

Tips and Tricks for Orientation

- Don't overpack! (But don't forget sunscreen because it'll be hot and sunny. And bring a swimsuit if you want to use the pool in the Aquatic Fitness Center. They'll have activities in the pool and the rest of the AFC at night!)
- You don't input your own classes selections online. When you go to orientation, you'll fill out a paper form with class preferences, and then administrators will enroll you into your classes for you through their system. Just show up for orientation with some ideas about which classes you want to take, and you'll be fine!
- **Here are some helpful links for finding out about courses:**
 - <https://rabi.phys.virginia.edu/mySIS/CS2/> (for looking up classes)
 - <http://www.thecourseforum.com/> (for looking at class reviews)
 - <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com> (for looking at professor ratings)
 - <http://vagrades.com> (for looking at class grade distributions)
 - <https://www.uvaschedule.me> (for visualizing your potential schedule)
- **Go to your class scheduling appointment at least 20 minutes early**—especially for those of you with afternoon appointments! If people with an earlier time than you aren't there yet, they will most likely let you go make your class schedule before them.
 - Follow @uvaonsp on twitter during orientation—sometimes course enrollment goes quicker than normal, and they'll start taking times earlier and earlier.
- If you're in CLAS (College of Arts & Sciences), you'll have a form where you rank your top 25 classes you want to take. You should actually pick out the 25 classes they tell you to because it'll help when signing up for classes. You don't have to love all 25, but really like at least 15.
- If you're an engineer, most classes are already set for you for your first semester. When you go to orientation, you choose three given templates and make any changes necessary (e.g., if you placed out of a course already).
- Don't sign up for 8 AM classes if you're not a morning person. It's harder to get up at 8 AM in college. (Trust us.)
- Sign-up for an appropriate course-load in terms of number of classes and difficulty of classes. UVA classes can be challenging, so make sure the classes you sign up for will be manageable. At the same time, take classes that interest you and push you to learn and grow throughout the semester.
- Don't panic if you don't get into classes you want! Waitlists will move, so don't be afraid to sign up for some waitlisted classes if the waitlist isn't too big. There's also a two-week add/drop period once the semester starts, and it's pretty easy to change your schedule around during that time as well!

- Spots in Intro level classes (Chemistry, Biology, Spanish, Econ) are taken fast, so **have backups to put on your form** just in case. Waitlists for these classes may also move fast as well, so don't panic if you're pretty far down the waitlist.
- Get to know your Orientation Leader and fellow orientees. Have fun with them! They'll be a great resource once the year starts!
- During the student life panel, don't be afraid to ask the hard questions about UVA. Try to ask the real questions, not only just quick facts you can look up!
- Have fun! :)