

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! As first years, you may not realize it yet but you are starting your journey that will have many possibilities for adventures, experiences, relationships, and of the sort. I personally have grown to be a completely different than I was when I was a first year, and much of it is due to the people I've met and my experiences here. I hope you realize that we are all very happy to see you here and wish the best for your time here.

My experience with UVA has had its highs and lows. I started out my freshman year extremely focused on academic success and hesitant to let anything get in that goal's way. I served as a teaching assistant for a large course and worked hard to attain the best internships my career-path offers. As I got more and more attached to this goal, I started to realize how important personal relationships and adventures really were to me. Since then, I'm now more focused of making the most of my time here at UVA as graduation nears. If I can offer one advice to myself when I was a first year and to all first years in general, it would be to try as many adventures as you feel comfortable doing so. In doing so, you will form strong memories, gain new perspectives, and often meet really impactful people to your life. I also would tell myself to have no fears! If there is something you want to try, find a safe way of trying it, and everything will be okay!

Remember that during your time here, time will fly very fast. Semesters end before you know it and opportunities slowly disappear away. Make the absolute most of it! Do whatever makes you happy and never shy away! But always remember to calculate your adventures. Stay focused on academics (but not too focused) and focus on staying safe (regardless of pandemic or not)! Us fourth years are rooting for you guys!

Sincerely,  
A fourth year engineering student!