



# **Self-Guided Walking Tour**

***for prospective students  
and their families***

***Welcome to our Grounds! We're pleased that you are interested in the University of Virginia and hope that you enjoy this self-guided tour. UVa, founded in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson, is a world-renowned institution that blends its rich history and traditions with new and creative ideas, concepts, and cutting-edge technology furthering the ends of our founder's mission of "ameliorating the condition, promoting the virtue, and advancing the happiness of man."***



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*The University of Virginia offers the vast intellectual resources of a major research University, but it fosters the intimacy, sense of community, and dedication to undergraduate life typically found at a small liberal arts college. UVa is public, it's one of the top-ranked public universities in the United States, and welcomes women and men of every background. Yet, it is highly selective and attracts the same students who are prized by the best private universities in the country, students who will benefit fully from the University experience and will, in turn, contribute to our community as citizen scholars and leaders.*



## **1. PEABODY HALL**

Your tour begins at Peabody Hall, which houses the Office of Undergraduate Admission on the first floor and the Dean of Students on the second floor. Most of our admission information sessions are held at other larger sites, but in our office, we do have printed materials and a list of University classes you may want to attend. Also, we are available for any questions you may have about the University and our admission process.



## **2. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY SYSTEM**

The two main libraries in central Grounds are Alderman and Clemons. Alderman houses open stacks, allowing students free access to materials, as well as a café. Clemons provides abundant study space, a satellite career center and 24-hour access; the library is also heavily used for its core collection of basic, high-use materials, its extensive audiovisual collection, and its digital media technologies. The University currently has seventeen libraries, over 5 million books, and videos, DVDs, maps, music, images, journals, manuscripts, rare books, and more. Be sure to check out the Exhibit Gallery in the Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library.



## **3. MEMORIAL TO ENSLAVED LABORERS**

The Memorial to Enslaved Laborers seeks to formally acknowledge the work and the individual lives of the enslaved African Americans who built and sustained the every-day life of the University. Constructed of local granite, "Virginia Mist," the Memorial is a space to gather, reflect, acknowledge, and honor the enslaved laborers who contributed to the University. Scholars estimate that at least 5,000 enslaved African Americans worked on the grounds, with many in residence, starting with the construction of the Lawn in 1817 and lasting through the end of the Civil War in 1865.



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#### 4. THE ROTUNDA

The Rotunda was designed by Thomas Jefferson to be the architectural and intellectual heart of the “Academical Village.” Jefferson modeled the Rotunda after the Pantheon in Rome, and referred to it as his “*temple of knowledge*.” For Thomas Jefferson, learning was an integral part of life. The “Academical Village” is based on the concept that the life of the mind is a pursuit for all participants in the University, that learning is a lifelong and shared process, and that interaction between scholars and students enlivens the pursuit of knowledge. The Rotunda offers guided and self-guided tours daily. Stop inside for more information. [Audio tour stop for the Rotunda.](#) [Audio tour stop for information on traditions at UVA.](#)



#### 5. THE LAWN

The Lawn extends from the Rotunda at the north end to Old Cabell Hall at the South end. It is framed on either side by the Pavilions, which house faculty. Between the Pavilions there are individual Lawn rooms where select fourth-year students live. Jefferson created the Academical Village to encourage interaction between students and faculty and to further the pursuit of knowledge. The Lawn remains a bustling center for the University. Some classes meet on the Lawn when weather permits and it is common to see students studying and interacting year-round on the Lawn. The Lawn is also the site of Final Exercises where tens of thousands of people come to cheer on the 5000+ students graduating each spring. [Audio tour stop for the Lawn.](#)



#### 6. OLD CABELL HALL

Old Cabell Hall, located opposite the Rotunda on the Lawn, houses classrooms and a beautiful performing arts venue. During Final Exercises, graduates “walk the Lawn” from the steps of the Rotunda to their seating area facing Old Cabell Hall.



#### 7. MCINTIRE SCHOOL OF COMMERCE

The McIntire School of Commerce was established in 1921 and is located in Rouss Hall. It is recognized as one of the top undergraduate business schools in the nation. McIntire students spend their first two years in the College of Arts & Sciences before entering the school. In their third and fourth year students participate in an interactive team environment. They specialize in one or more of the following fields: accounting, finance, information technology, marketing, management and international business.



#### 8. AMPHITHEATRE

The Amphitheatre is used today mainly for student gatherings and occasional music events. It is in the midst of many of the buildings which comprise the College of Arts & Sciences. The University of Virginia College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is the largest of UVA’s 12 schools and is the institution’s academic core. It offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and concentrations and more than two dozen graduate degree programs. [Audio tour stop for the Amphitheatre.](#)



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## 9. BATTEN SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC POLICY

The Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy offers an undergraduate major, undergraduate minor, as well as a five-year Accelerated Master of Public Policy. The Batten School is committed to solving the world's toughest policy challenges and teaching leadership along the way. The multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving and emphasis on ethics reinforce the focus on how leadership works. Students interested in Batten apply in the Spring of their second year.



## 10. SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES

Established in 1836, UVA offers one of the oldest engineering schools in the country. The school trains students for careers in an array of engineering programs including aerospace, biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, environmental, materials science, mechanical, systems, and more. Tours of the school are generally offered Monday through Saturday at 1pm in Thornton Hall when classes are in session. No reservations are required.



## 11. FIRST-YEAR HOUSING

All incoming First Year undergraduate students are required to live on Grounds. Students find that communal living is essential in transitioning to the Jeffersonian Model of education. All students are guaranteed housing for their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years, and it's generally available to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students who wish to remain on Grounds. First-Years live in either the McCormick or Alderman Road dorms, or in one of the residential colleges: Hereford College, Brown College, and the International Residence College. The McCormick Road residence halls offer a traditional hall-style dormitory, while most of the Alderman Road halls have suites of five double-occupancy rooms and a common area. You can check out pictures and floor plans on the residence life website.



## 12. THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Education School offers a Bachelor of Science in Education in six program areas, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Speech Communication Disorders, and Kinesiology. Students have the opportunity to participate in ground-breaking research, collaborate with internationally renowned faculty and contribute to solutions to real life problems faced by those in the field of education.



## 13. UVA BOOKSTORE AND NEWCOMB HALL

Newcomb Hall is the University's student center. It is the hub of student activities that include a post office, dining hall, food court, convenience store, a full-service Bank of America, and more. Newcomb Hall also houses the Multicultural, Latinx, LGBTQ, and Interfaith Student Centers, as well as the offices of the University's Honor Committee, Student Council, Greek councils, a movie theater, the satellite orientation office, and the student newspaper, *The Cavalier Daily*. [Audio tour stop for Newcomb Hall.](#) [Audio tour stop for information on student resources.](#)



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## **Other Areas of Interest**

This tour is by no means inclusive of everything that the University has to offer. If you have time, here are a few places you might be interested in visiting:

### **THE SOUTH LAWN**

The South Lawn extends from Central Grounds across Jefferson Park Avenue via a 100-foot-wide terrace. The terrace ends in a circular plaza that sits atop a commons building, with an exterior stair leading down to gardens. The commons building contains lounge spaces and a café with three-story glass walls. The South Lawn also includes Nau and Gibson Halls. Both house departments within the College of Arts & Sciences and also contain classrooms, student lounges, computer labs, administrative offices, conference rooms and faculty and student meeting rooms. [Audio tour stop for the South Lawn.](#)



### **ARTS GROUNDS & THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**

If you are interested in the arts, you may want to visit Arts Grounds, just off of Rugby and Culbreth Roads. The School of Architecture is also situated within Arts Grounds. Influenced by Jefferson's passion, UVA has offered classes in architecture since 1832. Established after World War I, the School of Architecture offers its students the unique opportunity to be surrounded by the finest in classical structure and planning and yet focus on the building demands and ideas of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **THE SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Established in 1901 as a hospital-based diploma program, the School of Nursing became one of the University's independent schools in 1956. Located in McLeod Hall, the school has evolved into one of the nation's top-rated nursing education and research schools. Tours must be arranged in advance, and take place Monday through Friday at noon. Call 434-924-0141 for more information.

### **RUGBY ROAD AND GREEK LIFE**

Located just off of University Avenue across from the Rotunda is Rugby Road and the site of a great deal of the University's Greek life. Roughly 30% of undergraduates choose to join a fraternity or sorority. [Audio tour stop for information on Greek Life.](#)

### **SECRET SOCIETIES**

While walking around Grounds, you may have noticed different symbols and signs painted on buildings and stairs. These are the markings of a few of the University's secret societies, which include the IMPs, Zs, and 7s. Their appearance on Grounds dates back to around the turn of the 20th century. These groups are good-natured and often philanthropic in nature, donating money to worthy organizations and sponsoring scholarships.



### **THE CORNER**

On the other side of University Avenue is the district referred to as "the Corner." The Corner is the home to 1515, a multipurpose student center, as well as many restaurants, shops, nightspots, and more. You will frequently find the area filled with students and faculty.



### **ATHLETIC FACILITIES**

The University has a number of athletic facilities which you may wish to visit, including the Aquatics and Fitness Center, Scott Stadium and the John Paul Jones Arena.

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## **STUDENT SELF GOVERNANCE**

One of UVA's most enduring traditions and strengths is the entrustment of much decision making to students. The University Judiciary Committee, Honor Committee, Student Council, Lawn Selection Committee, are just a few examples out of the more than 800 independently student governed clubs and organizations.

## **THE HONOR SYSTEM**

At Pavilion X, the last pavilion on the east side, you may notice a marker commemorating the birth of the University's Honor System in 1842. Since its inception, the student-run Honor System has been a source of pride for the University. From submission of their admission application to their final walk down the Lawn at graduation, students are bound not to lie, cheat, or steal while at the University. Violations are handled by the Honor Committee, composed of representatives from all the University's schools.

**Thank you for touring our Grounds!**  
**If you have any lingering questions, please contact**  
**us at Peabody Hall.**

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