

Hello Class of 2024!!!!

Welcome to UVA!!!! I know that this is probably not the way that you imagined your first year of college going, and I'm sorry. There's a lot going on in the world right now and that combined with the stress of starting college in such an uncertain time is a lot to handle. BUT, I know that you're going to push through and THRIVE! Regardless of what's happening out in the world, please please please remember that all of your fellow Hoos are so excited that you're here and we can't wait to see all of the amazing things you're going to accomplish in the next four years.

I know that for me personally, the beginning of my first year was a tough time; I was stressed about making friends, about navigating Grounds, about not failing my classes, and about finding fun things to do outside of school. But almost before I knew it, I had found ~my people~ and some clubs to join and my own study routines and I know that you will too. The fact that we're all spending more time at home these days gives you an opportunity to grow even closer with your roommate and/or hallmates! (See, silver linings even in tough times!) Some of my favorite memories involve spending the whole night with my friends just hanging out — walking around to explore Grounds at night, having dance parties in our dorm lounge, and eating way too much junk food. While other favorite memories (like winning the NCAA Basketball Championship and exploring restaurants on the Corner) are things that unfortunately can't happen right now, it's important to remember that there are still lots of ways to bond with people and have fun. And when life gets more normal, Charlottesville will be so excited for you to finally go out and explore.

If I could give my first year self a piece of advice, it would be this: breathe. You don't have to figure everything out right away; the best way to support yourself is to make sure you're taking time to breathe, to do things you enjoy, to make sure you're getting enough sleep and eating enough good food. Please take care of yourself and know that we're all here to support you too — it's okay to ask for help if you need it! You matter and are an important part of the UVA community. Happy beginning of your first year!!!!

Sincerely,
Maeve
Class of 2021