



LINGO AND TRADITIONS

The University of Virginia is an institution rich with history and tradition. A good way to begin learning about this is to familiarize yourself with the terminology that contributes to UVA's culture. The following is a short list of some University vocabulary that you may find useful.

Academical Village: The Academical Village is the community of UVA students, faculty, and staff, and the basis of Thomas Jefferson's idea that living and learning are connected. The Lawn is based on this concept with faculty living in the Pavilions and students in the Lawn rooms, with the Rotunda—formerly the University library—at its heart. The Academical Village is a (rare) UNESCO World Heritage site.

Carr's Hill: The home of UVA's president, Carr's Hill is located across Rugby Road from the sports field known as "Mad Bowl".

Convocation: Occurring the first weekend new students are on Grounds. Convocation welcomes new students to the UVA community and is where they sign the Honor Code.

Corner: Located on University Avenue, the Corner is the (ironically) straight strip of restaurants and shops that is a favorite spot for UVA students. The 1515 Building, a mixed-use social space in high demand by students, opened in the heart of the Corner in 2017.

Final Exercises: Final Exercises, occurring in mid-May, is held on the Lawn where degrees are conferred in a main ceremony by the president. After degree recipients 'walk the lawn', they reassemble later with their guests in "diploma ceremonies", where the diplomas are presented to the graduates by Deans.

First-Year, Second-Year, Third-Year, Fourth-Year: Used instead of freshman, sophomore, junior, senior. Why? To be a "senior" implies that a person has reached the final phase of learning, a feat that Thomas Jefferson believed

impossible, arguing instead that education is a life-long process.

The Good Old Song: "The Good Old Song" is the school anthem of the University of Virginia. The lyrics were written by Edward A. Craighill in 1895. At football games it has become tradition for students, faculty and alumni to link arms and sway while singing "The Good Old Song" after each UVA score and at the conclusion of the game.

Grounds: The term used by generations of students, faculty, and alumni to refer to the University, rather than "Campus."

Honor System: On November 12, 1840, Professor John A. G. Davis was shot to death in an attempt to quiet a disturbance on the Lawn. This incident resulted in the adoption of the Honor Code in 1842. The University of Virginia's Honor System is one of the school's most venerated traditions. Administered solely by students, the Honor System requires that an individual act honorably in all relations and phases of student life. More specifically, the system rests on the premise that lying, cheating, and stealing are breaches of the spirit of honor and mutual trust and are not to be tolerated within the University community. Until 2022, students found guilty by a jury of their peers would be permanently dismissed from the University. In March 2022, students voted to amend the honor system, replacing the expulsion penalty with a two-semester suspension.

JPJ: JPJ is short for The John Paul Jones Arena and is the home of Virginia Basketball.

Lawn: Despite numerous inconveniences, hundreds of students annually vie for the honor of a room on the University's Lawn. A panel of current fourth year students selects peers whose academic performance and service to the University merits a coveted Lawn room, while a panel of current Range residents selects those graduate students who merit a residence on the Range. Academic deans, accomplished professors, and the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer reside in the ten Pavilions on the Lawn. The Lawn is also a popular community gathering spot for community-wide events including Lighting of the Lawn, Rotunda Sing, Convocation, and Trick-or-Treat with community children.

Lawnie: The term used to refer to students who live on the Lawn. Selection of Lawn residents is by application and is based on academic success, leadership, and diverse areas of service to the University. Students can apply to live on the Lawn during their final year of undergraduate study at the University and are selected by a panel of their peers.

Lighting of the Lawn: A tradition of more recent vintage, the Lighting of the Lawn brings together UVA students, faculty and our Charlottesville neighbors for a festive December evening of acappella music and good cheer, culminating in the brilliant display of light.

Mad Bowl: The sunken field across the street from the Rotunda on Rugby Road. Some club sports teams use this space for games. Mad Bowl is a great place to study, play Frisbee, or have a snowball fight.

Pav: The retail dining facility located on the first floor of Newcomb Hall (real name: Pavilion XI).

Ring Ceremony: Held each fall in conjunction with Family Weekend and the awarding of Intermediate Honors, the Ring Ceremony brings together Third Year students and their families for a program celebrating their time at the University. At the conclusion of the event, participating Third Year students put on their UVA class rings. Another UVA tradition involves placement of the ring. While a student, one wears the ring with Minerva facing inward; upon conclusion of Final Exercises, the ring is worn with Minerva facing outward to the world.

Rotunda: The Rotunda was designed by Thomas Jefferson as the architectural and academic heart of the University's community of scholars.

Rugby Road: Rugby Road is often used to refer to the home of some elements of fraternity and sorority life at UVA, although there are Greek houses located on other streets as well.

Secret Societies: Many secret and semi-secret ribbon and ring societies have been established at the University of Virginia, including the Seven Society, IMPs, Zs, 21, Thirteen, P.U.M.P.K.I.N., T.I.L.K.A., Rotunda Burning, Purple Shadows, and Eli Banana. Members are selected or "tapped" based on demonstrated achievement in the eyes of current members of each society. Most societies have service and love of University at their heart.

Student Self Governance: One of UVA's most enduring traditions and strengths is the entrusting of much decision-making to students. The University Judiciary Committee, Honor Committee, Student Council, Lawn Selection Committee, and many others are staffed and governed solely by students. The recently opened 1515 Building on the Corner and Multicultural Student Center in Newcomb Hall are other examples of students taking the lead role in creating a University initiative.

Trick or Treating on the Lawn: A longtime tradition established by students in the late 1980s, Trick-or-Treating on the Lawn is not only a highly anticipated event for the University each year, it is also open to and eagerly awaited by children and families from the local community. Lawn residents and members of student organizations are stationed in each of the 54 Lawn rooms as well as the West Range to give out treats. All candy is donated and distributed by approximately 70 student groups and other organizations.

Wahoo or Hoos: An alternative name for the Cavaliers or the students at the University of Virginia.

