

Hello Class of 2024!

I hope you are settling in well and having a great start to classes, whether you are at home or on Grounds in Charlottesville. We are so happy and excited to have you as a new member of the UVA community!

You guys are absolute troopers for starting college in a pandemic. I know it may be hard to realize now, but it will only make you stronger! During this time, try to get as much out of your classes as you can to start off your college education on the right foot.

There are so many fun things to do and places to explore here at UVA, despite the current situation with online classes and safety protocols. If you are on Grounds and need to get out of dorms, grab lunch and have a picnic on the Lawn, or study under one of the big white tents that have just been set up (I just did it today and it was so nice!).

There are also countless clubs and organizations to join where you can make new friends and do activities that you enjoy! Something that I have been involved in during my time at UVA is Madison House. This is a volunteer organization that places you in local elementary schools across Charlottesville. We visit our school once a week for about an hour, playing with the little kids and helping the teachers when necessary. I have had a blast doing this and have felt so much more connected to the greater Charlottesville community. Right now, we are volunteering virtually and tutoring the children over Zoom!

There is so much for you to look forward to as you have four years ahead of you at the best school on earth. I encourage you to set goals for yourself this semester, get involved in something you enjoy, try to meet new people, and make the most out of your experience.

I wish you all the best this semester! Go Hoos!

Sincerely,
Grace C.
Class of 2021