

Hello class of 2024!

Welcome to UVA! I'm so excited to get to meet you guys! I understand that right now is a difficult time to enter college, but I want you to know that you are welcomed here and that things will get better. Your college experience will undoubtedly be the best time of your life. As a fourth year I can promise you that.

Coming to UVA as a first year was scary for me. I didn't know anyone coming here and my first year roommate dropped out the day before move in (her loss), but I have met so many amazing people throughout my years, including my best friends. I understand that your first year experience will be different from mine and that meeting people may seem difficult right now, but remember that there are thousands of people in the same or a similar situation as you. You are not alone.

The best way to meet people is joining a club and there are so many to choose from! I rushed my first year just for the hell of it and it worked out really well. Tbh greek life sounded wack to me first year, but I am now on our exec and living in a house with some of my best friends. Obviously greek life isn't for everyone but it's an easy way to meet new people from different walks of life.

First year can be a rough time, being away from home and adapting to classes, but remember that life is full of ups and downs and even when things feel especially hard (like right now) just remind yourself that it will get better. College will give you so many valuable and fun experiences that will stay with you for the rest of your life. You will grow so much these next couple of years. But please stay safe! Things will eventually go back to normal and you'll have time to go crazy and be stupid (bars are lame right now anyway). Don't take your time here for granted because in the blink of an eye you'll be a fourth year and not want to leave.

If you ever need any advice or just feel like you need talk to someone older about UVA (or anything at all) don't hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,  
Erica Soderberg (ems5cb)  
Class of 2021