Dear Class of 2019 summer orientation student:

In just a couple weeks, you will be coming to Grounds for academic advising and for the beginning of course enrollment. If you have not yet started completing your checklist of pre-orientation activities, now is the time to start. You can visit http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/guide to see the checklist or to download a new copy of the College’s first-year letter.

You should have already begun loading your SIS shopping cart with courses you are interested in taking. Most of you will leave summer orientation having enrolled in three independent courses (and, if necessary, their dependent laboratories) and also one COLA, USEM, ELA, INST, LASE seminar or KINE physical education class. In preparation for this, you should already be thinking about what your fall schedule might look like.

Put 25 different courses into your shopping cart before you get here in July. Print out that list and bring the paper copy with you. This will make it easier for you when you start enrollment while on Grounds to find three courses that are open and fit into a weekly schedule without time conflicts. Please bring a laptop or tablet with you—we will have guest wireless passes and it is easier to browse for courses on a larger screen (if you have neither, a smartphone will do, but bring a charging device!). Remember, you will not be allowed to enroll in any classes at Summer Orientation until you have completed these tasks, so doing whatever you can before coming to orientation will reduce your stress and make Orientation go more smoothly.

You may use SIS Mobile on your smart phone (http://its.virginia.edu/sis/mobile/) or you may log in to SIS on your desktop or laptop computer (http://its.virginia.edu/sis/student/#videos).

Embrace the freedom your first semester in college offers by choosing courses that sound interesting or exciting. Take a look at the College’s academic requirements and use competency and area requirements as a guide to choosing classes (http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/requirements). Consider taking a foreign language class. If your last name starts with A through K, enroll in an ENWR course in the fall.

Also look at potential majors and consider choosing a major prerequisite course (http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/degreeprograms). Remember, you will have time at orientation to ask questions of deans and faculty and, if necessary, rearrange your shopping cart selections before you start the actual enrollment process. Bring pens and a notepad with you to orientation—you will need them!

Finally, keep in mind that you cannot and should not try to take everything your first semester. By early September, you will have finalized a schedule of 15-16 credits that preferably includes multiple disciplines—science, humanities, writing, foreign language, and a social science. For now, sit back, peruse the class lists in SIS, and load your shopping cart with a lot of interesting possibilities!
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See you soon,

Kirt von Daacke, Assistant Dean

Sandy Seidel, Assistant Dean