

Hello, Class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! I know that this has been a difficult year in many ways and that this is an extremely difficult and daunting time to be entering college, but I wanted to remind you of how proud you should be to have made it this far. There are many ways to continue to be creative and to make the most of your time at this university and city despite all the restrictions and regulations. Remember that you belong at UVA, and your fellow Hoos are very excited to have you join our community!

Something that I love about UVA is that there are so many different opportunities to get involved and meet new people. One of the opportunities that I have been most grateful for was joining the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, which I joined during the beginning of my second year. As a brother of APO, I was able to immerse myself not only in the community of UVA but also the community of Charlottesville as we did frequent service with non-profit organizations in and around Charlottesville. It was amazing to serve the community and create relationships with those who live in Charlottesville, but my favorite part of the program was just building friendships with people that'll last a lifetime.

I encourage you to push yourself to try new things during your time at college, even during this mostly virtual semester. There are tons of classes that you can take and dip your feet into. Now is the best time to experiment and figure out what you love to do. I'm confident that you will find your home at UVA, just like I did! I wish you the best of luck with your first semester and the rest of your years at UVA. We're very excited to have you!

Sincerely,
Derek T.
Class of 2021