## Welcome to UVA! Go Hoos!

I know this is a really tough time to be starting college and it's totally not fair. This shared experience as the UVA Class of 2024 will bring your class together, even if right now you're apart. You belong at UVA, and I'm super excited to have you be a part of the UVA community. Your unique ideas, interests, and personality are helping the University become great and good.

This year will be different from other years, but there's still a lot of opportunities to have fun and get involved. In my college search, I looked for a school that would make me feel like a small fish in a big pond. I also wanted to be able to make the pond feel smaller, where I could have an impact and make change. I've found different communities on Grounds that make me feel accepted, but I've always felt intellectually challenged by my classmates and their ideas. I encourage you to make your pond smaller and find communities that excite you and challenge you.

I remember feeling really anxious when I was in your shoes. There are so many things to do! CIOs to join! I'd advise you to not overwhelm yourself. Relax. Unsubscribe from those listserv's you randomly joined at the activities fair. Recognize that this stress isn't nervousness, it's excitement. You're still figuring everything out and that's ok! Good luck with this semester. You're going to do great!

Sincerely, A Fourth Year Friend Class of 2021