

Hey to all of Class of 2024!

First of all, welcome to UVA! I know you've been on a long road getting here in the first place, so congratulations on making it here! Unfortunately, your first year experience isn't going to be the typical one, which makes it hard to adjust and get into the swing of everything UVA, but we are so happy that you are here! I am confident that the persistence and determination that got you here will carry you through these tough times.

I hope that you grow to love your time at UVA as I have. I'm in my fourth year, which means that I have to pack all the last-minute things into a wild last few months, but you guys have a whole four years ahead of you. (Maybe even more if you decide on grad school!) There's no wrong way to spend your time, so I hope you can have the best college experience you can without any regrets. Personally, I've learned and grown a lot as a person during my time here, as I'm sure happens to everyone. Some of my favorite memories here stem from one of the hardest classes I've had to take. Me and a few friends would sit in office hours for hours, sometimes until 11PM or later. But every Thursday we would go to IHOP for their half-off special and take time to rant about classes, homework, and everything else that had stressed us out during the week. Even though it was brought about by a difficult class, this was how I got close to people that remain some of the closest friends I have to this day!

First year is definitely one of the hardest, in terms of finding your place. It's a new environment with new people and a ton of new experiences to be had. Being kicked into the real world of taxes and other "adult" things can be scary. Now you're in charge of many things that seemed so trivial before, like deciding to go to class on your own, since most classes will not be taking attendance and have no consequence for skipping. You also have lots of big decisions to make for yourself, like major decisions, and the classes you have to take to get there. Take things one day at a time, and you have a lot of great resources that are happy to help. I believe in you! UVA has many wonderful organizations full of great people, where you can find your home.

Best of Luck and Stay Strong!
A Fourth Year that is just as lost as you