

Dear Class of 2024,

Welcome to UVA! I know that you were not expecting your first year of college to be under these conditions and it is really disappointing in many ways. Nevertheless, UVA has so much to offer if you go out and look for opportunities to get involved. As a fellow Hoo, we're so happy that you're here joining the community!

You belong at UVA and this is the time to really make the most of your talents, passions, and interests! There is something here for everyone if you take the time to find it. For me, I was able to get involved with the UVA community by forming a string quartet with some peers who have become my close friends. From that point on, I also got involved with other music opportunities around Grounds. It was fun and stress-relieving to be able to perform music for my friends and audiences around Charlottesville!

While it can seem overwhelming to dive into activities and clubs with so many events being on zoom, I would really encourage you step out of your comfort zone! I know this is something I struggled with as a first year, but I'm so glad that I ended up taking some of the risks that I did. At the same time, remember that each person is on their own path and try not to compare yourself too much to others! Focus on making your college experience meaningful to you because that is what is most important at the end of the day. I am confident that you have the ability to make the most out of your time at UVA, even with this unusual start.

I wish you the best of luck for your first year and the rest of your time at UVA! Wahoowa!

Best,

A friend from the Class of 2021