



# SURVIVING FIRST YEAR 101



PEER ADVISING  
FAMILY NETWORK

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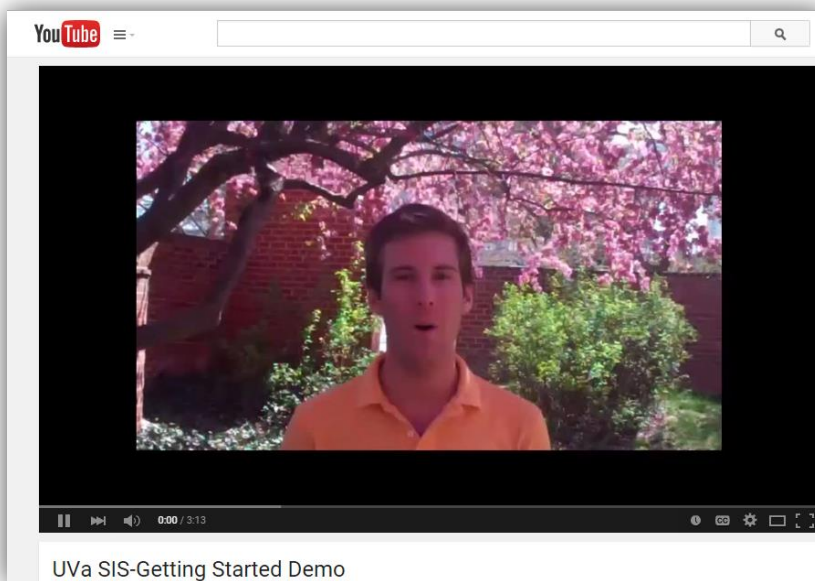
\*\*Use the Navigation Pane in the “View” tab to jump around!

## Course Sign-Up

Course Sign-Ups can be a little stressful, especially as a first year. Many times, classes that you want are already full, and SIS may even crash because of the number of people using it, but DON'T PANIC! The first two weeks of semester is the add/drop period (be aware that it may differ based on school, such as the Engineering school). Regardless, in that time a lot of classes will open up for you! To prepare for orientation take a look at sites such as [Lou's List](#), [Rate My Professor](#), and [theCourseForum](#). (More information on these sites below) Another thing to keep in mind when scheduling your classes is walking distance—can you walk to each class in the time span? Ask current students if you need a better idea!

## Side Note: SIS (Student Information Systems)

In one word: tedious. SIS can be really confusing, but it is a necessary evil for a variety of things from financial aid, to signing up for classes, and even figuring out what textbooks you need. Of course, this doesn't make SIS any easier, so to help you there are [tutorials on YouTube](#) to learn how to use SIS. Please excuse the film quality; let's say they are going for the 'retro' look. On the plus side SIS now has recently released a [mobile/phone version](#)—word on the street is that the app is much easier to navigate and sign up for classes than the site!



**UVa Class Schedules** (Unofficial, Lou's List v2.10) [New Features](#)

Fall 2015 Semester [Class Schedules Index](#) [Course Catalogs Index](#) [Class Search Page](#)

The goal of this website is to help student and faculty realize the best possible educational experience. The data presented here are mined hourly from UVa's official student information system (SIS). I hope that you will find this website useful. — Lou Bloomfield, Professor of Physics

New feature: when you click on a Course Mnemonic/Number, you will be taken to The Course Forum entry for that course. — Lou

[↩](#) [f](#) [g+](#) [t](#) [in](#) [p](#) [✉](#)

Arts & Sciences Departments

<a href="#">Anthropology</a>	<a href="#">Mathematics</a>
<a href="#">Art</a>	<a href="#">Media Studies</a>
<a href="#">Astronomy</a>	<a href="#">Middle Eastern &amp; South Asian Languages &amp; Cultures</a>
<a href="#">Biology</a>	<a href="#">Music</a>
<a href="#">Chemistry</a>	<a href="#">Philosophy</a>
<a href="#">Classics</a>	<a href="#">Physics</a>
<a href="#">Drama</a>	<a href="#">Politics</a>
<a href="#">East Asian Languages, Literatures &amp; Cultures</a>	<a href="#">Public Health Sciences</a>
<a href="#">Economics</a>	<a href="#">Psychology</a>
<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">Religious Studies</a>
<a href="#">Environmental Sciences</a>	<a href="#">Slavic Languages &amp; Literatures</a>
<a href="#">French Language &amp; Literature</a>	<a href="#">Sociology</a>
<a href="#">German Languages &amp; Literatures</a>	<a href="#">Spanish, Italian &amp; Portuguese</a>
<a href="#">History</a>	<a href="#">Statistics</a>

## Lou's List (easier than SIS)

This site places all the courses in nice little categories with easy descriptions. It's extremely helpful and, for the most part, is easier than SIS. Although you cannot sign up for classes directly from Lou's List, it compiles all the classes available so you can browse through many classes at once. [Check it out!](#)

## TheCourseForum/RateMyProfessor

Interestingly, SIS and Lou's List don't give you a good sense of the professor or difficulty of the class (aside from the course level, i.e. 1000 versus a 3000 level). Cue [Rate My Professor](#), and [theCourseForum](#), great sites to get the student perspective on the class. Be aware, an 'easy' class isn't necessarily easy!

The Course Forum

Email  Password

Keep me signed in

connecting you to the courses you love

- See what other students say about classes and professors
- Check out actual grade distributions from past semesters
- Write reviews for courses you've taken.

**Sign up!**

First Name  
 Last Name  
 UVa Email Address  
 Password: at least 8 characters  
 Confirm Password

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OLD SCHOOL AFTERNOONS WEEKDAYS 12-4  
 SAVED BY THE BELL & BOY MEETS WORLD

& THEN SCREECH WAS LIKE

RATE MY PROFESSORS

SEARCH FOR A PROFESSOR OR SCHOOL

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [p](#)

LOG IN / SIGN UP

Find what you're looking for.

## MyEDU

Just another site to help you schedule course. This site is particularly interesting because you can choose the classes you want to take and this site will give you different schedules that you can have based on those classes, effectively taking care of the mind-boggling problem that scheduling can be. [Link to it!](#)

The screenshot shows the MyEdu website interface. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the 'myEdu' logo, 'For Students', 'For Employers', and a 'Log In' button. Below the navigation bar, a central message reads 'Create your own MyEdu profile today!' with a 'Create an Account' button. The main content area features a user profile for Olga Doroshenko, a 2014 UTD student. The profile is displayed in a grid layout with several sections: a profile picture and name, a university logo (UTD 2014 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS DALLAS), a major (Global Business), a degree progress indicator (75% COMPLETE), a work experience section (Sales Assistant at Michael Kors, Feb. 2013 to Present), a location preference (Dallas, TX), and a section for 'I WANT TO WORK PART-TIME'. A 'Loading...' indicator is visible in the bottom left corner of the profile area.

## Textbooks

High school is finally over and now... MORE BOOKS! So here's the low-down on textbooks. For many classes, you can get away with not having the text book for about the first two weeks of classes (also known as the add-drop period). Additionally, sometimes the course isn't finalized in the summer, so be sure to wait until the course is finalized before buying textbooks. You might even be able to see if an earlier edition of the book is acceptable—they usually run a bit cheaper.

## Renting, Buying, and Borrowing

What are the perks of each?

### ***Renting***

You can usually rent books for a fraction of the cost, and be able to write in them as most stores anticipate 'natural wear' on their books. This means savings and you don't have to try to find a person to buy your book. However, you have to remember to return the book on time; otherwise the company may charge you a late fee, or even the price of the book. Luckily, most places even provide a return shipping label!

### ***Borrowing***

Don't forget you can always borrow textbooks for many liberal arts classes from the library! With month long check-out times, why buy a book if you're only going to use it for a week? You can check out books from the library almost infinitely, so long as someone else does not request the book and you remember to renew it (this can be done online—you don't even have to leave your bed!). Of course, you can't write in these, so taking notes might be a bit difficult, but it is definitely an option if you'd rather not buy the book.

### ***Buying***

That book is yours, forever and for always. You can write notes in it, you can burn it when classes end, and you can sell it back to the Bookstore as well as many other stores like Amazon (for much less than you bought it). Even so, if you're willing to find someone to buy the book, sometimes the cost ends up being less than renting a book. Buying is always a solid choice, especially when so many students sell the books to other students for less than the bookstore. Who knows, maybe you'll want to read that philosophy book when you get older.

## Getting the books

Once you know what books you need, using SIS (located on right panel under U.Va) or the [bookstore site](#), now you actually have to get them.

### **Facebook Groups**

UVa's Facebook community is pretty strong, though that may change in the future, is a great spot to connect to other students trying to sell their books. The "[UVA Student to Student Textbooks](#)" FB page is only one of many sites where students sell stuff, but the admins are stringent in ensuring that only textbooks are exchanged here.

### **The Bookstore**

The UVa Bookstore has every book you will ever need for classes—usually. Their textbooks are usually priced higher, but if you need a book immediately you can rest assured they will have it. On the off-chance that you want to save a bit of money, we recommend doing price checks. The following sites are a couple of many price checking sites that help you get the book at the lowest cost possible.

- [Amazon](#)—Almost a no-brainer, but another thing to mention is the *Student Prime Accounts*. With 2-day shipping, instant streaming, and discounted cost, the Student Prime Account holds a lot of perks. The 6-month *free* trial period is also a nice incentive to try it out.
- [Bigwords.com](#)- This site compares the textbooks stores all at once. There's not too much else to say—it's definitely worth a look.
- [Cheapest Textbooks.com](#) – Yet another site to compare books. It's always smart to check more than one site as a reference. With all this analyzing and comparing prices for textbooks, it's a wonder we don't add it to our resumes.

## Transportation

UVa seems like such a big campus at first, but once you know how to get around, it shrinks. Many of the links listed below for Ipods/Apple products, but they are also available for Android.

### Helpful Apps:

#### ***Transloc Rider***

Inner Loop, Outer Loop, Green Route, and more. The routes, stops, and even estimated arrival times for the UVa buses are all on this app. If you have trouble finding the app click [here](#)

#### ***CAT (Charlottesville Area Transit) App***

Want to go downtown to see a concert, or all the way out to Fashion Square Mall? This is the app you need. Much like Transloc Rider, it has routes, stopes, and estimated arrival times. Of all the buses in Charlottesville, the most popular ones for students is the Free Trolley (to go downtown) and the 7 (to go to Fashion Square). Get it [here](#)

#### **University of Virginia**

How do you get from New Cabell to McLeod? What's the difference between Bryan Hall and Bryant Hall? Cue the [University of Virginia app](#). It has a lot of information on the University itself, but the real jackpot is the map—a very useful tool in the first few weeks. What the app won't tell you is that McLeod is actually pronounced like “Mc-Cloud” – the more you know!



## Getting Home/Day Trips

Sometimes you just want to take a sunrise hike to Humpback, go home for the weekend, or just get back to your dorm. It gets really tricky when you lack a car!

### Safe Ride

When there's something strange in the neighborhood, who ya gonna call? Safe Ride! Reachable at 434-242-1122, Safe Ride is available to all students with a valid ID, and is a way to get home after midnight when you don't feel safe or comfortable walking back to the dorms. Check out [the site](#) for hours of operation and other information. Additionally, if you are unable to wait for a SafeRide van pickup, are not near a UTS bus route late at night, or otherwise feel unsafe, please remember that you may call **Yellow Cab Charge-a-Ride** at 434-295-4131 to travel by taxi. If you do not have the money to pay for the taxi at that point in time, you need only show a valid student ID to the Yellow Cab driver and sign the document they will provide to you. You will then be billed through your student account. These two numbers are gold-put them in your phone!

### Zipcar

[Zipcar](#) is the largest car sharing and car club service. Essentially this company allows you to rent a car for a couple hours or a day. You'll see them in special spots around grounds. These can be very useful for day trips, but not recommended for something overnight.

### Charlottesville Amtrak/Greyhound

There are both an Amtrak Train Station and Greyhound bus station in Charlottesville. These two transportation systems will get you where you need to go, but can run on the expensive side. When you make plans, be sure to include the time it takes to get to the station!

### RideShare

Ride sharing is great because it's environmentally friendly and usually pretty cheap too! There are a couple options available for you. Needless to say, though these sites are monitored to be specifically for students, always be careful when accepting a ride from strangers.

***Hoos Driving Hoos Riding*** -- We really like Facebook Groups at UVA. This is another group dedicated solely to transportation. There are even location specific groups for instance, Northern Virginia (known as NOVA), Virginia Beach, and even Airports. If you live close and are trying to go home for the weekend, this is good way to get there. Here's a [link](#) to the main one!

**Zimride** -- Another good rideshare program that is private and requires a University of Virginia Netbadge log-in, providing an extra level of security. Poke around the [site](#) to learn more.

## Food and Sustenance (The Meal Plan)

All you can eat buffet-style meals in addition to unlimited swipes?! It's no wonder the Freshmen 15 feels imminent. One of the first things to know is where can you eat?

Follow [this link](#) to see all the dining places and hours. There's a lot, so if you're browsing just note O'hill, Runk, and Newcomb as these are likely the most common first year dining locations.

## Cav Advantage -- Plus dollars -- Student Charge

What's the difference? The biggest thing to note is Cav Advantage rolls over semester to semester and year to year. The money placed in Cav Advantage stays there until you graduate or request otherwise. You can always check the amount left on Cav Advantage at [this site](#). . This money can be used for just about everything on grounds including the bookstore, dining locations, laundry, and some vending machines. Plus dollars, on the other hand, roll over from one semester to the next in the same academic year, and only pertain to food. They DO NOT roll over to the next academic year. This is important because if you don't use them, you lose them. Should you find yourself with way too many Plus Dollars at the end of the semester, everyone loves a generous Hoo who provides Campus Cookies or Dominoes at the libraries—just a few examples of off-grounds stores that take Plus Dollars as payment. Lastly, you can charge to your SIS account in some situations. This charge goes directly to your student account and will show up in the same area that your tuition bill appears in SIS.