



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA®

[About the University](#)

The [University of Virginia](#) was founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1819 to advance human knowledge, educate leaders and cultivate an informed citizenry. Today, *News & World Report* consistently ranks UVA in the top three public universities. In the 28 years since *U.S. News* began ranking public universities as a separate category, UVA has always ranked among the top three. The University of Virginia continues to place among the top 30 of the nation's public and private universities combined.

We are a thriving and diverse global community of nearly 54,000 students, faculty and staff. University students hail from virtually every state in the nation, and 111 countries, and our 220,000 alumni around the world actively support our mission to serve the greater good.

[Research Portfolio](#)

UVA was founded to question convention, expand understanding and harness the “useful sciences” as a means to advance society. Two centuries later, as a major research institution, we continue to uphold the ideals that made us unique among universities: our pursuit of discovery through collaboration and cross-disciplinary exploration. With core investments in strengthening our research capabilities, UVA is focusing research on intellectual and societal challenges where it can have the most impact. As part of this effort, the University is investing in several cross-disciplinary initiatives that address complex challenges – including data science, environmental resilience, global infectious disease and neuroscience – that provide valuable education and research opportunities and generate impactful scholarship. UVA was awarded \$394 million in sponsored research funding in 2018.

[A World Treasure](#)

In 1987, UNESCO named Jefferson's Academic Village at the University of Virginia a World Heritage Site. This rare distinction – bestowed in conjunction with [Monticello](#) – marks the world's most culturally significant landmarks. In fact, UVA is one of only two such sites still used for its original purpose. Today, Jefferson's Academical Village continues to bring his vision to life and the Rotunda – originally the University's library – remains the heart of UVA. The Lawn, a central feature of UVA's Grounds, retains the unique pavilions and student living quarters originally sketched by Jefferson and plays a major role in the University's community.

[Financial Strength](#)

As of the end of fiscal year 2017, UVA's assets totaled \$11.2 billion. The University's endowment, an essential source of permanent support, ranks among the top-five largest for public institutions of higher learning and is among the top 20 of all U.S. colleges and universities. Financial leaders at the University have also designed and implemented a highly efficient debt structure, and UVA is one of only four public institutions with a AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies – Moody's Investor Services, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Investor Services.

UVA has a remarkably beneficial economic effect on the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2016, an external research firm placed the University's impact on Virginia at \$5.9 billion, including substantially aiding in the creation of over 51,000 jobs and \$239.9 million in state and local government revenues.

[Health System](#)



Led by Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. Richard Shannon, the University of Virginia Health System is committed to providing outstanding patient care, educating tomorrow's health care leaders and researching breakthroughs to treat disease. *U.S. News and World Report* has named the UVA Health System the best hospital in Virginia every year since 2016 and ranked 10 specialties among the top 50 in the nation.

Over the past three years, the Health System leadership team has proven itself one of the most effective in the country. With a \$2.3 billion annual operating budget, the UVA Health System leads the University in generating many areas of research and forging innovative affiliations. Notable associations include a joint venture with Novant Health to provide clinical services to patients in north-central Virginia and an academic affiliation with Inova Health System, the largest health care provider in Northern Virginia, collaborating on research, medical education and the recruitment of preeminent researchers, scientists and investigators to the Commonwealth. This partnership creates an expanded presence in the Washington, DC, region for additional academic pursuits, including engineering, graduate business and leadership training.

[Global Engagement](#)

Jefferson understood the importance of cultivating a global perspective. Of UVA's eight original faculty members, five were from outside the United States. Today, our level of engagement in the world is stronger than ever, including research initiatives designed to address key global challenges, such as our partnership with the Max Planck Society; UVA's established presence in Shanghai and London, where we're working to internationalize our curriculum and strengthen global partnerships; and the efforts of Darden and McIntire to place business students into current practice in the global business landscape.

[Making a World-Class Education Accessible to All](#)

The University of Virginia offers an affordable, world-class education that is consistently ranked among the nation's best. UVA admits talented students from across the Commonwealth, the nation and the globe, without consideration of their financial situation. In fact, UVA is one of only two public universities in the nation that has both a need-blind admission process and that meets 100 percent of admitted students' demonstrated financial need. The University is committed to providing robust aid and support to attract the best and brightest deserving students from all backgrounds while protecting students and their families from excessive debt.

[Student Experience](#)

The student experience at UVA is unique, characterized by the elegance of Jefferson's architecture; the Honor System and the consequent community of trust; the Lawn and its residential community for faculty and students; the retention (96.5% first year retention) and graduation (six year rate of 95%) rates, which are among the highest in the country; the primacy of student self-governance; the engagement of faculty with students; and the emphasis on service. These intangibles of the student experience add a special dimension to student life that shapes graduates who are intellectually curious and conduct themselves with integrity. The current community is made up of 16,034 undergraduate and 6,771 graduate students. The University's most recent admitted undergraduate class (2022) was among its most diverse and saw the highest percentage of first-generation students in UVA's history.

[Honor the Future: The campaign](#)

In October, 2019, the University will mark the public launch of a multibillion dollar Capital Campaign designed to support a bold and ambitious vision for its third century.



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[Charlottesville](#)

Located in Central Virginia just east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Charlottesville offers stunning beauty, extraordinary culture and an inexhaustible list of cultural and recreational activities. With exceptional restaurants, cultural events like the [Virginia Film Festival](#) and Festival of the Book, hiking and kayaking along the scenic Rivanna River and a variety of music venues including John Paul Jones Arena and the Charlottesville Pavilion, Charlottesville offers a quality of life, community and natural beauty. It also boasts a vibrant ecosystem of rapidly growing entrepreneurship and innovation. A wonderful place to raise a family, Charlottesville and Albemarle County have schools that are consistently ranked [top in Virginia and the nation](#).

Just outside the city limits, [Albemarle County](#) offers a rich variety of cultural, natural and historic attractions. Most notable among these is [Monticello](#), the famous home designed by Thomas Jefferson, where he spent many years of his life, living, working and writing. The county also hosts [Highland](#), home of President James Monroe.

Charlottesville is easily accessible with daily Amtrak service to Washington, DC, and enjoys its own convenient airport. The Richmond International Airport and Washington, DC, Dulles International Airport are about 60 and 90 miles away. This juxtaposition of a bustling city and rural life creates a rich diversity in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. The Charlottesville Metropolitan Statistical Area has a population of approximately 230,000 people.

It is challenging to put any community into words: we recommend watching [this video](#) to get a better sense of this special region.