

University Guide Service

PROBATIONARY PACKET

Fall 2016 – Shoaibi Probies

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I. ADMISSIONS

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PART 1: TOUR TIPS

Before Your Tour

Preparation

Review

For your first couple tours, you'll likely want to review this packet and your tour outline the night before your tour to help you get the information fresh in your mind for the next day. It might also help to go over your tour route and each stop's talking points.

Logistics

Be sure to check IGIS (more about this later) to locate the site of the information session where you'll pick up your group. Make sure you're ready to spend 1½ hours with your tour group. (You'll want to budget time for hanging out at the Admissions Office after the official tour and answering questions.)

Tour Attire

You might be the only face your tourists see at UVA, so the way you present yourself is an integral part of your tour. A few tips to help you dress professionally include (from the head down): no hats or sunglasses, no t-shirts or halter tops, no jeans or short skirts, and no dirty sneakers or sandals.

A note on tour attire: Be aware of the impression that you give and how you carry yourself; you don't have to dress like a J. Crew advertisement. And even if you feel you don't have a huge range of freedom, you're encouraged to use your attire as a way to showcase your individuality.

Showing Up

Arrive at your tour at least 10 minutes before it starts. Settle yourself down. Go to the bathroom. Get a bottle of water if you'd like one. Leave your school stuff somewhere easily retrievable (like the Admissions Office or Pavilion VIII). Wait at the back of the information session until the admissions officer acknowledges you, calls you up, and turns the group over to you.

What the Information Session Covers *(There is no need to repeat!)*

The point of the information sessions is mainly to cover academic and admissions information. Here, prospective students can hear all about:

- the seven undergraduate schools (particularly the five they can apply directly into: the College; the schools of Engineering, Nursing, and Architecture; and Curry's Kinesiology program)
- the admissions process (the Common App, early action vs. regular decision, no interviews)
- admissions requirements (great academic performance in challenging classes, great standardized test scores, great recommendations, leadership in extracurriculars, and great essays)
- degree requirements once admitted (120 credits to graduate, area requirements)

Student life questions are reserved for Guides, and after 45 minutes of listening to SAT scores, GPAs, and sample essays, students and parents alike will be ready to hear all about meal plans, dorm life, and UVa's social scene.

That said, attend an admissions info session from time to time. They are a great way to familiarize yourself with the concerns of prospective students.

After the Admissions Officer turns the session over to the guides

Before you get called up, designate one guide to lead quick introductions (name, year, hometown, major, and maybe a unique fact like your favorite class or current obsession) and break up the groups, though be sure to encourage any tourists who identified with a specific guide to hop on his/her tour.

Keep in mind: When you stand up and talk about yourself, what you say and what you wear and how you carry yourself all come together and form tourists' perceptions of what a UVa student is like. Be as welcoming as possible and display your individuality.

Splitting Up the Groups

Try to count the number of visitors, and aim for 15 visitors per group. Coordinate routes if necessary.

- *For bigger groups than expected:* Be sure to know Pavilion VIII's phone number (434-924-3239) so you can call for backup guides if necessary.
- *For smaller groups than expected:* If there are more guides than needed, a tag-team tour is preferred, but if a guide requests to leave, use discretion and common sense.

Expect the Unexpected: Every tour/tourist varies greatly; you must be, above all else, adaptable.

You may expect an average tour group, but you may wind up with fifty 8th graders or you may have someone in a wheelchair or it may be raining or it might be 98° outside. These next few pages should provide you with tips so you're prepared to be flexible and able to handle whatever comes your way.

During Your Tour

The First Stop

Herd your group outside the info session room before starting the tour. Most guides will then:

- Welcome your group to UVa!
- Give a general overview of what you'll be covering, how long the tour should be (75-90 minutes depending), where you'll be going, and where you'll end up (if you don't end your tour at Peabody, be sure to walk them there afterward). Ask them to let you know if they get uncomfortable (especially on hot days where this could become a problem- people have fainted on tours before).
- Mention we have no connection to Admissions—we provide an honest student perspective.
- Encourage questions from the beginning. ("A tour's only as good as the questions you ask.")

- Provide a brief **history** of UVa and Jefferson's goals (a library at the center, the architectural design, professor-student interaction, etc.) and how we maintain those **traditions** today.
- Maybe briefly address UVa's lingo, re: First Year, Grounds, etc. Remember, you should give this tour as if they have no knowledge of UVa whatsoever. Clue them into what's going on around them as much as possible, they'll appreciate it.

General Tips

Keep Track of Time

It's suggested you wear a watch, rather than take out your cell phone every ten minutes. Also, if it's about time for classes to be let out, think about where you are on Grounds and what kind of traffic you might have to deal with.

Craft YOUR OWN Personal Tour

Remember that the tour is all yours. You can go where you want to; tell your stories; and talk about your own activities, experiences, and perspectives on UVa. This may be the only extended contact some of these kids have with a UVa student, so try to give them an honest, informed, and interesting portrayal of life at UVa. **Incorporating a personal story into every stop really helps illuminate this, as tourists are more likely to remember your story than the numerous facts you could just list off from this packet.**

Because you might be the only face of UVa that they see, personal stories are a way to provide tourists with the many different perspectives of UVa, including the experiences of friends who don't share your background. (Examples: you could mention how a friend with a different background convinced you to take a unique and interesting class, or talk about how an event or restaurant in Charlottesville allowed you to experience a new culture or foreign idea.) UVa has students from all 50 states and 120 different countries and all kinds of backgrounds—make your stories part of the bigger story of our school and use them to communicate the diverse population we have at UVa. This gives tourists who might not share your background or interests a student experience to identify with.

Note: you're not expected to have a backlog of personal stories when you first join UGS, but do *spend this semester noticing what events would be great to mention on tours, and try to seek out unique events and experiences*. Feel free to talk to other members of UGS; they'd be happy to share their stories with you or recommend great events that make good stories.

Establish Rapport Between Stops

One of your highest priorities should be to make your guests feel welcome. Talk to tourists between stops! Discover their interests or background and elaborate on the specific resources UVa can offer them. (Also, as much as we are addressing parental concerns, really try to draw students out and catch their attention through jokes and informal conversations during these walks.) This is the ideal time to field questions that may only be relevant to the person asking (e.g. interest in the Nursing School). You may also get very challenging or personal questions during this time.

Also try to allocate your personal attention across the group and try to get a variety of families or students up front talking with you as you walk. (For example, when stopped outside Clark, once you've finished run to the back of the group to have them lead the walk down McCormick, and then you'll have a whole new group to talk to.) As the face of the University, a welcoming smile and a genuine interest can make a big difference in tourists' perception of UVa.

Adapt to Your Group's Mood

Gauge your group's dynamic and attitudes, and match your tour to it to make your tour a pleasant experience. If they're getting bored or antsy, tell a story or make them laugh (go on other guides' tours and use their jokes!). If that doesn't work, just wrap up the stop and get moving.

Adapt to Your Group's Interests

Also try to gauge the different personalities you have in your group, and allow that to dictate what you show or talk about. A tour group of few parents is different from one that is all family units. If there are potential transfer students on your tour, you might go further in depth into upper-class housing, or more details about the E-School's degree requirements for potential engineers on your tour.

Acknowledge (or even Incorporate) Your Friends

Inevitably, you will encounter many friends, acquaintances, Guides, and ex-lovers (believe me this happens all too often) on your tour. Say hello or wave. This shows your group that UVa is not a sea of random, nameless faces. Many people are concerned about UVa's size, and this is one of the easiest ways to send them the signal that this school is not as big as it may seem on paper.

Maybe even stop a friend and ask them what they do on Grounds or what their experience at UVa has been like. Tourists seem to like this, as they can tire of hearing one voice for 75 minutes. Having friends talk about their activities on Grounds can spice up the tour. (Although obviously use your discretion when deciding who you stop to talk to on your tour.)

Give an Honest Portrayal (You're Not "Selling" UVa)

The Admissions Office depends on our guides to convey to prospective students and their families the best attributes of the University and to do so in an enthusiastic manner. This does **not** mean, however, that guides must sacrifice any degree of honesty. Tourists know how to tune out "sales pitches".

They'll appreciate your commitment to honesty and are more impressed by it than by indiscriminate optimism.

Avoid overusing "tour guide spin" and making UVa seem like a perfect place. That's inauthentic.

Admit UVa's flaws and imperfections (its hyper-competitive atmosphere, hazing, hate crimes, etc.), without using justifications like "all colleges have this". Comment on the University's steps to address these issues. There is still progress to be made, and it's acceptable to admit that. Our job is to **inform, not to sell**, and that's the beauty of our organization!

DO NOT Compare UVA with other schools

This is the only university you have attended, and because you don't go to other schools it's not your place to comment on them. (Especially since you never know who is on your tour or where parents went to school.) We're better than bashing other schools; UVa is amazing on its own. Focus on the reasons **you** love this University than why you didn't choose another school.

Other Tips

- **Speak loudly so all can hear.** Your visitors can only enjoy all the good stories you have to tell if they can hear you. Maintain good speaking and eye contact even when answering questions.

- **Position your group properly.** Make sure *you* are facing into the sun and not your tourists. Avoid busy sidewalks/locations. Don't try to yell over noisy distractions—move!
- **Respect classes.** Don't disturb classes in the academic buildings with your loud voice. Never open a door unless you know what lies behind it.
- **Avoid abbreviations or UVa lingo.** If referencing UPC or AFC, say the entire name and explain the organization/event/place. And always explain any UVa lingo you use; you can confuse your tourists.
- Be relaxed. Be confident. Be enthusiastic. Show your love for UVa. HAVE FUN!

Tips for Different-Sized Groups

Tips for Dealing with Big Groups

You may have around a hundred tourists in your group in the spring. With big groups, keep them moving, keep them close together (“Squish in! You could be in school together one day!”), and always explain where you are going, with directions, before you start walking. Otherwise, the tour will last much longer than you anticipate. Wait for everyone to arrive at a stop before starting to speak, and as the rest of the group catches up you can ask if anyone has questions.

Tips for Dealing with Small Groups

Sometimes you may have a really small tour group, as in one family. On these tours, you should be prepared to talk during every transitional walk in order to encourage a more informal tour atmosphere. These tours are a lot of fun because you can give personal attention to a few people and really get to know your tour group. Be flexible and find out what they want to know.

Responding to Questions

Always encourage your group to ask questions, especially at the end of every tour stop.

How to Respond to Tourists' Questions

In general, when formulating your response to a tourist's question, to help you illuminate the practical relevance of a seemingly narrow question try to follow these four steps:

1. Repeat the question
2. Provide a statistic or factual answer (if needed)
3. Comment on whatever you said to provide context
4. Wrap up with a personal story.

Example: “How many students attend UVa?” **(1)** Repeat the question and **(2)** provide the statistical figure, but then **(3)** comment on how the size of the student body affects life on Grounds (e.g. it's large enough for each student to find his/her niche). Then **(4)** end with a personal story to reflect the subjective “feel” of the University (e.g. finding smaller communities in an organization, in a small class, or in your dorm... or admit you were concerned too until your dad told you “you can make a small school out of a big school, but you can't make a big school out of a small school”). Again, these stories can include both your experiences and those of acquaintances. (The “friend” is a vague character who comes up on every tour and can be counted on at all times for an informative or inspiring anecdote.) You could also **(4)** mention UVa resources, especially those that are unique to our university (e.g. “Take Your Professor Out to Lunch”), to help tourists learn how members of our community receive support and guidance while here.

What if a tourist asks about a topic you plan to address later on?

In such a case, supply a superficial answer, but assure the tourist you'll revisit the subject later on. Maybe remind them to ask you again at the appropriate stop, especially if they asked one-on-one but the question is relevant to the entire group.

What DON'T you like about UVa?

Whether it's that you're a Diet Coke person and we only offer Pepsi in the dining halls, or how there's seemingly constant construction, this question will come up and you should have an answer ready. The best answer is able to move the negative answer to a larger commentary about your UVa experience: "But you *can* get Coke with Plus Dollars at places right next to your dorm like Crossroads, even if you have a craving at 2 in the morning." or "But the constant construction is also a sign that UVa is constantly creating state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research."

My personal opinion: these are both pretty generic answers. Tourists want honesty, and they will know that these are not honest answers; these are clearly attempts at "selling" UVa. *Be honest*. What is your least favorite thing about UVA? Is it the fact that for many programs, you have to apply into your major? Is it the fact that we choose housing for the next year unnaturally early? Is it the inefficient advising system for the college? Is it the lack of merit-based scholarships, besides the Jeff Scholarship? Think about what you want your answer to be. If you have questions, run it by me and we can talk about it.

Addressing Perceptions/Stereotypes of UVa

Is UVa as Southern, stuck-up, and preppy as my friend told me? It seems like a lot of the students here are very wealthy; will I fit in here if my parents aren't millionaires? Does UVa's respect for traditions hinder progressive thought? These are pretty loaded questions—be honest, but try to talk about the great mix of students and beliefs we have here at UVa. There are so many different communities at UVa. We have a vibrant, dynamic culture of students—although an outsider may have a perception of a UVA mold, it's not nearly as prevalent when you are a student here. The Southern, stuck-up stereotype is now somewhat outdated.

Admissions-Related Questions

How to address questions about getting admitted to UVa

If a tourist's question is less related to student life and more about getting into UVa (e.g. "How many AP classes should I take?"), feel free to say: "That's a great question! But an admissions officer would probably be more qualified to answer it. I'd be happy to direct you to one at the end of the tour when we reach Peabody Hall." *Do not* attempt to answer these further; you're a volunteer student tour guide, not an admissions officer.

Questions like "What's the best advice you have for someone applying to college?" are a little different. Don't stress—in all likelihood you have more experience and expertise in this area than they do. Just answer truthfully and you'll be fine.

How to address questions about how you performed in high school

Should you get questions about what your GPA or SAT/ACT scores were, only share this information if you're comfortable doing so. (However, keep in mind that the danger is they'll hear this information and assume it's the UVa standard—tourists see you as the model student, so be careful what you model.) Otherwise, be politely evasive to avoid these situations without being rude, e.g.:

- "One person's scores or GPA really are no indicator of what UVa is looking for. Every person is a unique candidate for admission."

- “I would rather not share my SAT scores, just because I don’t want to give you a number that you think you have to attain in order to get in here. The admissions process is very holistic and they aren’t just looking at one test’s scores
- “That question is really better suited for an admissions officer, and I’d be happy to point you to one at the end of the tour.”

How to address questions about where else you applied

The same goes if they ask where else you applied. If you want, use general adjectives (large schools, city schools, public schools) instead of names. They can draw their own conclusions.

After Your Tour

Your Last Stop

You may end your tour wherever you like, but you must walk your tourists to Peabody Hall afterward. Use this to address anything else they need (prepare to direct a lot of people to the Corner for lunch).

Your Conclusion

Open up for last minute questions *first* before you begin talking, because you don’t want to give your kick-ass conclusion only to have someone ruin the mood right after by asking a question about dining plans.

Regarding content, each guide has his/her own unique conclusion. You can discuss:

- why you decided to come here, or what attracted you here
- what you discovered coming here and why you’re happy here now (and why they might be)
- what makes UVa unique, like its many traditions
- how UVa is an excellent value for the money, offering a top-ranked education at a public school price
- how UVa prepares you for the future, both professionally and socially

An example: “UVa is whatever you make it. If you want it to be an Ivy League education, it can be. If you want it to be a party school, it can be. If you want it to be a 4-year state college, it can be that too. It has so many different spheres and opportunities, that whatever you’re looking for, it’s here.” Just end with lots of sincerity and enthusiasm, and you’re golden. (This conclusion is a little generic, but it has the right fundamentals for a good conclusion. Just make it your own and use a personal story).

Then stick around to answer questions before continuing on with your day. This is often when you get the most honest and straightforward concerns from your group. Or a hug. Ask Adib about that.

Other Resources To Mention

- **What you can do:** Offer your email, give directions, and think of a few lunch recommendations.
- **Inside the Admissions Office** tourists can ask officers about the application process, pick up brochures or maps, sign up to sit-in on a class, and fill out a tour evaluation.
 - Tour evals can also be done online at www.uvaguides.org/evaluate/. Just remember to say “Again, my name is _____” in case they forgot. A good joke is, “If you liked the tour,

my name is [insert your name here]. If you didn't like the tour, my name is [insert name of someone else].”

- **School-specific tours** are available for those interested.
 - E-School tours leave Monday-Saturday at 1pm from the lobby of Thornton Hall.
 - Comm School tours leave Monday, Friday and Saturday at 1pm from the lobby of Rouss/Robertson.
 - Tours of the Nursing School, Architecture School, Kinesiology Department, Art Department, Drama Department, and Music Department are all available by request.

Some guides will even say “If you come to UVa and run into me, tell me I was your tour guide and I will buy you lunch!” since it’s always a good feeling to hear that from another student, but often they’re too shy to tell you on their own. (If your UVa tour guide is still in UGS, you should let them know!)

PART 2: NUMBERS

Admissions Data

Fall 2016 Enrollment Summary (as of 08/23/2016)

	Completed Apps Received		Offered Admission		Enrolled	
	First-Year	Transfer	First-Year	Transfer	First-Year	Transfer
Total	32,380	2,423	9,679 (29.89%)	941 (38.84%)	3,704 (38.27%)	641 (68.12%)
Total Students for Fall 2016	34,803		10,620 (30.51%)		4,345 (40.91%)	

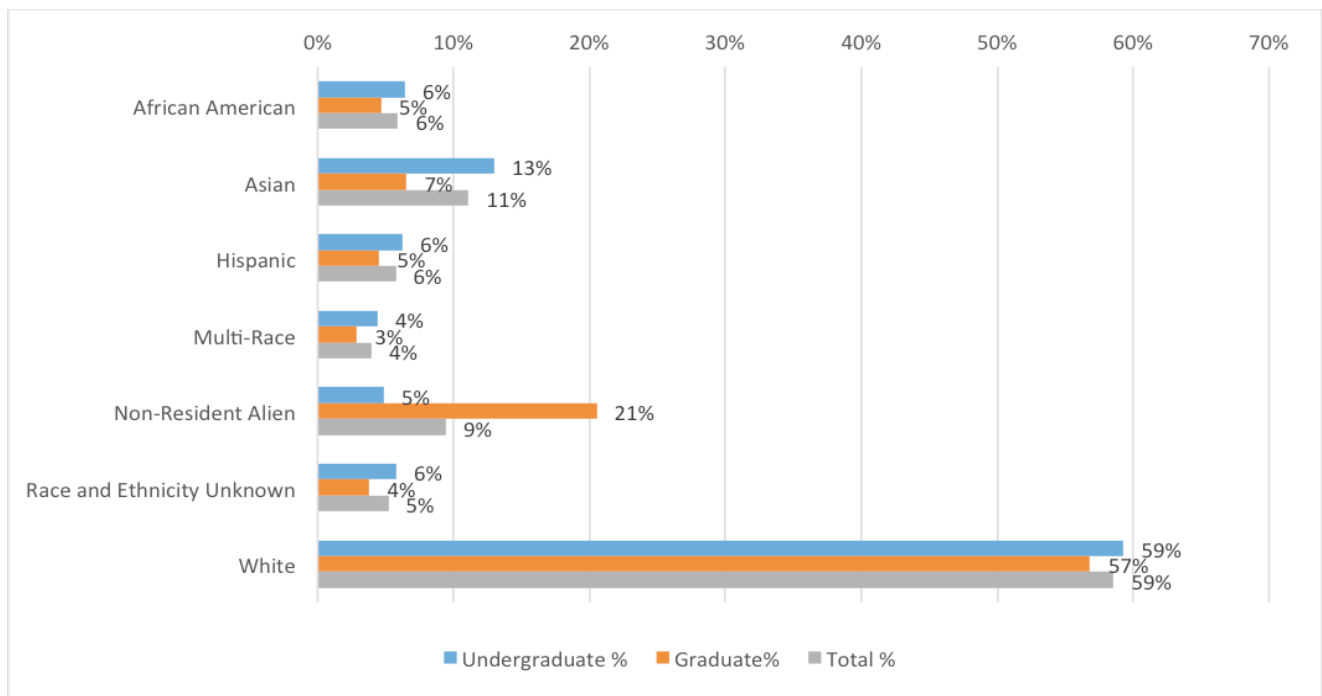
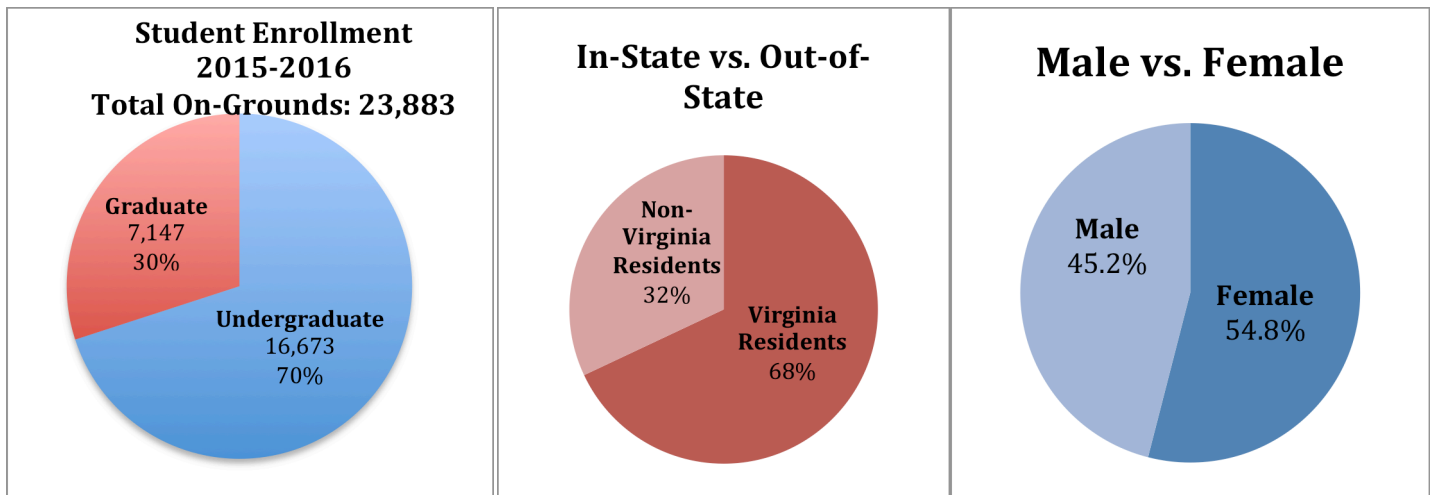
Class of 2020 stats:

- 30% FY acceptance rate (VA and OOS) – 44% VA, 24% OOS
- 38% FY yield rate (VA and OOS) – 59% VA, 23% OOS
- 16.5% of the FY class are legacy
- 66.63% of the FY class are Virginians
- FY Racial Diversity: White 57%; African American 7.2%; Asian 14.1%; Hispanic 6.4%, Mult. Race 4%; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaskan Native <1%; Unknown 6%
- 4.8% of FY class are Foreign Nationals
- 11% of the incoming FY class are First Generation
- 52% of the transfer class enrolled from the Virginia Community colleges (53.89% offer rate)
- Offers' middle 50% SAT score: 1890-2160
- 92.4% of offers were in the top 10% of their high school class.
- 70.25% enrolled from public schools; 23.65% enrolled from private schools; 0.5% attended religious school; 5.59% attended "Other"

Additional UVA-wide stats:

- One-year retention rate: 97%
- Four-year graduation rate: 87%
- Six-year graduation rate: 94%

While you probably won't give a full stop on this information, questions about these statistics come up frequently on tours, so familiarize yourself with the numbers in these charts:



Undergraduate headcount from each state

(from Fall 2015, the most up-to-date available information):

I just include these next two tables because I find them interesting. You definitely do not need to memorize these numbers.

Alabama	39	Nevada	9
Alaska	1	New Hampshire	11
Arizona	24	New Jersey	374
Arkansas	19	New Mexico	8
California	210	New York	490
Colorado	51	North Carolina	187
Connecticut	222	Ohio	94
Delaware	34	Oklahoma	9
District of Columbia	49	Oregon	19
Florida	309	Pennsylvania	286
Georgia	232	Rhode Island	20
Hawaii	4	South Carolina	62
Idaho	7	South Dakota	1
Illinois	95	Tennessee	114
Indiana	12	Texas	264
Iowa	4	Utah	13
Kansas	16	Vermont	7
Kentucky	46	Virginia	10,596
Louisiana	40	Washington	37
Maine	20	West Virginia	21
Maryland	437	Wisconsin	15
Massachusetts	193	Wyoming	1
Michigan	21	Armed Forces Americas	2
Minnesota	15	Armed Forces Europe	13
Mississippi	4	Armed Forces Pacific	4
Missouri	22	Guam	3
Montana	4	Northern Mariana Islands	1
Nebraska	8	Puerto Rico	4
		Virgin Islands	2

Undergraduate headcount from each country

(from Fall 2015, the most up-to-date available information):

By academic career and foreign citizenship country. Total undergraduate international: 12.1%

Afghanistan	6	Kenya	2
Albania	1	Korea, Democratic People's Rep	1
Algeria	1	Korea, Republic of	180
Argentina	4	Kuwait	1
Armenia	4	Kyrgyzstan	1
Australia	20	Latvia	1
Austria	3	Lebanon	4
Azerbaijan	1	Macao	1
Bahamas	1	Malaysia	6
Bangladesh	4	Marshall Islands	1
Belarus	1	Mauritius	1
Belgium	8	Mexico	13
Bermuda	4	Moldova, Republic of	1
Bolivia	11	Monaco	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	Mongolia	4
Brazil	27	Morocco	5
Bulgaria	5	Multiple	106
Cameroon	1	Myanmar	1
Canada	94	Nepal	7
Chad	1	Netherlands	15
Chile	4	New Zealand	10
China	390	Nicaragua	6
Colombia	20	Nigeria	7
Congo	1	Norway	4
Congo, The Democratic Republic	1	Pakistan	21
Costa Rica	5	Palestinian Territory, Occupie	1
Cote D'Ivoire	2	Panama	15
Croatia	1	Paraguay	1
Cyprus	1	Peru	20
Czech Republic	1	Philippines	20
Denmark	5	Poland	5

Dominican Republic	2	Portugal	5
Ecuador	16	Romania	2
Egypt	14	Russian Federation	18
El Salvador	11	Rwanda	1
Eritrea	2	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Ethiopia	20	Saudi Arabia	7
Finland	4	Senegal	1
France	51	Singapore	13
Georgia	4	South Africa	12
Germany	42	Spain	12
Ghana	20	Sri Lanka	0
Greece	6	Sudan	5
Guatemala	3	Sweden	10
Guinea	1	Switzerland	19
Haiti	3	Syrian Arab Republic	3
Honduras	5	Taiwan, ROC	13
Hong Kong	7	Thailand	15
Hungary	7	Togo	3
Iceland	2	Trinidad and Tobago	1
India	127	Tunisia	2
Indonesia	4	Turkey	40
Iran (Islamic Republic Of)	27	Uganda	1
Iraq	4	Ukraine	3
Ireland	15	United Kingdom	125
Israel	13	Uzbekistan	1
Italy	22	Venezuela	13
Jamaica	2	Viet Nam	16
Japan	25	Yemen	1
Jordan	6	Zimbabwe	2

Finances

Tuition

UVa is frequently cited for its affordability and considered one of the nation's "best value" schools. There is a good amount of information on the UVa financial services site for those who want all of the details. Great URL for parents: sfs.virginia.edu/costestimator

	Virginian	Non-Virginian
Tuition	13,060	41,722
Fees	2,662	3,344
Living Expenses	14,850	14,996 to 16,136
Total	30,572	60,062 to 61,202

- Approximately 34% of all undergraduate students are awarded some type of need-based financial aid in a typical year
- Extra expenses: \$5,000 (if Commerce), \$2,000 (if Engineering), \$1,440 (if fourth-year Nursing)

Paying Tuition

Tuition payments are made via check or credit card online through SIS. (Paying with a credit card on SIS charges an extra 2.75%.) For an annual fee of \$60, charges may be paid in ten monthly installments.

Endowment

Endowment: UVA's endowment of \$7.6 billion (as of June 30, 2016) ranks among the top 5 highest endowments for public institutions of higher education.

Operating Budget: UVA's operating budget for the 2014-15 year was \$2.8 billion (54% for academics, 46% for the hospital). The state only funds 6% of the school's operating budget; tuition funds another 19%, and the rest is from other revenue sources.

Bond Rating: UVA is one of only two public universities with a top bond rating (AAA) from all three debt-rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Fitch Investors Service, and Moody's Investors Service.

Scholarships

Jefferson Scholars Program

The Jefferson Scholars Foundation awards full four-year scholarships (including tuition, room, board, books, and other expenses) to about 30 incoming UVa first-years on the basis of merit (scholarship, leadership, and citizenship).

No one may apply directly for the scholarship; high schools must nominate one senior each year to compete regionally. Around 100 finalists are invited to Grounds in March for Selections Weekend, a time for seminars and final interviews, exams, and essays.

In addition to a full-ride, Scholars are offered various leadership programs, foreign travel experiences, and internship networking. They must maintain a 3.0 GPA and be a leader in the community.

Other Scholarships

Exceptional athletes and some ROTC members may be considered for non-need-based aid as well. For other students, a number of scholarships opportunities are available to apply for if sought out.

Financial Aid

Mention this on tours. If you don't, families might not know it's there.

Student Financial Services (SFS)

Student Financial Services, housed in Carruther's Hall (on Emmet Street), has professionals dedicated to helping students finance their education. They will assist in all aspects of the process, and are the best resource for prospective students and parents interested in learning more.

Determining Need

UVa will meet 100% of students' demonstrated need, through a combination of grants, federal need-based loans, and federal work-study. Approx. **one-third** of undergraduates receive financial assistance.

SFS calculates financial aid packages according to this equation:

$$\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{Expected Family Contribution} - \text{Scholarships/Other Resources} = \text{Need for Aid}$$

AccessUVa

Mission

UVa is focused not only on equal access to higher education, but access to the best education in all its forms (study abroad programs, co-curricular opportunities, leadership roles, and service learning), because attending college isn't just about the classroom and activities; it's about finding a place where you can grow, express yourself, and take part in a tradition of success. The University wants each admitted student to be a part of the UVa experience, regardless of economic circumstance.

What is AccessUVa?

AccessUVa is UVa's nationally-recognized financial aid program, designed to ensure that all admitted students who want to attend UVa *can* without being limited by finances. The financial aid plan assists students and families through these key components:

1. Meets 100 percent of demonstrated need for all admitted undergraduate students.

- UVa caps need-based loans at 25% of the four-year in-state cost of attendance (i.e. students will take loans for max. one year's worth of in-state tuition, around \$28,000).
 - Remaining financial need is completely covered by grants from UVa or by work-study.
2. SFS offers one-on-one counseling for admitted students and their families to help them through the process and presenting them with financing options outside of need-based financial aid.

Note: Need-based financial aid is not available to students of foreign nations, but international students are automatically considered for Jefferson Scholarship upon application without nomination.

How do you apply for AccessUVa?

The University considers all admitted students for AccessUVa awards, based on their financial aid applications: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) and UVa's Financial Aid application.

PART 3: ACADEMICS

General Academics

Tips for Your Academics Stop

- This is a big topic, and the reason most students even apply to college, so let your group dictate the direction of the conversation. However if they're not talkative, don't abandon the stop!
- Prospective students will be applying to many similarly ranked universities with sterling academic reputations like ours, so emphasize what makes UVa academics unique.
- Try to take them inside to see an academic building or a classroom, though beware of crowds and your voice traveling.

Rankings

While you shouldn't go on and on about rankings, according to the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking, the University of Virginia is the 2nd Best Public University in the nation, and the 24th best university overall. We have the top graduation rate in the country for African Americans among state flagship universities. (We are also currently the 9th highest producer of Teach For America corps members and the 21st highest producer of Peace Corps volunteers.)

Degree Requirements and Majors

These will vary greatly by the school and major the student decides to enroll in, so the details of the seven undergraduate schools are summarized after this section. But here are some general points.

Major Requirements: Most degrees require 120 credits (or about five classes a semester for four years). Unless you enroll in an intensive program, usually only 30-40 of those credits are major requirements (which you usually declare in your fourth semester). This gives you time and schedule space to take a variety of classes and pursue your own academic interests.

Area Requirements: Most degrees do have area requirements. For the College this includes requirements in writing, a foreign language, and non-western perspectives. For the E-School this includes requirements in chemistry and physics. So it depends on your academic program.

What are the most popular majors at UVa? This is a common question. The most popular programs include Commerce or Economics, Pre-med or nursing, our over 2000 Engineering students, and then the subjects Jefferson would've liked: Politics, History, Literature and Architecture. Also Psychology. More detailed numbers are given in the individual School sections.

Interdisciplinary Majors: Something unique about UVa is its vast array of majors that include study across multiple departments (Political and Social Thought, Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law (PPL), Global Development Studies, engineering science). This could appeal to students whose academic interests don't simply lie within one major; e.g. UVa offers Cognitive Science for students interested in psychology, philosophy and computer science.

Elective Classes: UVa offers classes from anthropology and astrophysics to Slavic studies and sociology. Talk to your tourists about your favorite or a particularly enlightening class you took. Showing your nerdy academic interests attracts the academic-focused students found at UVa.

Class Registration: Don't get bogged down in the details of SIS, but emphasize that first-years register for classes at summer orientation before their first semester. They may not get all the classes they want, but each student's enrollment time gets earlier as they go through their undergraduate career.

Classroom and Professors

Classroom statistics:

- 84% of undergraduate courses have fewer than 50 students; 55% have fewer than 20 students.
- 95% of classes are taught by full-time faculty, and any class taught by a graduate student is a student on the PhD track (so they'll likely be professors themselves one day).

Note, as always, that stories about your experiences in the classroom (talk about going to class in your pajamas or bringing food to lecture in the morning...) will help to demonstrate the classroom environment at UVa more than statistics will.

Large classes:

- We're a state University, so these exist, but they're largely introductory classes so students who might be interested in the subject have the opportunity to take it.
- They're often large because they're taught by some of our best faculty (e.g. economics with Elzinga or Astronautics with NASA astronaut Kathryn Thornton).
- They almost always require a weekly discussion section with a graduate TA to answer questions you might not have been able to ask during lecture. Discussion sections provide students with an opportunity to ask questions, develop relationships, and still get a small classroom experience.

Personal attention:

- Our student to faculty ratio is 16:1
- Faculty-Student interaction is a University tradition! That's why Jefferson set up the original grounds with faculty and students living amongst each other on the Lawn.
- Student Council's "Take Your Professor Out to Lunch" program exemplifies this. UVa will pay for you to get to know your professor outside the classroom. However, only use this if you have done it or a friend has. There are plenty of other ways our student faculty relationships are fantastic!
- Again, most classes are smaller than 20 students, and class size tends to decrease as students specialize in their major.
- Professors have required weekly office hours (as many hours a week as they teach) where they just sit in their office waiting for students to take the initiative to see them. If you haven't been to one yet, try to visit a few this semester.
- Each student has a personal advisor and Dean to guide them through the academic process.

- University Seminars are reserved only for first-years and second-years. They're capped at 18 students each and offer small, discussion-based, special interest courses.
- COLAs (Parents **love** this) are one-credit classes exclusively open to first years. The instructor will become the advisor of the student once they enroll. The fifteen person class will be 20% advising and 80% content based. They're a fun way to see your advisor every week and develop personal relationships!

Tell stories like Prof. Elzinga opening his home each year to students who don't have plans for Thanksgiving, or the time you took your professor out to lunch, or a really awesome advisor you worked with. Add a human element to the barrage of class-size statistics that tourists will have already seen online. Be thinking about positive experiences with a professor or TA that you'd like to share with tourists.

Academics Outside the Classroom

EngageUVA: This is something unique that UVA offers and really exemplifies the academic engagement of our students. EngageUVA sends a weekly email to students, faculty and community members with opportunities for active engagement within and beyond the University. A key component of this is the Flash Seminars they offer. They aim to bring together faculty and students in small, unconventional settings to explore ideas and issues outside the conventional classroom. Be sure to tell your tourists about any really cool and interesting Flash Seminar you went to.

Career Services

University Career Services (UCS) in 1st floor Newcomb Hall provides career-related advising and resources for UVA students. Students can make appointments or stop by during walk-in hours to get a resume review, take self-assessment and personality tests, find available jobs and internships, go through a mock interview, or sit in on a professional workshop.

Perhaps just as importantly, the UCS website has extensive resources, and UCS sends a weekly email to all UVA students with career planning tips and event notices.

Additionally, since UVA offers no official "pre-med" or "pre-law" major, many students major in other subjects while completing the traditional pre-professional track—this is simply another aspect of UVA's commitment to the liberal arts. However, UCS does offer students **pre-professional advising programs**.

The Commerce School and Engineering School also host career and internship fairs each semester, where upwards of 200 employers come to recruit UVA students to their open positions.

Research: UVA professors are at the top of their field. Many even wrote the textbook they teach from. As a top cutting-edge research institution, there are a number of research opportunities for undergrads, either for credit or for money. 60% of UVA student participate in research at some point throughout their college career. The Undergraduate Research Network can help students get involved in research and find opportunities for funding and grants, or you can simply contact a professor whose research interests you. This is extremely important for those interested in pre-med who might be disheartened that UVA has no pre-med major.

The Seven Undergraduate Schools

The College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 10,905 undergraduates (58.6% female, 41.4% male)

Facilities: Several buildings across grounds, from Wilson to Gilmer

Application: High school students apply directly. The vast majority of students apply to the College, as this is the default school on the undergraduate application.

Spring 2015 Admission: Made offers to 29% of its 30,840 applicants

Program Description: Students typically complete at least 120 credits across four years. In addition to their major requirements, students must complete area requirements across the academic spectrum, as well as writing and foreign language requirements.

Each first-year student is assigned a personal Faculty Advisor, who may or may not match the student's academic interests. Once students declare their major, however, they are assigned a new faculty advisor within their department.

Students must declare a major before their fifth semester. There are 53 majors in the College (seen right), so there's really something for everyone. Students can declare up to two majors and one minor, but no more.

Many majors are interdisciplinary, and you can even design your own major if your interests aren't reflected in any current program.

Many opt to complete a "Distinguished Majors Program" which requires a fourth-year thesis in their major subject. And with proper planning, students can complete Master's degree within four or five years.

Why study the arts & sciences at UVa?

It's the original and largest undergraduate school at UVa, and thus it carries most of the reputation of the larger university.

Scholar Programs in the College

Note: These programs are not scholarships, but programs to provide students with academic benefits. No program has a special application—all students are automatically considered by the Office of Admission through the regular undergraduate application process to the College.

Echols Scholars

- Honors program for the College, with about 850 members (8.5% of College students)
- Current students can apply during their first-year
- Chosen students have excelled academically and exhibited unusual intellectual curiosity, maturity, initiative, and independence
- Benefits include:
 - Priority class registration
 - Outstanding faculty advisors
 - A shared first-year residence with fellow scholars

- Exemption from all area requirements (to give scholars freedom to pursue their own academic interests and create a stimulating, interdisciplinary academic program)
- The opportunity to declare a special interdisciplinary major (to exercise scholars intellectual creativity by defining their own studies)
- Special seminars, research grants, and social events with this unique community

College Science Scholars

- Program for a handful of very talented College students dedicated to science research
- There is no special application—all College applicants are automatically considered
- Students are selected based upon their excellence, experience, and drive for science-related activities, with the goal of getting these students started doing research as soon as possible
- First-year students can be nominated to join by one of their science professors
- Students must: major or minor in one of the sciences, do research for at least two semesters (although many do more), and maintain a 3.4 GPA
- Benefits include: seminars, presentations, mentoring, lab tours, and demonstrations with renowned science professors (to give early exposure to research in various labs), as well as specifically-designed pools of money to support their research.

College Art Scholars

- This program assists UVa artists in becoming multi-faceted leaders, using his or her talents to serve the community, to make a difference with their creativity
- Students who submitted an Arts Supplement are considered and scholars must choose to major or minor in Studio Art, Drama, Music, or Dance.
- Benefits include:
 - Direct access to the best resources in the arts at UVa
 - Personal introductions to UVa's most distinguished arts faculty during a first-year seminar, where they'll hear talks on issues in the forefront of arts and visit arts facilities
 - Having a senior faculty member serve as their advisor-mentor all four years

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Cool fact: Founded in 1836, it's the third oldest engineering school in the nation.

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 2,662 undergraduates (31.9% female, 68.1% male)

Facilities: Found between McCormick Road and Scott Stadium, from Thornton to Rice. Its buildings included state-of-the-art nanotechnology laboratories, incredible computing classrooms in Rice, and new (REALLY COOL) 3-D plastic printers in the UVa Rapid Prototyping Lab.

Application: High school students apply directly. (As a four-year program, there are more required courses, thus making the school much easier to transfer out of than into.)

Spring 2015 Admission: Made offers to 35% of its 5,852 applicants.

Program Description: Students receive a Bachelors of Science after a four-year program. The first-year is spent learning general engineering skills and progress to higher specialized levels on a predetermined track. By spring of first-year, students declare at least one of the ten offered majors (seen right) in their second semester.

Top Majors	Enrollment
Mechanical Engineering	280
Systems Engineering	287
Computer Science	360
Biomedical Engineering	279
Civil Engineering	194
Chemical Engineering	139
Electrical Engineering	108
Computer Engineering	140
Engineering Science	113
Aerospace Engineering	105
Undeclared	614

Enrollment in the Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science, and Systems Engineering majors is capped, and students are admitted based on performance. Engineering Science is a new major that offers programs in Materials Science, Mechatronics, and Nanomedicine.

Students have room for non-engineering classes (15% even double major), but to have the most schedule flexibility it's good to either come in with AP credit, or have a good idea early on of what topic you want to study.

30% of students also pursue the Engineering Business Minor, which involves coursework in the Comm School to round out their education with business skills.

Rodman Scholars: Like Echols Scholars in the College, this is an Honors program for the Engineering School, admitting about 35 students a year. Benefits include: priority class registration; a shared first-year residence with fellow scholars;

outstanding faculty advisors; an accelerated first-year curriculum with small classes and seminars for scholars, including a group design project; international internship funding; and social events with this unique community.

Why study engineering at UVa (especially over Virginia Tech)?

UVa emphasizes that engineers should have strong technical backgrounds, but be able to apply their skills to solve real-world problems. With that in mind, engineering students are given space in their schedule to pursue electives in business and the humanities. Engineers are also required to write a thesis to graduate, complementing their technical expertise with writing and communication skills.

Beyond producing well-rounded engineers, the culture of UVa and Charlottesville is a huge benefit.

McIntire School of Commerce

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 693 undergraduates (44.6% female, 55.4% male)

Facilities: The new complex in Rouss-Robertson Hall was completed in 2008.

Application: College students apply (including two essays and their transcript) during their Second Year. Deferred students may interview with an alumni. Here is the distinction between Commerce and Economics: Commerce is an applied, practical program that trains students to be managers and analysts; economics is a more theoretical field with a focus on knowledge.

Prerequisites: An introductory business course, two semesters of accounting, two semesters of economics, and a course each in math, statistics, and humanities. Students must also complete the College's foreign language and first writing requirements.

Spring 2016 Admission: Made offers to 333 (66%) of its 503 internal applicants. The admitted students' mean GPA at UVa was a 3.71.

Transfers: The Comm School made offers to 29 (16%) of its 185 transfer applicants. The admitted students' mean GPA was 3.72. *Note:* Although the acceptance rate is lower, admitted transfer students still have the same mean GPA as admitted UVA students.

Program Description: All students complete a two-year program to receive a B.S. in Commerce. All students major in Commerce, but must concentrate in at least one of the following: Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Management, and Information Technology. Students spend their third year in ICE (Integrated Core Experience), an intense curriculum (12 credits in the fall, 9 credits in the spring) that integrates all business disciplines. Your class is a "block" of 43 students that meets three hours a day with the same seven professors rotating in & out for a year. They teach in a cross-functional manner to introduce students to the complex interrelationships among different subject areas in business. All the while, students spend their first semester solving a real-world business program through a semester-long project with a corporate sponsor (currently either ABB, Major League Baseball, Rolls-Royce, or Alcoa). The fourth year is spent taking electives (in the Comm School and out) while completing concentration requirements. There is a huge emphasis on teamwork, and most schoolwork consists of group-based projects.

Like the other smaller schools, McIntire becomes a new community for its students. Students get extremely close with their block's professors and fellow students. There are over 20 commerce-specific CIOs to join. There's also Commerce-specific Career Services to help through the internship/job search. Though the student's two years in the Comm School are rigorous, sufficient planning during the first two years easily allows students to complete a second major in the College.

Why study business at UVa?

Businessweek consistently ranks McIntire as the #1 or #2 undergraduate business school in the nation, largely because of the revolutionary ICE program. The school has incredible relationships with its alumni and several corporations; the Class of 2012 had a 98% placement rate.

School of Nursing

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 407 undergraduates (92.1% female, 7.9% male)

Facilities: McLeod, Claude Moore and the UVa Hospital. The new Clinical Simulation Lab has state of the art “simulation people” for students to practice their skills. These life-like robots can talk, breathe, and even give birth.

Application: High school students apply directly, and usually have some exposure or experience in health care or nursing. Transferring in requires three years of coursework regardless of incoming credits. (Students should investigate whether they’re more interested in pre-medicine or nursing before applying.)

Spring 2013 Admission: Made offers to just 20% of its 691 applicants.

Program Description: All students complete a four-year program to receive a B.S. in Nursing. As a four-year program, students get an early start on clinical experiences, starting the spring of their second year. (Clinicals are days spent training hands-on in the hospital, on a rotation to gain experience in all medical fields.)

Though the third and fourth year is primarily nursing classes, since students take a number of classes with students outside the Nursing school during their first two years, they still maintain a solid network of friends both inside and outside the school.

Why study nursing at UVa?

It’s among the nation’s top 2% of nursing schools (currently ranked #15) and one of the most competitive based on application numbers. But more than rankings:

- (1) There’s a balance of liberal arts with science and procedural coursework.
- (2) It’s a very small supportive community that feels like a family.
- (3) The nursing buildings are adjacent to the hospital, so students won’t be travelling to a different campus for clinicals.

School of Architecture

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 300 undergraduates (65.7% female, 34.3% male)

Facilities: Campbell Hall, plus the Art Department's Ruffin Hall and Fine Arts Library. These are the few buildings on Grounds that don't look expressly Jeffersonian, which makes them stand out.

Application: High school students apply directly. Students don't need previous experience or a portfolio, though it helps to show interest in the field. It's a small program: students can only transfer in to replace students who transferred out. Like other four-year programs, it's much easier to transfer out of than into.

Available majors are: Architecture, Urban and Environmental Planning, and Architectural History. Almost 2/3 of A-school students major in Architecture.

Spring 2015 Admission: Made offers to 45% of its 405 applicants.

Program Description: This is a four-year program to receive a B.S. in Architecture. Students can major in either Architecture, Architectural History, or Urban & Environmental Planning. Note this is not a five-year professional degree program like most other undergraduate schools. Thus to be a licensed architect, students must attend a graduate program. This means the school teaches more big-picture than on meticulous methodological tasks.)

The A-School is in the middle of a curricular overhaul for students to follow one of two paths/concentrations: a pre-professional path (for students who will likely pursue graduate school or a career in architecture), or a less-intensive "design thinking" path (which combines design knowledge with marketable skills like entrepreneurship and leadership to leverage students into other careers).

The A-School is known to consist of very time-intensive work. But like most things, the more you put in, the more you get out of it, and the students who stick with it really tend to enjoy it. It helps students with time-management as they learn to balance and prioritize. (That said, the school doesn't have to take up all your time. If a student makes it a priority to be involved in the UVa community, there's plenty of time to do so and still remain successful academically.) It can be competitive, but not more so than the general UVa atmosphere.

Like the other smaller schools, the A-School offers another close-knit community at a larger university. The amount of time spent together makes you closer!

Why study architecture at UVa?

(1) Though students won't graduate as licensed architects, that's largely the appeal of the program for many students, especially for those hesitant about getting sucked into a career-specific major at 18. UVa gives students more room to take other liberal arts classes and have a life outside of studio. Yet students still get a solid design education from the same professors teaching at the 7th ranked graduate architecture program in the nation.

(2) Many students also pick the A-School because of the larger University's reputation, knowing that if they decide to go an alternate route, their program will still be amazing, competitive, and nationally recognized.

(3) Get prospective students to visit and walk around the studio to see the work being done and approach students with questions. They'll see the distinction from other schools.

(4) Much like the Nursing School, the small class sizes produce a small, family-like community.

Curry School of Education

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 310 undergraduates (79.7% female, 20.3% male)

These numbers does not include accelerated B.A/M.T. candidates.

Facilities: Ruffner (for classes) and Bavaro (for offices), plus Memorial Gymnasium

Application: High school students apply directly to the Kinesiology program. Students interested in Communication Disorders (i.e. Speech Pathology & Audiology) or the Masters in Teaching apply in their second year.

Spring 2013 Admission: Made offers to 17% of its 517 Kinesiology applicants.

Program Description: All programs train teachers and researchers who create positive change in their communities.

Students can apply to get their B.S. in Education for either Kinesiology or Speech Pathology & Audiology (SPA). Kinesiology is a direct-admit, four-year program. Students apply for SPA in their fourth semester.

Students can also apply to combine their B.A. in the College with a Masters in Teaching from Curry to become a certified teacher.

Students usually apply their fourth semester to spend three years in the program, finishing a B.A. and getting an M.T. at the same time, graduating in their fifth year with *both* degrees.

The Elementary Education program is the most popular, and thus the most competitive. These students can pick any major for their B.A. in the College.

Secondary Education students must major in the subject they plan to teach.

Student teaching is nearby, and most student stay to teach in Virginia.

Why study education at UVa?

Curry employs the “cohort model” wherein teachers and students grow to know each other very well. Your advisor is your professor. It’s a tight-knit community that focuses on collaboration and mutual support.

Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy

Fall 2015 Enrollment: 144 undergraduates (60.4% female, 39.6% male)

These numbers do not include accelerated B.A./M.P.P. candidates.

Facilities: Garrett Hall, newly finished in 2011.

Application: Undergraduate students apply for the Bachelors program in their second-year and the accelerated Bachelors/MPP program in their third year.

Program Description: Students learn critical leadership skills and are trained in the analytics and substance of policy.

The program is for students who understand the responsibilities and opportunities of service to the public, and who can help bring about transformational change.

Graduates go on to careers in government, non-profits, and private firms engaged in public-private partnerships.

There are two programs:

Two-year program to receive a B.A. in Public Policy in Leadership

- Prerequisites include a semester of microeconomics and one of social psychology.
- This involves a 40 credit major, on top of the same area and competency requirements as the College.

Accelerated five-year B.A./Masters in Public Policy, open to all majors

- Prerequisites include a semester of microeconomics and a math course, or associated AP credit.
- Students spend their last two years doing a Masters program while finishing their Bachelors degree.
- In addition to a core curriculum, students complete a summer public policy internship and complete a real-world applied public policy study or project for a client.

Why study public policy at UVa?

Established in 2007, this is UVa's newest school, and thus has an abundance of new resources to train students in this growing field.

Fine Arts at UVA

The availability of the arts can make or break for many prospective students. UVa does not have a school for fine arts, and only offers B.A. degrees, not B.F.A.s. But what UVa does offer is a multitude of arts CIOs and opportunities. And the B.A. program makes students more well-rounded, able to integrate other subjects into their chosen discipline, and have the free time to participate in extra-curriculars both at UVA and in Charlottesville. You don't have to audition for any of the majors, and they really are welcoming to anyone who wants to join. If any tourist is expressly interested in the arts, point them towards the Arts Grounds and don't hesitate to put them in touch with Student Council's Arts Committee co-chairs. Prospectives interested in the arts should consider submitting an Arts Supplement with their application to showcase their talent, and be considered for the College Arts Scholars program (which Stephen Colbert's wife helped to start).

UVa Branding Task Force

During the summer of 2012 the University commissioned the Art & Science Group, LLC (A&S) to conduct an independent environmental and academic assessment of the University of Virginia. The comprehensive assessment included an evaluation of prospective and admitted undergraduate students' perceptions of U.Va., which revealed a lack of awareness and understanding of the AccessUVA financial aid program and the University's net cost of attendance. This evaluation also found that **"UVA's cultural identity is unusually well-defined and polarizing"** and that the University was not always perceived as "welcoming" to prospective students from low income and minority backgrounds. UGS directly connects to this report because we are the main resource they have within their visit. UVA is unique due to our history, extracurriculars, professor student relations, and opportunities to explore. However, we need to remember that the two most important factors in decision making for prospective students are academic reputation and net cost of attendance. This report reminds us of how important the impression we leave on our tourists is.

The Honor Code

Quick History

Established in 1842, UVa's Honor Code is the oldest entirely student-run honor system in the nation. In the purest form of student self-governance at the University, students decide what constitutes an honor offense, elect and appoint peers to facilitate the system, and serve as jurors in Honor Trials. No faculty member or administrator is directly involved in Honor Committee decisions.

What's an Honor Offense?

An Honor Offense is defined as any Act of lying, cheating, or stealing, where such Act was committed with Knowledge, and is Significant. Knowledge shall mean, with respect to a particular Act, that the actor knew, or a reasonable University of Virginia student should have known, that the act in question might be considered an Honor Offense. Significance shall mean, with respect to a particular Act, that open toleration of such Act would be inconsistent with the Community of Trust. Students reaffirm their commitment to the Honor Code by writing the pledge on the bottom of assignments and exams. The pledge reads: *On my honor as a student at the University of Virginia I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment/exam. (Signed)*

What's the Community of Trust?

The Honor System does not exist to punish students, but to assure that the rewards of acting with integrity are freely given to students, and to promote a culture of unwavering and unhesitating trust: the Community of Trust.

Those who are unwilling to uphold this principle violate their agreement with their fellow students, and may no longer be permitted to stay in the University community.

Student Involvement

The Honor Committee

The Honor Committee is composed of 27 elected representatives from every school at the University (five from the College and two from each other school). The Honor Committee is charged with encouraging and advancing ethics in the Community by formally administering the Honor System. Members of the Honor Committee serve as trial chairs and jurors in Honor Trials; sit on various investigative and appeals panels; facilitate education and outreach initiatives; recruit and train Support Officers; and ensure the day-to-day operations of the Honor System run smoothly.

Student Jurors There are three options for a jury: a panel of 9-12 Committee members; a panel of 9-12 random students; or a mixed panel of 3-4 committee members and 5-8 random student jurors.

Students are called for “jury duty” via random list of student names generated in LDAP. Potential jurors are sent an email requesting their attendance at juror orientations (to be screened for bias, learn the process, and indicate their availability). Failure to comply with jury duty when called upon is considered a UJC offense under standard 11 of the UJC Standards of Conduct.

Violating the Honor Code

What's the punishment if you commit an Honor Offense?

Since the inauguration of the Honor System, students have maintained only one sanction for committing an Honor offense: permanent dismissal from the University. The Single Sanction encapsulates our uncompromising commitment to honesty and integrity and provides for both philosophical and practical consistency within the System. Over the past 30 years, referenda to change the sanction have been introduced by students roughly every four-five years. Students have upheld this sanction in every vote. It is a standard that students have chosen for themselves, and have reaffirmed again and again.

An expelled student's transcript says: “Enrollment Discontinued,” but does not explicitly indicate the reason for the dismissal.

What are the Conscientious and Informed Retractions?

A Conscientious Retraction (CR) allows a student who has committed a dishonest act to admit his actions and make amends, if applicable, without actually leaving the Community of Trust. This admission, however, must be submitted before the student has reason to believe that his actions have come under suspicion. A student with the integrity and courage to come forward with a timely, good faith retraction has reaffirmed his or her personal commitment to honor and will be allowed to remain within the community. In the Spring of 2013, the student body passed a constitutional amendment to endow all students with the right to file an Informed Retraction (IR). The IR is a philosophical extension of the CR—it allows a student who has been reported for an Honor Offense to admit his or her actions,

make amends with all affected parties, and finish the current semester before taking a two-semester Honor Leave of Absence from the University before being allowed to re-enroll and reenter the Community of Trust.

Does the UVa Honor System require that you report each violation that you encounter?

No, the University does not have a non-toleration clause; a student is not required to report an Honor offense that he or she sees.

How many students are expelled each year?

The Honor Committee *receives* about 40-60 reports every year. Because the circumstances of each case vary greatly, the amount of students *expelled* each year varies as well.

No Universal Agreement

The Spring 2013 “Informed Retraction” decision was passed in favor over the Honor Committee-supported “Restore the Ideal” amendment, which called for both Informed Retraction *and* the elimination of random student juries.

A number of controversial events have taken place regarding UVa’s Honor System (one led by Prof. Bloomfield, one happening at Semester at Sea, among others), and a quick perusal of Cav Daily op-eds surrounding these incidents shows how support for the Single Sanction is not unanimous in the community, or even in the Honor Committee itself.

Debates regarding the efficacy of the system are commonplace, and will continue for as long as the Community of Trust exists.

Benefits of the Community of Trust

This is what’s crucial to mention on tours: in light of how strict and scary the Honor System may sound, most would consider it a pretty low bar, asking students to go four years without lying, cheating or stealing. Provided you go four years not being a shitty human being, you can really benefit from all that the Community of Trust has to offer.

Academic Benefits

Many professors allow students to take exams outside the classroom, and many more simply leave the exam un-proctored. Professors trust a student when requesting extensions. Students can experience the comfort of take-home assignments. Students are generally treated with more respect and treated more as equals than they likely were in high school.

Benefits in the Community

Students can feel relatively comfortable leaving their bags or laptops down in the library or dining hall if they need to use the bathroom or get some food, and can trust it’ll be there when he/she returns. Students often trust leaving their laundry in the machine overnight. Students can feel relatively comfortable leaving their dorm room doors unlocked.

Financial Benefits

Once a semester you can also get a 30-day interest-free “Honor Loan” from ODOS for up to \$600. Students can charge any YellowCab trip to the University. And should a student forget his/her wallet at a meal on the Corner, he/she can simply promise to come back and pay for the meal later.

A WORD OF CAUTION: If you choose to talk about Honor in your tour, remember to describe it as beneficial for everyone. Many people hear single sanction and assume students are expelled from UVA every week. Also, be aware the Honor isn’t a perfect system. It’s beautiful that students run it, but the human involvement brings numerous flaws. Not everyone is comfortable within the Honor System, and that could include potential students.

The University Judiciary Committee

Founding

Out of a need to address student misconduct outside of lying, cheating, or stealing, the Board of Visitors created the University Judiciary Committee in 1955 to review and adjudicate alleged violations of disciplinary matters not covered by the Honor System, called the UVa Standards of Conduct (most recently revised in 2001).

Their mission statement is to maintain and promote a community of respect, safety, and freedom at the University and greater Charlottesville community.

Standards of Conduct

The twelve current Standards of Conduct forbid: physical or sexual assault, acts that threaten the health or safety of any person, unauthorized entry, disruption of academic activities, blocking traffic, housing violations, false identification, disorderly conduct, property damage, violating the law, obstructing the judiciary process, and failure to comply with University officials.

(So yes, although having a fake ID is considered a violation, these cases are rarely adjudicated by the UJC and often not brought before it.)

Cases are either reported online at uvaujc.com or in person at Newcomb Hall. Any person can file a case against a student, but the statute of limitations is 45 days from the date the complainant knew or should have known the identity of the accused. (The statute of limitations for sexual assault is one year.)

Punishments

The UJC attempts to correct student violations by assigning rehabilitative and educational sanctions. They include oral admonitions, written warnings, academic reprimand, probation, restitution, \$10-\$100 in fines, work sanctions, suspension “held in abeyance” (should another conviction occur), suspension, and expulsion.

Members

Like the Honor Committee, UJC is made up of dozens of support officers (counselors, investigators, and educators), as well as 23 elected judges, three from the College and two from each other school. 15 to 17 first-years are appointed to the First-Year Judiciary Committee (FYJC) as well.

Sexual Misconduct at UVA

This section will be important to you as an admissions guide this next year, but also as an informed citizen of UVA. Take a break before you read it or drink some coffee so you can truly understand this portion. You will get questions on this, whether it's in front of the group or just one concerned parent on a walk between stops. You'll be fine! Tell it like it is.

Background

A few years ago, the White House established a Task Force to conduct a report on sexual assault within colleges. After investigation, the Task Force deemed UVA substandard in response to sexual misconduct.

After *Rolling Stone* published their article about sexual assault at UVA, the University fell under greater pressure to transform their policy. Previously, the University upheld the Sexual Misconduct Board. This group of students, faculty, and staff heard and tried cases involving rape, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and sexual violations. After SMB claimed a verdict, both parties had the right to appeal the case which would go to a separate court. Both courts had the right to expel a student for up to two years.

During Summer 2015, University released a new policy which eliminated the Sexual Misconduct Board.

Under the new policy, students report incidents to a Title IX Coordinator or through Just Report It, an online resource. After the initial assessment, the coordinator will forward all information to an Evaluation Panel which must include the Title IX Coordinator, a representative from the University Police Department, and a representative from the Division of Student Affairs. This panel will determine the need for an investigation. In need for one, the panel will inquire whether a formal or an informal resolution is desired unless the safety of the general university population is threatened (in this case, there will be a formal resolution).

After the investigation, a review panel is summoned which is composed of trained members of the community. They will review the Investigator's recommended findings and any appropriate sanctions. If either party protests, they panel will hold a Hearing within 55 days of the investigation. Though this sounds complicated, it's actually a streamlined process, and enables UVa to react more quickly when there is a threat to the general body. Hearings are also proceed more efficiently as a result. One good thing about this system is that the process is hopefully much less re-traumatizing for the survivor.

Wow. A lot of information all at once. What's most important is to be aware for others around you and also to see the steps the University took since last year. Only a few people asked me about sexual assault at UVA on tours when I started; two years ago, I confronted *Rolling Stone*, race relations, and safety all at once because it was on everyone's mind. This may have simmered down since last year, but it's still important to reflect on your own stance and **never lie**. Talking about how you truly feel puts authenticity in your tour, which people will remember and appreciate from you. Be real, be strong, and you'll shine through all the other tours they've been on!

Studying Abroad

Can I study abroad if I go to UVa?

Yes. Students in *any major in any University school* can (and are strongly encouraged to!) study abroad. While first-years are encouraged to stay on Grounds, students are not limited in terms of which year they can go, how long they're there, how many times they can go, or where they have to go.

What resources does UVa's International Studies Office (ISO) provide?

The ISO, on the second floor of Minor Hall, offers full-time study-abroad advisors and an extensive resource library. The office works closely with students to coordinate course requirements, credit transfers, financial aid, and travel tips. They also lead a Study Abroad Fair to highlight many of the opportunities available to UVa students.

What if I'm in the School of Commerce or Engineering or Nursing or Architecture?

Students in these schools may simply require more planning early on; UVa offers programs specifically designed to accommodate those students fulfill their academic requirements while studying abroad. The E-School even offers its own study abroad fair. Students are similarly encouraged to go abroad in the School of Commerce, with a number of programs to choose from designed to keep them on track.

What if I'm a transfer student / an international student / a student with special needs / an athlete?

- For transfers, look at programs that grant direct credit to UVa that will count toward your degree.
- For international students, just be sure to research any additional visa regulations.
- For students with special needs, the ISO offers careful planning to help students find a program that is able to accommodate their needs.
- The ISO can help athletes find study abroad programs in their off-season.

What if I don't speak another language other than English?

No worries. There are plenty of opportunities to take course in English in non-English speaking countries, as well as courses teaching at various levels of the country's native language.

What if I don't want to leave UVa to study abroad for an entire semester?

You can study abroad for an entire year, a semester, or just during the summer or January-term. That said, don't be intimidated by spending a semester or year abroad or worry you'll miss out! Yes, there are lots of fun activities on-Grounds year round, but there are numerous benefits to going abroad for a more extended period (deeper cultural immersion, involvement in local clubs and organizations, better language acquisition, exposure to more cultural traditions and festivals, etc.).

How many students study abroad?

Each year about 8-9% of undergraduates study abroad, which translates to about 36% of all students will study abroad during their time at UVa. Curiously, 2/3 of those who study abroad are female. (Also, 17% of students in the E-School and 10% in the Nursing School will study abroad.)

Is it more expensive to study abroad?

There are options to fit any budget, but costs depend on the program model and location. Some programs even cost less than UVa fees (especially if they're out-of-state), while others will cost

more than a typical term at UVa. There are scholarships available specifically to help fund study abroad.

Can I use my financial aid to study abroad?

Financial aid (and many scholarships) are “portable” and can be applied to approved study abroad programs. Loans, grants, and scholarships are all eligible for use toward study abroad. This is a HUGE plus for people!

What types of study abroad programs are there?

- There are hundreds of programs sponsored or approved by UVa’s International Studies Office in programs all over the world.
- UVa has more than 40 partner universities abroad where students may study on exchange, which is a great opportunity to experience true cultural immersion.
- If a student can’t find a program that meets their needs on the approved list, students can always petition to study on another program.

Will my credits transfer if I study abroad?

Yes, but how your credits will transfer depends on the program. You will earn either Direct Credit (which appears on the UVa transcript, counts towards your GPA, and can be applied towards your major or minor requirements) or Transfer Credit (which does not appear on your transcript or go towards your GPA; you must earn a C or better in each course to receive transfer credit).

Is it safe to study abroad?

Students’ safety is ISO’s top priority. UVa does not operate programs in countries for which a U.S. State Department travel warning has been issued. Students will also not be approved to participate in non-UVa programs which do not demonstrate adequate safety and emergency preparedness.

Pre-departure orientation educates students on how to prepare themselves for a safe experience abroad. There is also a crisis management plan to handle emergency situations.

The ISO utilizes a variety of safety and risk management organizations to gather information regarding world events and responds accordingly, updating emergency contacts when appropriate.

What’s Semester at Sea?

In 2006, UVa became the academic sponsor of the global education experience Semester at Sea. The program allows students from hundreds of universities to take classes (across the academic spectrum, both introductory and advanced) on a 590-foot long cruise ship (“a floating campus”) travelling around the world. While UVa will no longer be the sponsor, Semester at Sea is still an option for UVa students wanting to study abroad.

The program attracts world-renowned faculty, like Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, as well as professors from the University of Pennsylvania, Duke, Stanford, Harvard, and others.

The ship brings to life Jefferson’s ideal of faculty and students living and learning in close proximity. Voyages sail every semester (which often circumnavigate the globe) and each summer (which often explore particular regions of the world).

Have you studied abroad?

If so, talk about your experience and how enriching it is! For many students, a semester abroad can be their most life-changing of their four years at UVa, so don’t leave that out on your tours.

Libraries

Quick History

The first library at UVa, the Rotunda, was revolutionary for the time. While other universities had a chapel at the heart of the design, Jefferson put a library at the head of the Lawn.

Eventually the collections outgrew the Rotunda, and Alderman Library (named after the University's first president) was opened in 1938.

The University Library today

- Today there are 16 library facilities with great spaces to do research, study, collaborate, and meet with teachers. Libraries remain very popular with students; UVa libraries get more traffic annually than football games. (Some consider the Rotunda the 17th library.)
- The three most popular undergraduate libraries, each with its own personality, are **Alderman** (which houses half of the University's collections) **Clemons**, and **Brown Science & Engineering** (not "Clark Library", though it is in Clark Hall). Clemons is open 24/5, and has a large collection of DVDs for students to rent for free. o Alderman's McGregor Reading Room (or the "Harry Potter room") is a beautiful place with oriental rugs and comfy leather furniture for *quiet* study space. (The Dean of the Libraries even got "shushed" by students when she was giving a tour.)
- Libraries also include the **Special Collections** Library, a **Fine Arts** Library, a **Music** Library, and a number of specialized libraries in science and mathematics (like **Astronomy**, **Biology/Psychology**, **Chemistry**, **Health Sciences**, **Math**, and **Physics**).
- **Curry**, **Darden**, and **Law** Schools each have their own libraries as well.
- The climate-controlled **Ivy Stacks** Storage Facility on Old Ivy Road houses over 750,000 volumes.

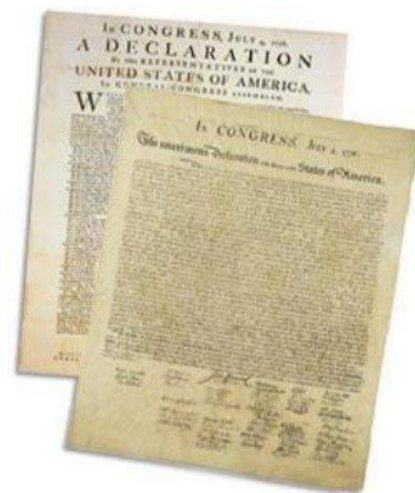
Library resources

- UVa has 5 million books, half a million e-books, 125 thousand journals, and 50 thousand videos, plus datasets, music scores, digital images, art, archives, and more.
- If UVa doesn't have the book you need, simply request that the library purchase it.
- Libraries have a friendly staff to help you find stuff, get help with projects, and use technology for your research. Study help is available in-person, online, via instant message, or in-class.
- They have cool technology, like motion-capture suits and video production software.
- Printing is available for 8¢ a page in most libraries.

Special Collections

Special Collections has 18 million items, including:

- One of the first copies of the **Declaration of Independence** (a “Dunlap broadside” on permanent exhibit)
- The world’s largest **William Faulker collection** (Faulker personally requested that the majority of his manuscripts be stored at UVa)
- A previously unpublished **Robert Frost poem** “War Thoughts at Home”, discovered by a UVa graduate student in 2006, handwritten on the cover of a book belonging to Frost’s friend
- The **Thomas Jefferson Papers** (3,650 items, including 1,610 letters written by Jefferson and 80 of his architectural sketches)
- The **Edgar Allen Poe collection** (1,000 letters, photographs, and other items collected through John Henry Igram’s career-long research)



Student involvement in libraries

- Students choose the furnishings when spaces are renovated.
- The aquarium in Clemons was a student’s idea.
- Students hold study breaks here during exams, like board games at Brown Science & Engineering, pizza donated by secret societies, and video games in Clemons.
- A cappella groups like the Academical Village People perform on the Alderman steps.
- Students run the Library Council, an organization working to better the student Library experience and promoting Library resources.
- Talk about fun stories (the awful all-nighter, goofing off on Clemons 2nd floor) here otherwise you’re literally rambling about libraries.

Other Topics to Mention at Libraries

Technology

UVa offers free Internet connection wherever you’re on University property, from libraries to the Lawn. UVa does not require students have a laptop, but almost all students do.

Secret Societies

Because of the symbols outside, many guides will mention Secret Societies here too. They’re interesting, but be careful not to make UVA seem more exclusive than it already is. Also, connect it to a broader theme if you can, like old and new traditions. Like always, personal stories are key and if you went to Convocation, you have one! Remember the 7 letter that gave your first year class \$1,777 to start your first year fund.

PART 4: STUDENT LIFE

Housing & Residence Life

First Year Housing

Where do most first-years live?

All first-years are required to live in one of UVa's on-grounds residence halls. (Transfers are not required to live on-Grounds their first year, though there is upper-class housing reserved for them.)

90% of first-years reside in of the following three residential areas:

McCormick Road Houses (from the 1950s). These dorms house just under 1300 students. They do not have A/C, but they are closer to central Grounds.

Alderman Road Houses (from the 2000s onward). These dorms house just over 1300 students. They were built to replace the original suite-style "new dorms" (one building still retains this style). The rest are air-conditioned hotel-like buildings with elevators.

Gooch/Dillard Residences (1980s). The dorms house around 620 students. They offer singles in air-conditioned suites. They're found further down Alderman Road toward Stadium.

These housing areas offer the typical "First-Year Experience", where you live among other first-years in an atmosphere that closely resembles summer camp. Though each offers a different style of living, each has its benefits, and most students seem to end up preferring where they lived and had their experience.

Keep in mind: Do not call them Old Dorms or New Dorms. People associate old with bad and new with good. They'll hear it in the end if they come here; don't feel like they have to know the lingo before they've enrolled.

What's a Residential College?

First-years can also apply to live in one of UVa's three Residential Colleges. These dorms offer a different environment for the remaining 10% of first-years:

- They house students of all years, allowing first-years more interaction with upperclassmen.
- You even live amongst faculty, harkening back to Jefferson's Academical Village.
- They're mostly air-conditioned singles, with study lounges and communal kitchens.
- There's a strong sense of community, exclusive courses only open to residents, and several student-run community events due to their large activities budget.

There are three residential colleges:

Brown College is the closest dorm to central grounds. Its application attracts creative students (asks people to show why they are "interested and interesting"). The dorm has stairwells (not halls) called

“portals”, all connected by underground tunnels. They also get a special dining area in the Newcomb Dining Hall nearby and put on a Haunted House every Halloween. Take time to read their application when it comes out later this spring if you don’t have any experience with the students there.

Hereford College on O-Hill behind Gooch/Dillard offers a community focused on sustainability. For example, the residents maintain a sustainable garden.

International Residence College houses about 40% international students and 60% U.S. citizens. The focus is on global & cultural diversity and international issues. It has additional spaces for speakers and educational activities.

Encourage prospective students to explore these options, as they can really be a unique attractor to UVa.

What’s move-in day like?

Many jokingly call it “the hottest day of the year” and suggest packing a fan last. It’s hectic and exciting, but returning students are there to help move you in. You’ll meet your RA and hallmates before starting Fall Orientation and the first week of classes.

If I can’t go in to a dorm, what are they like inside?

- By and large, they’re what you imagine a typical dorm and dorm room to look like.
- The majority of dorm rooms are for two residents, although there are some singles and triplets.
- All residence halls are co-ed, but single-sex by floor or suite. Each hallway houses around 20 students who all share the common bathroom on each floor.
- Each room is furnished with two beds, two wardrobes, and two desks.
- A cleaning service comes to clean the hallways and bathrooms, but not your room.
- Laundry rooms, mailrooms, dining halls, and cafes are all readily accessible within the first year living area.
- Go online. The website has dimensions, pictures, truly everything you would want and more.

Residence Life and the “First Year Experience”

Resident Advisor (RA): There is one upperclassman RA per hall (18-25 first-years). They’re in charge of enforcing policy, programming activities, and acting as a mentor. (They’re given free housing and a basic meal plan as payment for their services.) One RA will be “on coverage” every weekend night to ensure safety in the dorms.

If you had a good RA, talk about the value of a mentor at UVa. Also mention the movie nights or weekly dinners or video game tournaments your RA might have put on to help your dorm bond.

Senior Resident (SR): This student oversees all RAs in the building and deals with incidence reports.

Dorm Association Council: You’ll elect this group of fellow first-years to organize small dorm-wide events (e.g. tailgates) for bonding, and to foster an atmosphere of school spirit and dorm pride. Really paint the picture of the atmosphere of first-year living on your tour. Talk about those first couple weeks of organized activities, and the spontaneous events like Assassins or a Scavenger Hunt.

Roommates: You can request a roommate online, or get assigned a completely random one. Either way your RA will have you sign contract at the beginning of the year to set rules for visitors and chores. Be sure to talk about the diverse group of people you lived with your first-year, to show the variety of people at UVa. A hall is composed of people from many majors, across the political spectrum, from different cultural backgrounds. Highlighting the benefits of being exposed to those differences (like the late night philosophical discussions with hallmates) shows how inclusive and eye-opening UVa can be.

TOUR TIP: Beware when entering Old Dorms: first-year guys love to heckle tour groups. Be prepared for whatever prank they might be planning next. You may want to good-naturedly warn your tourists about such cunning little tricks—they usually think it's funny.

Upperclass Housing

How many students stay living on-grounds after first-year?

About 50% of second-years will stay on-grounds, but only 10% of 3rd or 4th years do. That said, you are guaranteed housing as long as you stay on-grounds.

Where do upperclassmen live On-Grounds?

Residences without applications include:

Johnson/Malone/Weedon, the same buildings as (and once part of) Hereford College.

Bice, Lambeth, Faulker, and Copeley—these are typically furnished, four-person apartments with air-conditioning and kitchens.

Residences you must apply to live in include:

The three **Residential Colleges**, as mentioned before: Brown, Hereford, and the IRC.

Language Houses: French House, German House, Spanish House, Russian House and the Shea House (for Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi & Urdu, Japanese, Korean and Persian).

The Lawn: Single rooms reserved for select undergraduates in their final year of study.

What's the process for upperclass housing like?

UVa Housing will hold several information sessions about upper-class housing in the Fall, covering all the options and the process for obtaining housing after first-year.

Students can request to live on grounds with their friends by linking their applications.

You apply in November by ranking your living preferences. A lottery determines placement, and offers are extended in December. You must accept or decline in January. (Although the process for applying to The Lawn is bumped up a month, starting in December.)

What's Off-Grounds housing like?

Many of the apartments and houses "Off-Grounds" are actually closer to Central Grounds than many dormitories. As such, there's a huge demand for close housing, and only a few big companies own most of the available housing nearby, so students have to shop around and see what will be best for their price range and desired location.

Lease-signing starts in October, and it's advised to start looking early. (Many people say the biggest downfall of UVa is the pressure to sign Off-Grounds leases in October.) Students are advised to think hard about their decision, and not to sign if you're not ready! There is always housing available, even as the school-year is starting.

Houses are also leased early, and often the best way to get one is working through the current residents. Many students will also live in their Fraternity or Sorority houses.

For concerned parents, there is an Off-Grounds Housing Office resource to help people find off-grounds housing & transition from on to off-grounds. Staff members work closely with Legal Services to review leases before signing, and offer Mediation Services, to ensure that off-Grounds housing arrangements end up as a good environment for those who reside there.

OVERALL TIP: It's easy to talk for ages about dorms and First Year Life. Don't feel the need to cover everything, just what you connect to the most!

Dining

Meal Plans

What meal plans are available to students?

All first-years are required to have one of the two meal plans available to them. Upperclassman can choose from all five options. (Students in Residential Colleges have the same options, but must pay \$55 more for their meal plans.) NCAA Varsity athletes have their own unique meal plan options.

PER SEMESTER	Unlimited Access	All Access 7	All Access 5 (Not for 1 st Years)	Semester 100 (Not for 1 st Years)	Semester 50 (Not for 1 st Years)
Cost	\$2290	\$2190	\$1905	\$1230	\$800
Swipes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited (Mon-Fri only)	100	50
Guest Meals	10	15	10	Count as swipe	Count as swipe
Plus Dollars	300	150	300	400	350
Meal Exchange or To-Go Swipes	3 per day (1 per hour)	2 per day (1 per hour)	2 per day (1 per hour)	2 per day (1 per hour)	2 per day (1 per hour)

Terminology

Swipes: Meal swipes are used for all-you-can-eat meals had *in* the three residential dining halls.

Guest Meals: These allow you to treat visiting friends or family to a dining hall meal.

Plus Dollars: You can spend Plus Dollars at On-Grounds cafes, restaurants, and convenience stores. You can add more at anytime. They carry-over between semesters, but not between years.

Meal Exchange: This means you can use a swipe for a specific Meal Exchange Combo at select retail locations on Grounds at certain times.

To-Go Swipes: This allows you to take a meal To Go from any of our dining rooms.

How do I know how many meals I have left?

You can check on the current number of meals available on your dining plan by asking the cashier when you present your card, or by going to www.virginia.edu/cavalieradvantage/.

Locations

What dining halls are there?

The three main residential dining areas include **Observatory Hill (O-Hill) Dining Room** near Alderman dorms, the **Fresh Food Company** at Newcomb Hall, and the **Runk Hall Dining Room** at the base of Hereford Hill. They open for breakfast at 7am and close for dinner at 8pm.

Athletes also have the **Athletic Dining Hall** located within the JPJ arena at their disposal, open Sunday-Thursday. Residents of many language houses are expected to eat in their dining areas on certain nights.

What On-Grounds retail dining locations are there?

Students can also use cash, credit, Plus Dollars, or Meal Exchange at locations like the Castle, Crossroads, the Pav, Einstein Bagels, West Range Café, Wilsdorf Café, Dumpling Cart, and the Fine Arts Café.

On tours, talk about your favorite meals at these locations or their convenience, like meeting friends for lunch at West Range or the new Chick-Fil-a in Newcomb.

The Food

How do I know what's being served at the dining halls?

Weekly menus, nutrition information, dining plan information, hours of operation and general dining information are posted and available on the Dining website.

What if I'm on a restricted diet?

Dining has options daily for those who are vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose-free or keep kosher. Dining will really work with you, and if you cannot find what you need, speak with a dining manager or service staff.

Is the food good?

Give your opinion. I usually say something like, "You won't be blown away, but you also won't waste away." Obviously mass-produced food is not like home cooking, but saying things like "stir fry is where it's at" helps to show that there are great options available. If you're an upperclassman with a meal plan, tell them why. *(Fun fact: Care has an unlimited meal plan and probably always will. Newcomb is amazing).*

But even if you can't stand the food at UVa, one cannot complain about the amazing restaurant scene in the greater Charlottesville area, so feel free to emphasize that on your tour instead.

Sustainability

What efforts does UVA make towards Sustainability?

Every Monday at the residential dining halls is **Meat Free Monday**, where in addition to the already-designated vegan & vegetarian station, another station will serve a meat-free entrée at lunch and dinner. This is because reducing meat consumption just one day a week can make room for healthier eating habits and lighten our environmental footprint.

Every time you bring your reusable mug to buy drip coffee, tea, or soda on-Grounds, Dining will punch your **Coffee Punch Card**; you're eligible for two free drinks after eight purchases.

With a meal plan, students receive two reusable To-Go Program Key Tags to turn in for a **reusable to-go container** when getting take-out from UVa Dining locations. Dining will wash your dirty container and give you another key tag so you can check out your next clean container.

Dining also sends food waste to Earlysville, Virginia to be **composted**.

No trays have been used in UVa dining rooms since 2008.

UVa's **recycling program** collects all of Dining's recyclables and Greenlight Biofuels takes and reprocesses all of UVa's used cooking oil.

Dining works with the area non-profit **Local Food Hub**, which works with Central Virginia family farms to aggregate their produce and make it available to large institutional buyers, to procure a variety of local produce.

UVa's **Campus Kitchen Project** helps feed the underserved members of Charlottesville by preventing food from ending up as landfill waste.

Health and Safety

Safety

Is UVa safe?

Charlottesville is generally very safe for a city of its size, but students are still encouraged to travel in groups, to watch out for each other, and to stay alert. UVa is an open community, and while it benefits hugely from that openness, occasionally it makes the Grounds more susceptible to crime.

Be honest when answering this (some may feel comfortable jogging out at night, others might not), but address the ways you work to keep yourself safe.

Limited Residence Hall Access: We don't take visitors into dorms on tours, because only students living in a particular residence area can access it with their student IDs. Visitors must be accompanied by a resident to gain access.

Blue Light Phones: There are over 200 emergency phones located throughout the campus and off-Grounds, near dorms, parking lots, and pathways. These "blue phones" (they have a flashing blue light on top) connect directly to the University police with a press of a button. Be **careful** mentioning these; be sure you can point one out from where you are, but also know most colleges have them.

The University police: Unlike most institutions, UVa has a two-tiered police system. It has its own trained police force that patrols the campus frequently as well as the Charlottesville and Albemarle County police.

University buses run late every night.

College Ambassadors are the people in the bright green shirts that are on the Corner and different places off-Grounds that keep an eye out for students.

Safe Ride Program: The University police, in conjunction with Student Council, also drive the SafeRide van, available from the hours of midnight to 6am to take students anywhere within a one-mile radius of grounds, free of charge, so students aren't walking home late at night.

Yellow Cab Program: If students are out of range of public transportation and need a ride, students are encouraged to use the Yellow Cab Company. Even if they do not have the money to pay, they can sign on their Honor to pay at a later time, and the Office of the Dean of Students will cover the ride. This program exists to encourage students not to walk alone or drive under the influence.

Dean on Call: The Office of the Dean of Students provides 24-hour crisis management services to University students. Those in need of support or referrals after hours can call the University Police Department at (434) 924-7166 and ask them to refer the issue to the Dean on Call.

Alert Systems: At Orientation students sign up to receive text messages for safety alerts, the Chief of Police regularly emails about incidents of burglary or assault, and all TVs in academic buildings and libraries will display safety information in an emergency.

With the Honor System, can't you just comfortably leave your belongings out in the library?

Many students do, but likely only because they've asked the student next to them to watch their stuff for them while they're up. It's the same reason Lawn residents lock up their rocking chairs: We do live in a Community of Trust, but students should still take proper precautions and make smart decisions.

Charlottesville is generally very safe for a city of its size, but students are still encouraged to travel in groups and to take care of each other.

Student Health

The Elson Student Health Center

Hours of Operation: Student Health is open weekdays from 8am-5pm. When Student Health is closed, there is an on-call physician and mental health provider for any urgent care needs.

Location: Student Health is between the South Lawn and the UVa Hospital.

Insurance: All full-time students are eligible for care, as all students are required to have health insurance. (UVa offers Aetna Student Health insurance for students not otherwise covered.) Visits with a clinician at Student Health are covered by the student health fee (i.e. no co-pay needed), but lab work, pharmacy and outside referrals (including the UVa hospital) will be billed to insurance.

Services: Services that Student Health provides include: General Medicine, Gynecology, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Disability Access Center, Office of Health Promotion (responsible for the Stall Seat Journal and Peer Health Educators), allergy shot program, vaccine clinics, and a pharmacy and lab. They also provide outside referrals.

Emergency care: Students can receive emergency care at the UVa Hospital, one block from Student Health.

The Stall Seat Journal: This poster is created by professionals and students from the Office of Health Promotion and is found in bathroom stalls around Grounds. It uses a "social norms" approach, with data from UVa students, to showcase the healthy choices they're making. It also educates about safe, responsible choices around a variety of health issues.

On your tour: Knowing about the wealth of health resources UVa has should reassure both students and parents that they will be well taken care of away from home.

Substance Abuse

The Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

The Gordie Center works within Student Health and coordinates the University's substance abuse prevention efforts. Staff partner with students to create education programs and materials to decrease the negative consequences of drinking, promote bystander intervention, and challenge attitudes that accept hazardous drinking. Peer education groups, like the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT) and the Student Athlete Mentors (SAMs), and support groups, like Hoos in Recovery, are sponsored by the Gordie Center. They also run the Hoos Sober list-serv, which updates students on non-drinking events going on in Charlottesville each weekend.

UVa Substance Abuse Policy

UVa policy does not permit underage drinking or the use of illegal substances on University property (including dorms) or at University-sponsored events.

Clinicians at Student Health and at the UVa Emergency Department do NOT notify police or university officials in the event that a UVa student is seen for an alcohol-related incident. Parents or guardians are NOT notified without permission unless a situation is deemed life-threatening or the student is under the age of 18 and requires parental consent for treatment.

Any 911 call from Grounds WILL result in automatic University Police response, but the officers' primary emphasis is the safety of the student. Follow-up investigations only take place in exceptional circumstances. There is NO charge for rescue squad services near the UVa area.

UVa's policy on parental notification is that if the student is arrested by the police, if the infraction is part of a pattern of behavior or a severe incident, or if it seems the student's health is in danger, as long as the student is a dependent (for federal tax purposes), then the parents will be informed of an alcohol or drug infraction. (The Office of the Dean of Students will encourage the student to make the first call, and then ODOS will make a follow-up call if the student does not call first.)

The Honor System evaluates alcohol-related offenses on a case-by-case basis. If the UJC finds a student guilty of an alcohol or drug offense, the student is sanctioned either to the Godie Center's online education program and/or to community service.

Addressing Questions about Alcohol and Drinking Culture

You can be candid in your response, but remember your individual experience is not indicative of the whole. Remember to never turn alcohol-related questions into a commentary on Greek life; alcohol comes from many sources. Address the spectrum of choices UVa students are making (and the spectrum of activities, social events and clubs available). Honestly state that drugs and alcohol are present and available at UVa, but emphasize that most students are well-informed and making healthy decisions, just as it will be up to *your* student to make responsible choices as a university student.

How does UVa address issues related specifically to hazing?

Hazing (any activities intended to make a person uncomfortable prior to initiating them into a group, like harassment, abuse, or humiliation) is forbidden by University policy and is considered a misdemeanor crime in Virginia. The Hoos Against Hazing website at www.virginia.edu/hazing/ has resources and reporting information.

Diversity at UVa

Talking about Diversity

You'll meet tourists with a wide array of backgrounds during your time as a guide. For various reasons, prospective students and guardians don't always ask questions regarding minority resources. But just because they don't ask doesn't mean they aren't listening for it. Knowing about key resources will reflect well on you and the University at large, assuring prospective students that the University can address their concerns. **Always** talk about diversity on your tours; it's something many people want from their college experience regardless of their background.

Tips when Talking with Tourists

1. **Careful assuming a name or label for a tourist.** Just because a tourist is black does not necessarily mean he/she is African-American. Just because a prospective student asks about LGBT resources does not necessarily mean that he/she is LGBT.
2. **Don't single tourists out.** Yes you should cater to the interests of your specific tourists, but it is not a good idea to specifically single tourists out in a crowd. Include information pertinent to *all* groups, regardless of their visible presence on a tour.
3. **Be understanding of concerns.** Address every tourist's anxieties with the utmost care and try to understand where they're coming from.
4. **Don't hesitate to admit a lack of knowledge.** You don't have to know everything about every minority student experience! You *should* know, however, where to send them to seek out further information. Usually the websites maintained by the Office of the Dean of Students related to minority student interests are the best place to direct students who want more information about these specific student experiences. Also, sending an email to outreachadmission@virginia.edu with their question using the subject line "Ask a Student" will ensure that they receive a response from a current UVa student.

The Minority Student Experience

This section aims to highlight the immense amount of resources available to minority students at UVa. For many students, the big benefit of these organizations is the sense of community you can find. All these resources offer constant and varied ways to connect with other people, and find a small community within the larger University, as many students find comfort in a peer group with a shared background.

One caveat, however, is to realize for each minority group, most of its members are not so insular that they're *exclusively* involved in the opportunities provided specifically for their community.

Undoubtedly, the experience of these individuals is as varied as our student population. They will typically involve themselves in organizations both related and unrelated to their background, building relationships that go beyond races or nationalities. The vast majority of UVa students will avoid self-separation and racially monotonous groups. With more minority students enrolling every year, there are more opportunities for dialogues between students of different cultural backgrounds.

A Quick History of the Changing Student Population

When the University opened its doors to students in 1825, we were a student body of white, Southern, males. In 1827, Fernando Bolivar, nephew of patriot Simon Bolivar, became the University's first Latino student and first International student. Today we have hundreds of both Latino/Hispanic and International students.

In 1950 UVa admitted its first African-American student, Gregory Swanson, and in 1953 Walter Ridley became the first African-American to receive a UVa degree. Significant integration did not, however, occur until the 1960s. Today, *Black Enterprise* annually names UVa one of the “Top 50 Colleges for African-Americans”, largely due to our high graduate rate for African-Americans. Women weren’t formally admitted into the undergraduate College until 1970. Today, women represent the majority of the student body.

As for LGBT students, though in 2006 Virginians voted to restrict marriage to straight couples (overturned by the Supreme Court this summer yay!), and although UVa remains one of three institutions in the nation’s Top 25 schools that does not offer domestic partnership benefits to faculty and staff, Charlottesville is generally considered more gay-friendly than the state around it. (After the marriage amendment passed, the city investigated ways to recognize same-sex partnerships but was denied this ability by the state.) Charlottesville held its first Cville Pride in 2012, the same year Student Council formally condemned the “not gay” chant during the Good Ole Song at football games.

The University remains predominantly white, but steps are taken every year to ensure we maintain a proud, diverse body of students with an array of different backgrounds. Remember that many people start your tour thinking UVA is a **rich, white, preppy, Southern school**. You might be trying to convince people of our diversity from the start and not considering their point of view can lose people pretty quickly.

Addressing Incidents of Racism, Sexual Violence, or Homophobia

This issue is particularly relevant after this past year when Martese Johnson was unjustly arrested by the ABC. If you were here, recall reactions from the student body that you saw as progressive or made you proud. If you weren’t, observe efforts from student organizations this year and **attend an event**.

Students and administrators constantly make efforts to help prevent these incidents, and to ensure that students have someplace to turn when they do occur. These efforts include a 24-hour Dean on Call system, our three-tiers of police protection, and most importantly our **Just Report It** system that provides students with a safe and easy method to report bias incidents to University officials, and ensures a timely and comprehensive response. Secret Societies are known for their activism as well (e.g. Z’s painted black or rainbow, and the Purple Shadows’ “not gay” campaign). This is another time to be genuine and reflect upon what you’ve seen.

Resources for Minority Students

There are an incredible amount of resources available to students of all backgrounds at UVa, which truly speaks to the feeling of community that UVa can offer students from all different backgrounds. Making tourists from all backgrounds feel welcomed at UVa is hugely important, so try to touch on these.

Quick tip: Rattling off a laundry list of resources can not only be boring, but it can also make you feel like you’re pandering. Avoid this by pointing out the physical location of places where possible (like the LGBTQ Resource Center, or the International Center) as you’re walking between stops. This makes integrating this information easier, and shows tourists how close these resources are to central Grounds.

People & Resources

The **Vice President and Chief Officer for Diversity and Equity (CODE)** was a new position created in 2005 to assist and monitor all units of the University in their efforts to recruit and retain faculty, staff,

and students from historically underrepresented groups, and to provide affirmative and supportive environments for work and life at the University.

The Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) has full-time employees dedicated to coordinating programs for other minority groups.

The **Office of African-American Affairs (OAAA)** provides both social and academic support to black UVa students, while educating and supporting the mission of the University as a whole. They also operate the Luther P. Jackson Black Cultural Center.

ODOS has a program coordinator for **Asian/Asian Pacific American** students; for **Hispanic/Latino, Native American**, and **Middle Eastern** students; and for the **LGBTQ** Resource Center.

Other coordinators are responsible for providing support for **international** students, **students with children, sexual violence**, and **transfer students**.

The **Women's Center** serves all women of the University community by focusing on leadership development, research, art, and counseling by and for women. It also runs the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services Office.

The **Lorna Sundberg International Center (IC)** offers countless programs for international students, like mentorship programs, finding host families for breaks, bringing in international guest speakers, education outreach, forums, classes on ESL or American culture, and more. The **International Studies Office (ISO)**, in addition to running education abroad, also provides services to international students, like legal advisory services and sponsored trips to local historic sites.

The **Safe Space Program** trains faculty and students on LGBT issues, and students can be assured that they are welcome and secure when a faculty member or resident staff displays the Safe Space logo on their door.

The **Kaleidoscope Center** for Cultural Fluency in Newcomb Hall is a space that seeks to promote an appreciation of diversity by programming art exhibits and events related to various groups on Grounds.

Admissions Events

There's **EscAPAd** for Asian/Asian Pacific American students, **Fall Blast** for Hispanic/Latino Students, and **Fall Fling** for African-American students (and **Spring Fling** for admitted African-Americans).

Residences

There are living communities for groups of different minority backgrounds. Examples:

La Casa Bolivar (Spanish House), the Spanish-language house on Grounds, may appeal to Latino/Hispanic students

International Residence College (IRC) is a great housing option for incoming international students

Organizations

Almost all of UVa's minority groups have an organization focusing on mentoring incoming students. These groups serve to ease students' transition to UVa with a more personal and welcoming experience. Examples:

-The OAAA finds each entering African-American student an upperclassman (a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister") to work with throughout the academic year. OAAA also finds faculty mentors for students.

-**Peer Advising and Family Network (PAFN)** assigns every incoming Asian student with an undergraduate peer advisor, who is in turn connected with a "family" of graduate students and faculty, all of whom will serve as valuable resources through the years.

-**Middle Eastern Mentoring Program (MEMP)** pairs incoming Middle Eastern students with mentors.

-**Latino/Hispanic Peer Mentor Program (PMP)** matches L/H first-years and transfers with upper class peer mentors for guidance, support, and access to UVa resources.

The International Center also runs mentorship programs for incoming international students.

As mentioned in the Greek Life section, the **National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC)** hosts UVa's "divine nine" historically black fraternities and sororities, and the **Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)** has a number of Asian-interest, Latino-interest, and other cultural fraternities and sororities for students to join.

The **Minority Student Center Initiative** is a student-run organization that drives the design, location, and logistics for a Minority Student Center.

The **Student Council Diversity Initiatives Committee** is responsible for promoting initiatives to improve the diversity of the University, and bringing issues pertaining to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and religion to the attention of the University.

Sustained Dialogue serves as a very popular outlet to address racial and societal issues at UVa. SD forms moderated groups of 10-15 participants of diverse backgrounds and experiences to meet weekly and discuss a variety of social issues at UVa. SD participants build relationships over the semester and collectively identify issues of importance among members and within the wider UVa community. Then members are encouraged to take action to actively address social issues at UVa by implementing social action projects.

There are *several* other CIOs related (but not limited) to specific minority students. Examples include:

The **Asian Pacific American Leadership Training Institute (APALTI)**, which spends a semester helping young A/APA students explore their leadership style through a multicultural lens.

The **Black Voices Gospel Choir** sings music of the African American culture, showcasing genuine Christian love through song, worship, and true fellowship.

Towards a Better Latin America (TBLA) is a service organization that works in support of social and community endeavors in Latin America.

Queer and Allied Activism (QUAA) increases visibility, fosters dialogue, and promotes awareness and acceptance of LGBTQ community members and concerns.

The **Society of Women Engineers (SWE)** is dedicated to informing young women about the achievements of women engineers and the opportunities open to them through career development, community service, networking, and leadership.

Academics

We have academic departments that could interest students from minority backgrounds:

- East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan)
- Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures (Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Persian, Sanskrit, and Urdu)
- Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- Religious Studies

- Interdisciplinary programs in African-American and African Studies, East Asian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, South Asian Studies, and Jewish Studies
- American Studies has concentrations in Latino/a Americans and Native Americans
- And there are multiple classes taught on LGBTQ subjects

UVa's Non-discrimination Policy

The University of Virginia is committed to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. To fulfill this commitment, the University administers its programs, procedures and practices without regard to age, color, disability, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family medical or genetic information and operates both affirmative action and equal opportunity programs, consistent with resolutions of the Board of Visitors and with federal and state requirements, including the Governor's Executive Order on Equal Opportunity.

Do YOU consider UVa to be a diverse place?

Brainstorm and think through your answer to this, because this question can come up on tours (and probie quizzes...). Think about all aspects of diversity—racial diversity, socioeconomic status, hometown, LGBTQ status, ability status...

My main piece of advice; you can only speak from your own personal experience. Don't try to speak for a whole minority group. But, think about the vibrant minority groups. Think about events hosted by various minority groups (and attend one!) and think about how these have impacted you.

The International Community at UVa

Mentioning that 13.5% of undergraduates hold citizenship in at least one of 120 foreign countries helps to show UVa's ability to attract students not only outside the state of Virginia, but outside the U.S. This number has been steadily increasing due to UVa's strategic goal to increase our global presence, both with more international students on grounds and more collaboration with international universities.

Religion at UVa

At least six religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hindu, and Baha'i Faith) are reflected in the 40 active religious CIOs, along with atheists and agnostics.

The Christian community offers an incredible wealth of outlets for student Christian involvement: over 30 Christian CIOs and ministries (RUF, Inter-Varsity, AGAPE), churches for nearly every denomination within walking distance of grounds, and the Christian Study Center on Chancellor Street. There are even houses, like the White House, for groups of Christian students to live in together.

The Jewish community has support from the Charlottesville chapters of Hillel and Chabad, both of which offer free Friday night dinners to students plus a myriad of programs and services. Hillel also organizes Birthright trips to Israel. There are three Jewish-interest fraternities (AEPi, ZBT, SAM) and the political CIO Hoos for Israel. There is one synagogue in Charlottesville called Congregation Beth Israel.

The Muslim community has a Muslim Student Association (MSA), which sponsors an annual Islam Awareness Week and helps coordinate support for their members (particularly during the month of Ramadan). Other ethnic CIOs like the Arab Student Organization and the Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine are strongly affiliated with the Muslim community. The Charlottesville Mosque is located just off the Corner.

The **Hindu** Students Council organizes prayer and social events to celebrate and educate on Hindu culture. But they, along with other faiths, are smaller and thus their presence resources on Grounds is less prevalent.

Note: The University Chapel is not affiliated with any particular denomination, but does hold weddings, baptisms, funerals, and concerts.

Transfers at UVa

There are approximately 700 transfers per year (350 per class of 2nd or 3rd years), which is 10% of the class. This leaves a lot of students in the same boat, so UVa has developed infrastructure to assist them.

Transfer Student Peer Advisors (TSPAs) are upperclassmen student volunteers paired with new transfer students to be a peer advisor, welcome them to UVa, and reach out for advice and friendship months before classes start.

The Office of Orientation and New Student Programs (ONSP) runs both the specialized transfer summer orientation sessions and **First-Year Seminars**, small discussions for first-years and transfers with upperclassmen about a variety of subjects applicable to student life at UVa.

Potential transfers should use UVa's online **Transfer Credit Evaluator** to find out what credits will transfer.

Part 5: Extracurriculars

CIOs & Student Self-Governance

Contracted Independent Organizations (CIOs)

This is a massive stop, so try and break it down. Ask for high school interests to see if you have any personal experience with that activity or friends who do similar things. This stop is awesome for personal stories to help tourists envision life in our little bubble.

Heads Up: Guides is not technically a CIO.

Are there a lot of clubs for UVa students to get involved in?

At UVa, the problem is not finding an organization to get involved with; it's trying to decide which ones to join. There are over 800 student-run organizations on Grounds (called "Contracted Independent Organizations" through the registration process with Student Council), and all of them give students the opportunity to meet other students with common interests, passions and pursuits.

UVa's CIOs span an incredible breadth of interests and activities. There are cultural organizations, club sports, performance groups (e.g. a cappella or FYP), academic and service fraternities, religious societies, ROTC (Army, Navy, and Air Force), community service opportunities (e.g. Madison House, Dance Marathon, Relay for Life, or Alternative Spring Break), political groups, student publications (e.g. *The Cavalier Daily* or *The Declaration*), and debating societies. With several hundred CIOs, there is a CIO for just about every interest at UVa. So this is a great opportunity to gear your conversation towards tourists' specific interests.

How many clubs is the average student involved with?

Most students at UVa not only focus on obtaining an incredible education, but also use their time in Charlottesville to become an involved leader in their community by joining an organization.

That said, there is no official figure for how many clubs the average UVa student is involved in because it varies greatly. Some students will involve themselves in dozens of organizations, and some never participate in an organization during their entire time at UVa. *Most* probably pick two or three to devote their time to, but it really depends on how much you want to put into an organization, whether as simply a participating member or as an officer for the organization.

On a tour, touch on your own involvements and experiences with time-management at UVa. Giving personal experiences will make the sheer amount of CIOs less intimidating.

Do you have to try out or pay to be in a club?

It depends on the club. Each organization is different in how it is run, what it does, and who participates. Many do involve tryouts or interviews, but many more simply accept any student interested in joining. Many also have membership dues, but there are often ways to waive the fee for students who need it.

How easy is it to start a club?

Since all of our organizations are entirely student run, if for some reason you could not find an organization that appealed to you, the University would encourage you to start your own. With UVa's active student body, new and different student groups are forming all the time.

You simply have to find ten members, write up a constitution and submit your proposal to Student Council for approval. That's it! (A good story to tell here is about the girl who'd written her college essay on how her favorite word was "pancakes" and went on to start Pancakes for Parkinson's at UVa.

This exemplifies how students aim to make an impact during their time here.)

How do I find out what clubs there are to join?

The first week of each semester there is a Student Activities Fair. In the Fall this event overtakes the South Lawn and the Amphitheater as the hundreds of CIOs across Grounds make an effort to reach out to potential new members.

What are some examples of clubs I can join?

When talking about the Student Activities Fair, you can highlight the wide array of CIOs there are to join. There are literally hundreds you could mention in detail, but it's best to provide a brief sampling of the range of organizations on Grounds. Don't just talk about what CIOs *exist* but also some cool *events* that CIOs organize.

It's always good to ask other Guides to see what CIOs make good stories (although avoid dated ones, like "the Disciples of Bob Barker" or clubs related to *Lost*). By not only talking about your own involvements, but also mentioning the wider array of opportunities at UVa, you avoid the risk of alienating tourists who might not share the same interests as you. Visitors should see that you, the tour guide, have found your place here at UVa and that they, as students, can find theirs, too.

Student Self-Governance

What is student self-governance?

One of UVa's most enduring traditions and strengths is the entrustment of much decision-making to students. Everything from the smallest CIO to the University's major organizations, like the University Judiciary Committee, the Honor Committee, Student Council, and the University Guide Service, are all staffed and governed solely by students. (As the oldest student-run honor system in the nation, the Honor Committee is an especially great symbol for student self-governance.) It also provides students to develop wonderful "real-world" skills doing things they enjoy, like managing budgets, setting up events, and raising funds. These are things that many other college kids don't get the same access to.

Why does UVa do this?

Many tie this tradition back to Thomas Jefferson. As an Anti-Federalist, Jefferson disliked a strong central government. The Board of Visitors was meant to do just that: visit, and then leave all other major decisions to the members of the University community, especially the students who would grow to become the enlightened leaders and citizens of the new republic.

Are CIOs independent from UVa?

When a CIO is approved by Student Council, the student leadership signs a CIO Agreement to clarify the relationship between UVa and the CIO: UVa will permit the organization access to certain University services and benefits (like using classrooms as meeting spaces or obtaining funds from the Student Council appropriated student activities fee fund), but the CIO does not act as an agent of the University itself; it operates independently, run by students. CIO Agreements must be renewed annually.

UVa also offers CIOs access to the Student Activities Center (SAC) and Media Activities Center (MAC) in Newcomb Hall. These full-service resource centers exist for groups to work, relax, seek help, and use the many resources UVa can offer, like computing, copying, faxing, digital equipment checkout, mailboxes, storage, meeting space, and more.

How are CIOs funded?

Each CIO seeks funding in its own way. UVa provides funding opportunities (largely through the Student Council Appropriate Fund and grants), but many seek outside fundraising to supplement what the University offers them in order to do bigger and better things.

Student Council

What makes Student Council here different than at other universities?

Student Council not only serves as the student governing body but also acts as the voice of the students in University affairs. It strives to make all aspects of UVa the best they possibly can be for students by advocating for the rights of students and working to improve the quality of life of every student enrolled. It is a tangible example of how students take the well-being of UVa into their own hands.

Its three-tiered governance structure exists to reach all students as efficiently as possible: the members of the Executive Body oversees the entire council, members of the Representative Body voice the concerns of specific schools, and members of the Committees seek to improve specific aspects of student life (like Academics, Athletics, Diversity, Safety, Sustainability, and the Arts). This structure allows members varying levels of commitment, focus, and duty.

For tourists, think of your high school student government, but on steroids: management of huge amounts of money, access to major administrations, and focus on many areas of specialty. Hit the point of student self-governance home by asking how many would put a group of 18 to 22 year olds in charge of over \$1 million every year.

What are some current Student Council initiatives?

They run projects like Speak Up UVa (an online forum to voice student concerns) and events like Look Hoos Talking (the TED-inspired event to engage students in academics outside the classroom).

Do you run for Student Council or can you just sign-up to join?

The President, Vice President for Organizations, Vice President for Administration, and representatives from each of the schools are elected each spring. Any student may apply for committee positions.

Class Councils

How are Class Councils different from Student Council?

These are the governing bodies of each class, with the goal to establish a sense of community and pride within their academic year and within the greater University community. They work to unify the class while they are students here and strive to maintain that unity after graduation. This is why Class Councils are advised by representatives from the Alumni Association; they eventually become the liaisons between their class and the University, post-graduation.

What events do Class Councils organize?

Lighting of the Lawn, academic and career advising, class dinners, the Second-Year Dinner Series, the Third-Year Ring Ceremony, Class Giving, and Final Exercises are all planned by Class Councils.

Special Status Organizations

How does a Special Status Organization differ from a CIO?

This likely won't come up on tours, but the distinction should be made clear: special status organizations or agency organizations, like the Honor Committee and the University Guide Service, are not CIOs. They operate, at least in part, as agents of the University by carrying out a needed University function through authority delegated by an authorized University official. While usually still student-run, these organizations are subject to more supervision and control by the administration.

Greek Life

Types of Greek Organizations at UVa

What kinds of fraternities and sororities are at UVa?

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) governs four councils of Greek letter organizations.

- The 31 social fraternities and 16 social sororities are governed by the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) and the Inter-Sorority Council (ISC), respectively.
- The 6 historically black fraternities and sororities at UVa are governed by the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC).
- The 7 fraternities and sororities for Latin, Asian and other multicultural groups are governed by the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), the fastest growing council in Greek Life at UVa.

Other Greek letter organizations exist, like **APO** (Service), **PSP** (Honor), **Trigon** (Engineering) and **AKPsi** (Business), but they are not governed by the OFSL. They're typically independent CIOs. Virginia's first fraternity, DKE, was founded in 1852. Since then, Greek life has developed to include women's "fraternities" (eventually sororities) and independent co-ed fraternities.

How many students are involved in Greek life today?

Greek membership is at about **30% of undergraduate students**, but the majority of the first-year class will participate in recruitment in some way (traditionally slightly less than 1000 males and slightly more than 1000 females go through IFC and ISC recruitment, respectively).

Why do UVa students join Greek organizations?

Membership in Greek Life means members can find leadership, scholarship, service, mentors, and friendship in a single organization, benefits that can last beyond just their four years on Grounds.

Where can I find more information on Greek Life at UVa?

Either online, or by visiting the OFSL on the First Floor of Newcomb Hall, across from the Pav.

Tip: If you talk about Greek Life, be sure to talk about the different types. While most people think of IFC and ISC, someone might connect to honor fraternities, service fraternities, or MGC groups.

Social Life

Do you need to be involved in a Greek organization to have a social life at UVa? Although UVa can be seen as a "southern" University, Greek life is not oppressive and does not dominate the social scene. It does impact social life, but only to the extent that each student allows it to do so. While a third of students choose to join (which is a substantial community), this also means two-thirds of students choose not to participate.

Attempt to maintain neutrality regarding Greek life. Remind tourists: there are many organizations on Grounds and Greek life isn't the only social outlet, but Greek life is open to all and it's the student's choice to join or not. Plus there are many non-traditional organizations that offer the same feeling of community and serve specific purposes that may be more appealing to some students.

Do you live with your fraternity or sorority?

It depends on your chapter, but 44 of the 47 IFC/ISC chapters have houses along or near Rugby Road. Though you're not required to live in a house, members will typically live there with their pledge class during their Third Year. The NPHC and MGC are active and doing well but typically don't have houses.

Are Greek organizations simply a social outlet?

Originally founded as drinking societies, Greek life is now a major outlet for service and work in the community. Each organization serves at least one charity, and they raise thousands of dollars for philanthropic causes every year. These events are very popular, add activity to Grounds, help involve all students (not just Greek) in the Charlottesville-community, and raise awareness for needy causes.

How is Greek Life connected to drinking?

As a guide, *you should not automatically associate Greek life with alcohol*. But parents who ask questions about this typically have preconceived notions that Greek life is a haven for alcoholism and debauchery. Make them aware that this is college and alcohol is available, but it largely depends on how the student approaches his or her membership whether they wish to partake in drinking. Allay fears that Greek life revolves entirely around drinking and partying by mentioning non-drinking Greek events that you enjoy.

How is Greek Life connected to hazing?

UVa does not condone hazing, but it has been a problem, both in Greek and non-Greek organizations. Students are instructed to report all occurrences of hazing to the OFSL or the Dean of Students. The website www.virginia.edu/hazing offers an online reporting form and tips on how to recognize and report incidents.

What does UVa require to address issues like hazing and sexual assault?

Each Greek organization has educational requirements to ensure members are continuing to grow and develop in their knowledge of safety and UVa resources. These include presentations from ADAPT (on alcohol abuse), 1-in-4 (on sexual assault), and Step-Up (on bystander awareness). Each chapter must complete this educational requirement to remain in compliance with the OFSL.

Time & Financial Commitment

Does it cost a lot of money to join?

Like many college involvements, there is a financial commitment associated with joining a fraternity or sorority. These costs truly vary based on the chapter, as each has their own independent operating budget based on national fees or individual chapter operating expenses. The amount you're expected to pay should be disclosed during recruitment. All councils and many individual chapters offer scholarship opportunities and financial plans to help pay for fees.

Will joining a fraternity or sorority impact my grades?

This depends on your attitude to your membership and how you balance your activities. Some chapters have tutoring and study hours. Most chapters require a certain GPA to join and remain an active member.

Will I have time to be involved in fraternity or sorority life?

Only you can answer that question. Being a member will be substantial time commitment. Any given week can include a chapter meeting, a new member meeting or a committee meeting. Additional expectations like recruitment events or intramural sports may occupy your time as a member.

Recruitment/Rush**Can anyone join a fraternity or sorority at UVa?**

Yes. IFC and ISC recruitment is open to all students. Recruitment is a time for you to get to know the different fraternity or sorority chapters and for them to get to know you.

When is recruitment, and how long does it last?

For the IFC and ISC, informal recruitment for transfer and second-year students happens in the fall, but formal recruitment occurs in the spring semester. A two-week period ends in a guaranteed offer to join one fraternity or sorority. **NPHC begins recruitment with “Meet the Greeks” in the first weeks of the fall semester, wherein all chapters come and talk. A bid is not guaranteed, however, as each national chapter has its own intake. MCG organizations recruit at different times throughout the year. Contact the MGC directly to find out about the recruitment timeline.**

Why does UVa defer recruitment until the spring for the IFC and ISC?

This is a unique aspect of UVa. **The administration encourages the “First-Year Experience” and believes** first-year students need time to adjust to college life, without the stress and time commitment of rushing and pledging Greek organizations in their first semester. This way, first-years can focus on academic achievement, making friends, getting settled into college life, and beginning to make decisions about what types of organizations they’ll want to become involved in. It also ensures members of Greek life create meaningful friendships and involvements in the larger community outside of their chapters.

If I go through recruitment, do I have to join?

No. Recruitment is a time to see what fraternities and sororities can offer you. Going through recruitment and its functions does not commit you to join.

Athletics & Fitness

Athletic Spirit

Even if no one on your tour is planning to play varsity athletics, try to get them excited about the opportunities that come with going to a Division 1 ACC school!

Give personal stories about rushing the field after a really big win, or linking arm in arm with your fellow students to sing the Good Ole Song after a touchdown.

Mention that students get in FREE to all athletic events at UVa (though there is a lottery for the popular basketball games).

And if they ask: our colors are Orange and Navy Blue, and our mascot is the Cavalier (CavMan), but **we're informally called "the Hoos"**.

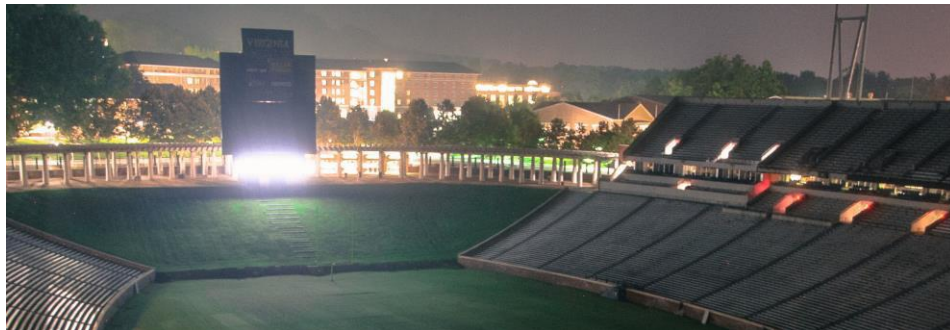
Division I Varsity Sports

The Virginia Cavaliers have been members of the Athletic Coast Conference since its inception in 1953. We boast 23* NCAA Division 1 varsity sports (11 **men's**, 12 **women's**).

Both men and women play basketball, soccer, lacrosse, track & field, swimming & diving, golf, cross country, and tennis. Men play football, baseball, and wrestling. Women play softball, field hockey, crew, and volleyball.

Tourists (and Guides) may joke about our Football program, but UVa has had 18 NCAA national championships in various programs (which is 18 more than Virginia Tech has... though you should never rag about other schools on your tours...). At the 2012 London Olympics, UVa athletes had more gold medals (three) than 178 of 204 countries that competed. Also, our men's basketball team has become a huge success, baseball team won the College World Series, and women's rowing always gets to the championship.

Another way to put our Athletics in perspective is to mention the NACDA (National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics) **Director's Cup**. This is an award given annually to the universities and colleges in the U.S. with the most overall success in collegiate athletics. Points for the award are tabulated based on the success of individual varsity sports, and UVa is typically ranked high on this scale, and has even been ranked third in the nation as recently as 2009-10.



* Or 25, depending on how you count Track & Field.

Facts about the Facilities

The Hill at **Scott Stadium** is also a great thing to mention on tours, since students don't have to worry about finding a seat in the already packed bench seating.

The **Aquatic and Fitness Center** hosts an Olympic size pool, a three-court gymnasium, and state-of-the-art workout areas, available free of charge to all members of the University community. (Not to mention the giant hot tub to relax in after a tough workout.)

In addition to home basketball games, the **John Paul Jones Arena** plays host to concerts and shows for the Central Virginia area.

At **Memorial Gymnasium**, in 1940 President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his famous "Stab in the Back" speech at commencement, after learning that very morning that Italy had allied with Nazi Germany. President John Kennedy also spoke in the gymnasium, accompanied by his brothers Ted and Robert.

Club Sports

For students wanting to continue a sport at a competitive level (but without the Varsity commitment), club sports are a good option.

They're funded through Student Council, not the NCAA.

There's no year-long requirement, and practice times are set by club officers. The time commitment is similar to the time put into a varsity sport at the high school level. They usually travel to nearby schools and states to play and compete.

UVA offers over 60 sports at the Club level, including your typical sports, as well as Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding, Archery, Ballroom Dance, Figure Skating, Jiu-Jitsu, Rifle & Pistol, Squash, Triathlon and Water Polo.

Intramural (IM) Sports

IM sports are a great way to have fun and stay in shape (sort of), without having to worry about practice times or individual workouts. The IM department creates several leagues (co-ed, single-sex, dorm, Greek) in which groups can enter teams (usually within their CIOs) to play a wide variety of sports (basketball, flag football, floor hockey, volleyball, Inner Tube Water Polo, etc.). Games are usually played weekly for about a month. It's mostly about the camaraderie and pride that comes with that championship t-shirt.

Individual Workouts

Many students who want to stay fit without having to join a team choose to participate in individual workouts at UVA's gymnasiums. The AFC, Memorial Gym, and Slaughter Recreational Facility (all so close to dorms!) have areas for cardiovascular and strength training workouts. Not to mention the large number of runners always out and who will probably run by, or through, one of your tour groups. Students can also get involved in athletic activities in the greater Charlottesville area such as biking, cycling and fly fishing in the mountains, and figure skating and hockey at the rink on the downtown mall!

Charlottesville and Albemarle County

The Music Scene

Tourists are always impressed that a small city like Charlottesville is able to draw such impressive musical and cultural events (Dave Matthews Band and Parachute are two bands that got their start here). Give examples of bands and acts that have come to town (from Top 40 artists at the JPJ Arena like Taylor Swift, Stevie Wonder, and J Cole to smaller artists at the Charlottesville Pavilion or Jefferson downtown like Girl Talk or Dawes), especially ones you've seen! Mention how easy transportation to these venues is as well.

The Charlottesville Pavilion also hosts Fridays After Five, a weekly showcase of local bands and talents.

The Arts & Entertainment Scene

Examples include:

- Many theater performances in Charlottesville actually occur at UVA's theaters and the Art Museum, and Newcomb Theater regularly shows \$2 movies.
- The downtown mall's Vinegar Hill Theater and Regal 6 show independent and off-beat films (but there's a giant cinemaplex with 3D and IMAX movies if that's your scene as well).
- Charlottesville's McGuffey Art Center hosts traveling art exhibits, and the Downtown Mall hosts First Fridays, a downtown art gallery tour.
- Charlottesville is home to the Virginia Festival of the Book and the Virginia Film Festival every year (where you can see Oscar-hopefuls months before they're released for free!).
- Public speakers, like Barack Obama, have spoken at the Charlottesville Pavilion.
- Monticello is a popular tourist attraction for history buffs and grandparents (and regularly hires UGuides!) There are several amazing shops and bookstores downtown as well.
- The papers *C-Ville Weekly* and *The Hook* regularly post up-and-coming events.

The Great Outdoors

Charlottesville is in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This is seriously one of the biggest reasons I enrolled, and it encourages awesome activities like biking, hiking, camping, and canoeing. UVA's Outdoor Recreation Center rents students outdoor equipment like tents, canoes, and cooking equipment), and the University's Outdoors Club offers trips to go white water kayaking and skydiving! Less active students all enjoy wine tasting at gorgeous local vineyards. There's also a skating rink downtown, and two ski resorts within an hour's drive.

The Food Scene

There are *countless* places to eat in Charlottesville, and very few disappoint.

Staples on the Corner include Bodo's, Take-it-Away, Little John's, Christian's, the Virginian, and Arch's... all on a college student's budget, so they offer an alternative to the daily dining hall food. The Farmer's Market is also a popular weekend attraction.

Downtown or at Belmont there are more expensive, incredible restaurants (for when your parents come in town to treat you) that are only a quick— free— trolley ride away.

What is there to do on a typical night in Charlottesville?

There is *constantly* something amazing going on, and you often have to prioritize what you can fit in your schedule. The best way to answer this question is with specific examples, and the best come from personal experience. It means so much more to a tourist to hear an actual story of the time you spent the day hiking and then went to dinner on the Downtown Mall, than to hear a laundry list of the theaters and restaurants in the city.

But generally, emphasize that Charlottesville is not just a College town. There are two citizens for every UVa student, and Charlottesville has its own vibrant life outside of the University for students to explore in order to get out of the UVa bubble.

Transportation

Ways to Get Around

Getting Around Charlottesville

First-years cannot have a car, but there are three free bus systems at your disposal:

The **University Transit System** busses run all over grounds to rush late (or lazy) students to class. These will likely drive by during your tour—point out how they’re free of charge and run every 10 minutes during the school day. Plus all the drivers are students, so they are a comfortable way to get around. Busses even run to the Barracks Shopping Center.

The **Charlottesville Area Transit** runs all over Charlottesville and up 29. So if you need a trip to Walmart, just show your University ID and you’ll get a free ride. (You can even take your bike onto a CAT bus and store it on the bike rack.)

The CAT’s free green Downtown Trolley runs to the downtown mall and back.

Many students ride bikes to get around Grounds. They’re faster than walking and better exercise. Dorms and lecture halls have bike racks outside of them, so bringing a bike lock is the only necessity.

Students can also get around by biking. Some students decide to bring their own bikes, while others access bikes through **UBikes**. You have probably noticed U Bike stations around grounds, on the corner, and even some places off grounds (there’s actually a U Bike station in front of Juice Laundry...)

Basically, you just register for a membership (can be monthly, yearly, per semester, etc) and you can reserve a bike from any of the stations for a certain amount of time each day.

All that said, students can normally walk to most places in 15 minutes or less.

Getting Out of Charlottesville

For parents wanting to know how their children can get home for breaks, there are many options:

UVa’s **Home Ride** bus system leaves every Friday afternoon to take students to Vienna, Richmond, and Hampton. The buses are regular, safe, and reliable, and they run extra routes during high-traffic times, like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring breaks.

There’s also a Greyhound Bus Station on University Avenue that offers a wide variety of services for very reasonable prices. Buses travel across Virginia, and have a very common and handy transfer to Union Station in Washington, D.C. The trolley also stops at this station.

The **Amtrak** station on University Avenue has trains leaving for various destinations across the U.S. The free trolley stops directly in front of the train station, and parking is available as well. With **airports** located in Charlottesville, Richmond, and D.C., long distance travel is not a problem. Greyhound buses take students directly to the Richmond and Dulles airports, and the Charlottesville airport is only a ten-mile taxi drive away!

Part 6: Crafting Your Tour

You're done reading all the information you have to know for Admissions tours! A note on information overload: *you are not required to include all the information you just read on a tour*, but you should be familiar with it should questions come up.

The rest of this section highlights potential tour stops, and the information you can touch on there. These are suggestions, not requirements. You're encouraged to take this information and decide what you'll talk about and where, in order to craft a *unique personal tour* of your own. There is no correct route and no correct tour.

When there are several tour groups on Grounds simultaneously, however, you'll have to be flexible and creative in planning a route across Grounds. It's good practice to experiment with different routes and directions in case you need to use it later.

Example Routes

The Traditional Route

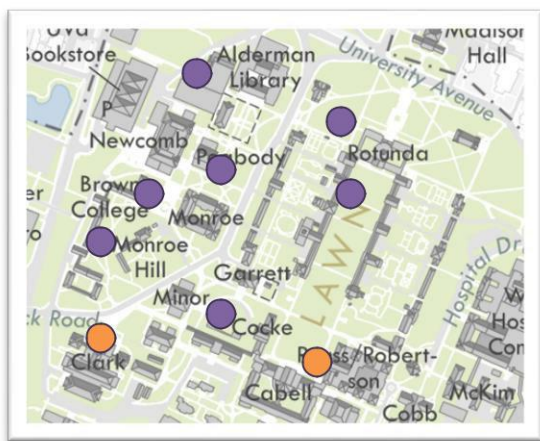


Location	Traditional Topics
The Lawn	Introduction, History
Comm School <i>OR</i> Thornton	Academics, Honor
Amphitheater	CIOs, Greek Life, Charlottesville
Minor Hall	Study Abroad, Financial Aid
Clark Hall	Libraries, Secret Societies, Transportation
Chem Building	Athletics, more Academics
Old Dorms	Housing, Safety
Newcomb	Dining, Diversity
Peabody	Conclusion

Try to take tourists inside buildings and inside classrooms when possible. They'll appreciate the centrally controlled temperature, and the opportunity to use the bathroom.

BUILDINGS TO AVOID (because they echo and disturb classes): Garrett Hall, Minor Hall

The Shorter 50 min. Days on the Lawn Route



The Lawn Introduction, History
North Roto Greek Life, Cville, Secret Societies
Clemons Libraries, Athletics, Transportation
Hume Ftn. Academics, Honor, Dining
Brown Housing, Diversity, Safety
Amphitheater CIOs, Study Abroad, Financial Aid
Peabody Conclusion

Other options: Clark Hall or Comm School

Days on the Lawn Tours are really about showing students what the next four years of their lives could be like. Honesty about your experience is crucial. **Discuss the information and stories that you can't find** on a website or in a brochure. Discuss student life and ways to get involved, and encourage them to talk to students around Grounds to get more perspective. Generally talk about whatever gets *you* excited about UVA and that will get them excited as well. Think of these a bit more as a 50 minute crash course in how to be a student at UVA.

Because visitors can explore dorm rooms on their own, most guides will skip talking about Housing or Meal Plans or Libraries, and focus more on the general **“first-year experience”**, how UVA aims to make our big school smaller and how UVA facilitates the transition from high school to college.

Adjusted Routes

Accessible Tour Adjustments (for individuals with varying levels of physical ability)

You must be accommodating to all visitors and make your route accessible when necessary. Never single out a tourist who may appear to have issues accessing stairs. Just start off your tour by offering an accessible route if anyone so desires, or by offering to move slowly between stops. (Usually, though, **admissions will notify us beforehand that we'll need to offer an accessible route.**)

All new construction on grounds is accessible, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but not all routes between buildings or much of the historical district is accessible. Stops to adjust include:

The Rotunda has an external elevator operated by Rotunda Guards that stops in the BOV Room and the Dome Room.

The Lawn and its terrains and uneven bricks can be difficult to traverse. The first terrace is accessible from the Rotunda and from McCormick Road (via the Chapel), and the lowest terrace is accessible from McCormick Road (via the Amphitheater or breezeway). Always use the steps on the terraces.

Dorms: The Ruffner Foot Bridge is not accessible, so use McCormick Road both to and from dorms, and stay only on the upper quad between Humphreys and Emmett.

Newcomb Hall has elevators to get your tourists from the bottom-west side to the upper-east.

Inclement Weather Routes

Primarily, rain will be the main thing driving you indoors, but extreme cold or extreme heat can as well. Tourists may not be prepared for such weather, so consider altering your route by keeping your tourists inside or covered as much as possible. (This may actually end up giving you the opportunity to show your tourists far more than they would see on a regular tour!)

Remember: when going inside of buildings, be mindful of students and faculty who may be using them!

The Traditional Route

On the Lawn, keep the group underneath the colonnades. Pavilion VII should provide the most cover. Instead of talking at the Amphitheater, inclement weather makes it okay to take groups inside **Minor Hall**. (If any classroom is empty, you can even show them what a classroom looks like.) When stopping at **Clark Hall**, **Thornton**, or the **Chemistry Building**, keep your groups inside the buildings as well.

Prepare your tourists beforehand that it's likely best that you skip the stop at Old Dorms, and instead move directly to Ruffner Hall's overhang or just inside into its lobby.

The best place to stop in **Newcomb Hall** is probably the first floor, but it can be noisy and surging with people so don't plan to stay long.

Alternative Routes

Stop in **the Chapel**, and point out Rugby Road and the Corner on the way there. (The stained glass window inside is actually dedicated to the Davis family, which could lead to a talk about Honor and student self-governance.)

You can quickly stop in **Alderman Library** too to see the lobby, café, and students studying.