

Hi, Class of 2024!

First and foremost, congratulations on officially becoming a Hoo! I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you to the UVA community. Whether you're on Grounds or at home, know that we are so happy that you've joined us. This is definitely a difficult time to be entering into college, both with the pandemic and social turmoil shaking our nation, but all of us at UVA hope that we can become a place of steadfast support and second home.

As a fourth year, I am definitely jealous that you are only at the beginning of your UVA experience. Whether it was late night studying in a dorm lounge or laying on blankets on the lawn, I made some great memories throughout my time here. One of the most fulfilling parts of my time here, though, was joining Moot Court. The club provided me a place to gain exposure to law, improve my debate skills, and most importantly, find some of the closest friendships I have today. The beauty of a large school of like UVA is that you will always be able to find your people, your niche. I found my people in Moot Court, among other places, and I am certain you will too.

Looking back at my first year, I definitely felt moments of uncertainty, much like I guess you may be feeling right now. However, the nerves that come with the transition into college life were quickly overshadowed by the memories and opportunities that I found here. The University of Virginia has so much to offer, all you have to do is reach out and take it. Good luck – I know you're going to have an amazing four years!

Sincerely,

Richa Gupta
Class of 2021