



# Why Richmond?

(A Reference for ARC *only*)

There are countless reasons to choose Richmond, many of which you probably considered in college search process. Our University offers distinctive features which will help you to easily identify and compare the advantages of a Richmond education:

## **Synergistic Learning**

A Richmond education provides unique synergies between liberal arts, business, leadership, and law. There is a strong commitment to interdisciplinary studies and students with interests spanning a wide range of academic areas thrive here.

## **Hands-On Research**

The best way for students to learn is by doing. Undergraduates work collaboratively with faculty both in and out of the classroom. Our students solve real-world problems, enabling them to make meaningful contributions to society and to establish themselves as lifelong learners. Students can begin research immediately in their first-year, the University also offers special funding for undergraduate research projects and houses upwards of 200 research students on-campus each summer.

## **Quality of Life**

Ninety-two percent of Richmond students choose to live on campus all four years due to an active campus life that includes more than 250 clubs and organizations, strong intercollegiate and intramural athletic programs, great workout facilities, and more. Our dining facilities regularly win national awards for college and university food service. Plus, with a metropolitan population of nearly a million, the city of Richmond offers great things in terms of social life, the arts, restaurants, shopping, and other activities.

## **International Focus**

With a student body representing more than 70 countries, visiting scholars from around the globe, and a thriving study abroad program, Richmond has a dynamic international focus. In fact, Richmond was recognized by *Newsweek* in 2007 as the “Hottest School in America” for international studies. Fifty-eight percent of Richmond students study abroad during their years on campus. The University offers over 75 study abroad programs, an international studies major, and special funding for students to conduct research abroad. The opening of the Carole Weinstein International Center cements Richmond’s position as one of the best schools for international education and study abroad.

## **Leadership Studies**

Our Jepson School of Leadership Studies, the first school of its kind in the nation, takes a broad, interdisciplinary approach to the rapidly growing field of leadership. The school focuses its academically challenging program on ethics and moral reasoning, with a strong component of community volunteerism and service learning.

## **Business Edge**

With innovative programs such as the Student-Managed Investment Fund, a major focus on international business, and a solid foundation in ethics, the Robins School of Business is at the leading edge of business education in the 21st century. *BusinessWeek* ranked the Robins School 12th nationally among undergraduate business programs and first in the nation in academic quality. Queally Hall, a large-scale renovation to the Robins School of Business, will provide students with a new trading floor, house our new Center for Entrepreneurship, and offer additional classroom spaces and resources for undergraduate students.

## **Arts Initiative**

Recognizing the power of the arts to cultivate critical thinking, intellectual inquiry, individual expression, and collaboration, Richmond offers outstanding visual and performing arts programs while attracting world-renowned performers and art exhibitions to campus.

## **Service & Learning**

A strong desire to give back to the community and to the world permeates our campus. The Bonner Center for Civic Engagement coordinates the University's volunteer, service learning, and research efforts. Our Bonner Scholars program provides scholarship support to nearly 100 students who are committed to engaging in community service over the course of their college careers and is one of the largest Bonner programs in the U.S.

## **Affordability**

Richmond has a strong commitment to helping the families of students who would benefit from our educational opportunities but who have limited resources. We are one of very few universities in the country who meet 100 percent of an undergraduate student's demonstrated need and follow a "need-blind" admission policy. Our generous need- and merit-based financial aid programs help make a Richmond education affordable.

## **Common Ground**

The Office of Common Ground was created to assist members of the University in taking full advantage of the rich benefits of working and learning in a community of individuals from varied backgrounds. The goals of the office include celebrating and supporting our existing diversity as well as attracting a more diverse student body, staff, and faculty to campus.

## **Coordinate Colleges**

Richmond's distinctive coordinate college structure offers both men and women special opportunities for personal and intellectual growth. Richmond College for men and Westhampton College for women operate within the context of a coeducational university, to support both the educational and personal development of each Richmond student.

## **D.C. Initiative**

Located fewer than 100 miles from the nation's capital, the University is able to draw on an active network of administrative leaders, faculty, and alumni in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The D.C. Initiative provides valuable research and career opportunities in government, law, business, technology, and the arts for Richmond students and alumni.

## **UR Downtown**

UR downtown is an innovative resource for engaging and educating in the heart of the city of Richmond, VA. University of Richmond Downtown enables all parts and programs of the University to connect with the surrounding community. It is a vibrant hub of activity featuring public lectures, undergraduate and law classes, clinical and pro bono legal services, community-based research, a public art gallery, and community events and meetings. A collaborative effort supported by the University and its community partners, UR Downtown houses three programs stemming from the University of Richmond School of Law and the University's Bonner Center for Civic Engagement.

## **The Richmond Promise**

The University of Richmond's strategic plan, The Richmond Promise, serves as an institutional vision and blueprint for what we aim to accomplish over the coming years. The Promise puts forth five principles, each reinforcing the others. The outlined principles are to create and foster: 1) An Integrated Academic Enterprise 2) Diversity & Inclusivity 3) Access & Affordability 4) Community Engagement 5) The Student Experience.