apartment with their first-year roommates.

RLO seeks to place compatible roommates of similar habits and interests in diverse hall "neighborhoods," where they can become friends with people who are different from themselves. First-year halls typically develop strong friendships and communities, as evidenced by self-initiated "reunions" of upper-class students and graduates with their first-year hall mates. Several tools help us make these assignments. We garner information about interests and educational and family background from reading the admission materials of each student. Each student completes a survey about habits and preferences, including neatness, sleep schedules and music preferences.

RLO is committed to ensuring that first-year students succeed at Davidson College. One of the best ways to make this happen is by creating healthy, safe, education-al, diverse and fun residential communities throughout the campus.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) uses four scales to describe how individuals focus their attention and energy, acquire information, make decisions or judgments and relate to the outer world. Combining these four scales results in an overall pattern called a personality type. Although Davidson students are capable of operating at many points along these scales, each one of us has a more natural, or preferred, way of being. Operating in your preferred personality type is similar to using your strengths.

The Myers-Briggs inventory and the effort Davidson’s staff puts into pairing roommates is phenomenal. My first-year roommate has become my best friend and we have chosen to continue to live with many of our first-year hall mates. We are all very different, but we complement each other, which makes for an exciting living environment and lifelong friendships.

—Jaime Dybuncio ‘13
A Special Option

All residence halls are smoke-free. Students who wish to minimize their exposure in their living environment to alcohol and alcohol-related behavior, illicit drugs, cigarettes and other forms of smoking materials may opt for “substance-free” halls. On substance-free halls, residents and their guests understand that alcohol, smoking materials and other substances are not brought onto, stored or consumed on the hall. In addition, residents promise not to return to the hall in an intoxicated or impaired state, especially if intoxication leads to destructive, loud or inconsiderate behavior. The substance-free option is limited to the first and sophomore years and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Students may apply for substance-free housing by returning the Substance-Free Housing Application to the Residence Life Office.

Security

Davidson College has a strong and longstanding tradition in our Honor Code. However, the campus is open to visitors who may not subscribe to or support the Honor Code. The entire campus community shares, with Campus Police, the responsibility for a safe and secure campus. All residential buildings are outfitted with access control systems. Students are encouraged to guard their keycards or access codes to avoid permitting people they don’t know into the residence halls. Students are encouraged to lock their bedroom doors when leaving or sleeping.

Although the college strives to provide safe and secure residence halls, Davidson College cannot accept responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of personal property. Students are advised to cover their valuables with appropriate insurance, either through their parents’ homeowner’s policy or a separate renter’s insurance. Insurance companies frequently offer discounts on renter’s insurance to their auto or homeowner policyholders.

Davidson’s first-year experience is perhaps one of the best aspects of the college. My hall counselors were a huge positive influence during my first year, and I hope to have had the same impact on my residents during my junior year as a hall counselor. Hall counselors make sure you become a part of a special community as soon as you arrive on this campus, and that tight community follows you for four years and beyond.

~ Mac Gilliland ‘12