



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN GOING TO DMACC

# THE FRESHMAN 15



15 REASONS TO CALL COLLEGE YOUR HOME

WRITTEN BY JESSICA HANSEN  
DESIGN BY HALEIGH STEERE

Debating whether to live at home, rent an off-campus apartment, or reside on campus? We've rounded up 15 enticing reasons to choose designated student housing next to DMACC as your home sweet home away from home.

## 1. Make the grade – and maybe even the Dean's list!

Studies show that students who live on campus have higher GPAs. You're closer to class, so you're more likely to go to class. You also have more immediate access to grade-boosting resources like the library, computer labs, study groups, and your prof's office. The American Council on Education reports that studies show that students who reside on campus not only are more likely to achieve higher GPAs, but also have higher retention and graduation rates, are more likely to succeed in college and complete a Bachelor's Degree in 4 years, and report a higher level of satisfaction with their college experience.



## 2. Oh, you thought we meant that Freshman 15.

Actually, you're more likely to lose some excess weight or pack on some muscle. Walking to class and on campus activities burn more calories than driving and living at home. Plus there are nearby bike trails, fitness centers, and intramural sports for you to take advantage of. Instead of grabbing a fast food breakfast before the commute to class, you can sit down for a healthy, balanced meal at the dining hall.

## 3. Commuting eats away at your time – and wallet.

Tell us it doesn't make you cringe when the price of gas rises above your grade point average. Cutting out the commute to walk or bike to class could save you thousands per school year. You'll be able to get to your early morning classes without fighting traffic and commuters. Less driving also equals less vehicle accidents. You can participate in late-night study sessions at the library without worrying about the drive home. Time that would be spent driving can be used for hitting the books or getting involved. And money that would be pumped into your gas tank can be applied toward tuition, books, and living expenses.

*"Better study habits, social aspect, money saver!" - Caitlyn Flanagan*

DMACC AMBASSADOR

**4. Go ahead. Hit that snooze button one more time.** Since you're just minutes from class, you can sleep in and still get there on time. You can get to the Student Center, Media Center, and club meetings in a jiffy.

**5. You have concierge (err, Housing Community Staff) at your service!** Locked out? Missed a care package mom mailed you? The community manager is your go-to guy or gal. It's the student housing staff's job to provide you with valuable info, promote a safe and positive community, and serve as a resource for your questions and concerns.

## 6. Computer down? We'll hook you up!

If you don't have a computer or are having computer problems, you'll have immediate access to on-campus technology resources like computer labs, free and reliable wi-fi, and IT support. Need expensive software for class but not sure you'll ever use it again? School computers are already outfitted with the programs you need to succeed. That also means "My hard-drive ate my homework!" and "The router stopped working!" won't fly with your prof as valid excuses for a missing assignment. (Sorry!)



*"I don't have to drive" - Garret Schissel*

## 7. Run for president! Take the stage! Show your art!

Life on campus gives you the ultimate proximity to school organizations and activities – whether you want to continue a beloved hobby or try something new. Getting involved leads to meeting new people, developing your talents, and discovering passions you didn't know you had. Plus, all that campus involvement looks pretty shiny on job apps and resumes.

## 8. Speaking of jobs, need extra spending money?

On campus residents have easier access to work-study positions and part-time jobs. The employment and leadership opportunities are easier to find, get to, and maintain. You'll perk up your bank account and your cover letter.

## 9. Develop your independence and confidence.

Ahhh, freedom! You might go overboard eating ice cream for supper and staying up 'til 3 AM for your first week or two of life on your own. But ohhh, those responsibilities creep up on you. At some point, someone's got to do that laundry, pay the bills, and get up for that wretched 8 AM class. And that someone is you! College transitions you into adulthood, where you become a master of balancing checkbooks, washing clothes without shrinking them, and whipping up more to eat than just ramen noodles.

## 10. Don't get left in the dark!

Living on your own and balancing a tight budget can be tricky. We get it. The comforts of home means Mom might still leave the night light on for you. But if you rent off-campus and mix up your electric and gas bills, the utility company will shut off the lights on you. Consider us your happy medium. We roll all your living costs into one bill: rent, utilities, cable, etc. You'll be responsible for one lump sum every month or semester – making budgeting more convenient and stress-free for you.

## 11. Feel safe and sound in your home-away-from-home.

Off campus housing is a whole 'nother ball game. The search for an apartment can be difficult. You could end up in a shady neighborhood or stuck in a lease agreement where your roommate bails on you. Your landlord might not take security measures or care about fixing your broken toilet. Don't take the risk. Live in student designated housing where your security is a high priority. Housing staff, camera surveillance, electronic locks, and well-lit parking lots make for easy living and puts Mom and Dad's minds at ease.

*"Easy access to Class" - Mark Stone*

## 12. Soak up all of the diverse ideas and cultures.

By living on campus you have a higher chance of developing relationships with a diverse population of individuals. If you're just driving to class, sitting through class, and driving home, you'll be missing out on all that your classmates, roommates, and professors have to offer. Plus, there are endless chances to try new things and discover things about yourself. You might not realize your knack for acting and land that starring role if you don't audition for the play. You may not make the winning touchdown in intramural flag football if you don't join the team. The more you flirt with opportunity, the more it comes knocking!



## 13. Build your social circle, social network, and social skills.

For many of us, making friends pre-college was easy and not seeing old high school friends every day can be hard. Realizing that you're on a campus full of strangers is scary. So is realizing that you actually have to put effort into creating friendships. Striking up a convo with the person who sits next to you in Chem 101 is one thing. Continuing the small talk, exchanging phone numbers, texting, liking their statuses on Facebook, re-tweeting their witticisms, and eventually hanging out with that person outside of class – now that can be a daunting social challenge. But everyone's in the same boat! Living

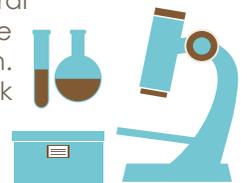
on campus makes it easier for you to meet new friends through class, activities, clubs, and events – as well as meet up with those people outside of those environments. It's a lot more difficult to make lasting friendships when you can't make it to the weekend movie nights or shopping trips because you live 30 minutes away. Living on campus surrounds you with potential friendships and networking. Living with a roommate, picking a prof's brain after lecture, meeting with a study group, joining a club, dishing out duties on a committee, taking on a work study job – through it all, you'll learn the art of compromise, teamwork, and communication. You'll strengthen the interpersonal skills that will benefit you down the road as you further your education, work an internship, and pursue a career.

*"My pops wanted me in a nice environment where I can get all my work done & focus on school"*

*- Dominique Brown*

## 14. Get the total experience – not just a taste of it!

You've heard your folks and teachers say it. "Back in my college days..." You want those college days, too. The walking into the wrong classroom. The all night cram sessions only made bearable by pizza delivery and classmates who became friends. The epic intramural championship win. Seize the college days while you can. You want to be able to look back on fond memories that last a lifetime –not look back and realize you missed out.



## 15. Confidently become the well-rounded, total package.

Living on campus is part of the college experience – and turns out, it's highly beneficial to students who chose to reside at school. The American Council of Education says so. According to research studies, students who live on campus have a more positive self image, enhanced self confidence, better public speaking ability, and increased self reliance. On campus residents participate in more extracurricular activities, which is highly attractive to job recruiters. Other studies show that living on campus contributes to higher retention and graduation rates. And even living on campus just that first year increases your likelihood of coming back for more the following academic year. (It's worth mentioning again that you're more likely to achieve one of those glorious, higher GPA rates and graduate on time, too.)

## Good grades, good friends, good times!

Students who lived in student housing report higher satisfaction with his or her overall collegiate experience.

CHOOSE STUDENT DESIGNATED HOUSING AT DMACC!



[PrairiePointeLiving.com](http://PrairiePointeLiving.com)

1351 Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

515-422-9882

[info@prairiepointeliving.com](mailto:info@prairiepointeliving.com)



[RentCampusViewAnkeny.com](http://RentCampusViewAnkeny.com)

2030 S DMACC Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023

515-964-7474

[laurastein@houserdevelopment.com](mailto:laurastein@houserdevelopment.com)