

Dear Class of 2024,

Welcome to UVA!! While I am sure this year was not what you had anticipated, I am very optimistic that it will still be one to remember. Regardless of whether you are on Grounds or at home, I have faith that you will find creative ways to make the most of your time. Consider UVA a second home for you, and remember that you belong here and fellow Hoos are very excited to have you join our community!

As I write this letter, I remember a letter I had once written in high school for my future self. I happened to read it recently and a few words of advice stuck out. I had hoped that my future self in college would not be overly focused on academics to the point where I forget to enjoy the small moments of joy. As I reflect on my time at UVA, I remember not the grades I received, but the laughter my friends brought and the spontaneous activities that turned soon into fond memories. I remember throwing colors during Holi, stargazing on the OHill field, indulging in gelato while walking through Downtown, playing pool at 1515, and so much more. Through various clubs and organizations such as Rise Together or the Brain Exercise Initiative, I formed relationships with and heard stories from members in the greater Charlottesville community. I can't emphasize enough to take advantage of the many opportunities during your time here to meet people, make memories, and simply have fun...

...But don't get too carried away! College is hard. You will run into many difficult classes, tough deadlines, and tsunamis of work. However, do not let this discourage you from trying your best and persevering. It's okay to ask for help, and I encourage you to find friends who you can talk to during hard times. This semester will have its own unique struggles as it is online, but I am confident that you will be able to push through. I wish you the best of luck with your first semester and the rest of your years at UVA! We are very excited to have you!

Sincerely,

A Friend from the Class of 2021