



# Drive-Thru Tour Script

## Stop 1: Queally Loading Zone

### Queally Center

Welcome to the Drive Thru Tour of the University of Richmond! For more than 180 years, Spiders have come to the University of Richmond with the expectation to exceed expectations. We invite curiosity and questions, integrating hands-on experience to find answers ... or more questions. As a top-25 liberal arts university, we celebrate the idea of a changing and evolving world, and we make it our mission to prepare Spiders to lead it. The University of Richmond is home to about 3,000 undergraduates who come from almost every state and about 70 countries around the world. But, no matter where they come from, students start their Richmond journey here with the Office of Admission and Financial Aid. The Queally Center is also home to Career Services and the Registrar's Office; this means you'll find students doing everything from touring campus and signing up for classes, to preparing for their job and internship searches and interviews. If this is your first time on campus, we encourage you to sign up for an information session to learn more about the admission process and our need-based and merit-based aid opportunities.

## Stop 2: Westhampton Parking Lot

### Heilman Dining Center

To your left is our only buffet style dining hall on campus, the Heilman Dining Center, or D-hall as we like to call it. D-hall is a community-based space and serves as a hub for socialization and student life. Every student has a SpiderCard, which allows you access to buildings around campus, swipes for meals in the dining hall, use of dining dollars at other eateries, as well as laundry and vending machines. As a first year student living on campus, you will purchase the Spider Unlimited Meal Plan, which gives you unlimited swipes into the dining hall as well as 840 dining dollars each semester to spend at the 8 other satellite eating locations on campus. D-hall has a variety of rotating food stations every day and every week, so you never get tired of the same old thing! Some of our favorite meals are from the made to order panini station, Mediterranean bowls from our "Hemispheres" ethnic food station, or veggie burgers from our "Greens & Grains" station! The dining hall is also very accommodating for allergies or other dietary restrictions – you simply need to speak to our on-campus dietician! Also, all food stations indicate what allergens may be present so you never have to take a risky guess.

### Forum

Directly in front of you should be the University Forum, an open patio area between the Heilman Dining Center, Gottwald Center for the Sciences, and the Chapel. The

Forum is the heart of campus life and a central outdoor gathering space. This area stays busy, especially during Welcome Week, our annual celebration to kick off the academic year. You won't want to miss SpiderFest, which showcases hundreds of ways to get involved with our 200+ student-run clubs and organizations.

### Westhampton Dean's Office

To your right you will see a small cottage-like building that is home to our Westhampton Dean's Office, one of our two deans of students. At Richmond, a unique part of our history is our coordinate college system – meaning, we used to consist of both a college for men called Richmond College and a college for women called Westhampton College. However, we've been fully integrated and co-educational since the merger of the two schools in the 1970's. While the two-college system no longer exists as it once was, we still retain a Westhampton College Dean's Office and a Richmond College Dean's Office. Within these two offices, we are able to offer more support for the development of all students in the areas of leadership and co-curricular involvement. Each college has a separate student governance system which means twice as many opportunities to get involved and enact change on campus!

## Stop 3: The Web Parking Lot

### Student Activities Complex (The Web)

In front of you is the Student Activities Complex which consists of sorority cottages (chapter-specific spaces used for meetings and social events) as well as the Student Center we affectionately call The Web. The Web is a multipurpose space used for a variety of gatherings, events, and activities on campus. From student organization meetings and philanthropy events, to speakers and club socials, this room is an integral part of student life on campus.

### Greek Amphitheatre

One of the features that makes Richmond's campus unique is our Greek Amphitheatre situated to the right of the Westhampton tennis courts. Here, not only will you see students enjoying the outdoors, but you'll also find many social events like 'Trucks and Tunes' – our annual celebration of the new school year during which students enjoy live music and food trucks.

## Stop 4: Keller Hall Pull-Off

### Westhampton Green

The large grassy area to your left is Westhampton Green, a beautiful space on campus where many students might hang out, read a book, or do homework during the warmer weather months; some clubs and organizations host events here, too.

## Residence Halls (North Court/Grey/South)

Behind you and to your left are a few upperclassmen residence halls surrounding Westhampton Green including North Court, Grey Court, and South Court. Many of our upperclassmen residence halls contain double suites connected by a bathroom. Even better, all of these buildings have recently undergone renovations and are up to date.

Down the hill from here is Lora Robins Court, one of our six first-year residence halls. Most of the rooms in our first-year residence halls are doubles with hall-style bathrooms shared amongst approximately 25 students. All buildings on campus have both heating and cooling with thermostat access in every resident room. All residence halls have at least one laundry room, and the cost of laundry is included. As an upperclass student, you may even choose to live in one of our on campus apartments. These options are a huge reason why 93% of Richmond students choose to live on campus all 4 years!

First years and sophomores may choose to participate in one of our living-learning communities; these intensive cohort programs combine a shared academic and living experience, and support students in their transition to college by facilitating meaningful connections across campus. The Richmond Endeavor program gives first-year students the chance to take general education courses with the same students that they live with in their residence hall. This allows for a collaborative approach to the classes, and builds lasting community. Sophomores who participate in the Sophomore Scholars in Residence program take special-topic courses – like Paradox of the Cultivated Wild or Salsa Meets Jazz, for example – with their cohort. Oftentimes, these courses include a school funded trip, and have taken students all over the country and world; everywhere from Yosemite National Park and New Orleans to England and Portugal, just to name a few.

## Modlin Center & Booker Hall

Directly in front of you, you will see two buildings connected with an overpass. These two buildings are home to our Visual and Performing Arts. Modlin Center for the Arts and Booker Hall underwent extensive renovations that were completed in 2019.

To the left is Booker Hall, home to our Department of Music. Located in Booker Hall is Camp Concert Hall which seats up to 576 people and has room on stage for three 9-foot grand pianos! Booker Hall contains a Musicians Locker Room (great for storing your instrument of any size) and 17 soundproof practice rooms. In addition to our major and minor courses, we also offer for-credit private lessons!

The overpass that links Booker Hall and the Modlin Center is Parsons Music Library. The collection includes over 13,000 CDs, 18,000 scores, and 12,000 books on all types of music and dance. Many Spiders would say that this is one of the

best and most attractive study spaces on campus, no matter what their major!

The building on the right is the Modlin Center of the Arts, Richmond's creative hub. It's home to the academic departments of Music, Theater and Dance, and Art and Art History, as well as two presenting programs: Modlin Arts Presents and University Museums. The Modlin Center supports 250 events annually, welcoming 50,000 plus audience members each year. Modlin houses three exhibition spaces, a music library, and four performance venues: Alice Jepson Theater, Camp Concert Hall, Cousins Studio Theater, and Perkinson Recital Hall. Our students have access to all of these wonderful performance spaces throughout the year. Modlin also hosts a number of nationally and internationally ranked artists including cellist YoYo Ma, modern dance pioneer the Martha Graham Dance Company, bluegrass legend Dr. Ralph Stanley, and groundbreaking soul singer Mavis Staples – and that's only a small handful.

## Stop 5: Gottwald Pull-Off Gottwald Center

To your left is the Gottwald Center for the Sciences. This building is the home to our four science majors on campus: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Biochemistry/Molecular Biology. Additionally, Richmond has pre-Health and pre-Med tracks, on which students are assigned an advisor who assists them with choosing classes, gaining volunteer and shadowing opportunities, prepping for the MCAT, and applying to medical school. 77% of our students who apply are accepted to medical school on their first try; that's well above the national average of 46%. Furthermore, 70% of our students participate in research with professors in our 22 teaching laboratories and 50 student-faculty research labs. Recently, neuroscience students worked in Dr. Lambert's lab, studying the effect of natural-enriched environments on the brain and behavior of rats. This study culminated in teaching the rats how to drive tiny robot cars in exchange for fruit loops – an accomplishment that gained national recognition! While not only for science majors, The Richmond Guarantee is one of the many programs offered by UR that aims to support students' goals and intellectual curiosity. Each and every student is eligible to apply for up to \$4,000 to fund a summer internship or research opportunity. This is just one example of an awesome opportunity our University offers to each and every student to encourage them to explore their passions and feed their hunger for knowledge.

## Cannon Chapel

Up the hill sits the Cannon Memorial Chapel – a great place for students of all faith-backgrounds to congregate for worship, prayer, and fellowship. Our 16 different ministries represent a wide variety of traditions, and are led by professionally trained chaplains who mentor students in their spiritual growth and foster interfaith learning across

lines of difference. Richmond also provides support and programming for students who consider themselves to be spiritual but not religious. An example of this is Sacred Pause – a weekly opportunity for the campus community to come together to reflect and meditate on current life and world events.

Next door to the Cannon Memorial Chapel sits the Wilton Center. Here, students attend events for religious holidays like Eid al-fitr, Passover, and Easter; our Chaplains also host Multi-Faith dinners, lectures, and discussions to encourage open dialogue and celebrate religious differences.

## **Gambles Mill Eco-Corridor**

The Gambles Mill Eco Corridor is a recent project by the University in collaboration with students and faculty to restore the natural landscape of the area surrounding campus. By reintroducing native plant species, using hungry goats to remove non-native species, and restoring the Little Westham Creek stream bed, the University has established the Eco Corridor as a space where every member of the Richmond community may fully embrace nature. Sustainability is at the forefront of many strategic plans set forth by the University, and the Eco Corridor is a great example of how we are well on our way to achieving big goals. For example, we plan to reach 75% waste diversion by 2025 through campus-wide recycling education and initiatives like our ReThink Waste program.

## **Stop 6: Tyler Haynes Commons Pull-Off**

### **Tyler Haynes Commons**

Seemingly floating atop Westhampton Lake, Tyler Hanes Commons acts as a unifying communal space for the two sides of our campus. Here, students will find a number of offices, lounge spaces, and food options.

On the bottom level is Tyler's Grill, The Current, and The Cellar. Tyler's Grill is a grab n' go style eatery while The Cellar offers a more traditional dine-in restaurant experience. Here, students can get dinner with their friends, watch a sports game, or grab a drink at The Cellar's on-campus bar serving beer and wine! Between The Cellar and Tyler's Grill is The Current. The Current is a community space where students can utilize the flat screen tv's to play video games or watch movies with friends – gaming and movie equipment can be borrowed from the Center for Student Involvement on the second floor. The Center for Student Involvement is also the home to our 200+ student-led clubs and organizations as well as Greek Life. Our clubs represent a diverse array of interests, from organizations focused on community service, visual and performing arts, politics, academics, student government and everything in between. UR Greek life consists of 16 Greek-letter organizations. While about 40% of students join a Greek organization, everyone is invited to jump in on the fun!

The second floor of the Tyler Haynes Commons is home to Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, or the CCE, which serves as the hub for getting involved in the greater Richmond area. Students utilize our SpidersEngage online tool to search for volunteer opportunities in everything from education and public health to food access and sustainability. The CCE also acts as a base for our Bonner Scholars program. Bonner Scholars are a group of students who commit to volunteering at a local non-profit, school, or government organization for 10 hours per week in exchange for scholarship money. But, no matter what your interests, the CCE will help you plug in and start making a difference in the community.

On the third floor of THC, you'll find the offices of Common Ground, Multicultural Affairs, Scholars and Fellowships, and Career Services. The Office of Common Ground provides resources and support for first-generation students as well as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Common Ground also sponsors our Cultural Advisors, student-leaders who live in the residence halls and connect first-year Spiders to diversity resources on campus. This group also hosts weekly events that serve as an alternative, substance-free social option on Saturday nights. Down the hall from Common Ground, you'll find our Office of Multicultural Affairs, or OMA as we like to call it. From academic programs to advocacy events, OMA facilitates campus-wide educational initiatives and provides support for underserved and underrepresented students. From the start, students can opt to receive transition support during Multicultural Pre-O – a comprehensive pre-orientation program that promotes community-building and connection. Affinity groups give Spiders the chance to engage in meaningful discussion and identity exploration, while the student-run Interpoint series facilitates necessary inter-racial dialogue. In addition, OMA also hosts month-long celebrations of Black, Asian, and Latino-Hispanic heritage, and sponsors the on-campus multicultural space. Our Office of Career Services is so expansive it has three locations on campus! Here in the THC office, students can meet with any of our specially trained career services staff members for help with resumé writing, to practice mock interviews, or for support in finding an internship or job. This office also runs Spider Connect – an online platform where employers, specifically seeking to recruit Richmond students, post job or internship opportunities. Through our Spider Road Trips program, students travel to major metropolitan areas to learn first-hand about different industries and potential job opportunities post-graduation. Keeping all of this in mind, it's easy to see why our Office of Career Services is ranked number 2 in the nation.

## **Boatwright Library**

Up on the hill above the lake sits the Boatwright Memorial Library. There are many other quiet locations to study on campus, but this building is a hub for academic growth and discovery. On the first floor of Boatwright you'll find large,

collaborative spaces where students can work on group projects, while the upper levels of the library are designated as 'quiet' areas. There are computers available for use on all floors; students simply need to log-in using their student ID! Boatwright also houses classrooms, a courtyard, group and individual study rooms, a lab, and an auditorium – it's safe to say, no matter how students prefer to learn, they can always find the perfect atmosphere here. When Spiders need a little boost, they love to take advantage of 8:15, Boatright's on-site café that sells La Columbe coffee, pastries, flat breads and other snacks. Attached to Boatwright is our Academic Skills Center. Here, students can learn time-management techniques or connect with a peer tutor for help with that tough Calculus or Spanish course.

## **Transportation Hub & Safety**

On the corner of the Tyler Haynes Commons you'll see our transportation hub, where students can utilize the many shuttles available to transport them to and from the city of Richmond. Every holiday, shuttles run to the train station which is 15 minutes away, and to the airport which is about 30 minutes away. Students can also use the Libbie Connector, Spider Mall Crawl, and the RVA public bus system to go just about anywhere in the greater Richmond area. Our suburban location is ideal in that we are only twenty minutes away from a lively city, but also have our own well-defined, beautiful campus with tons of green space and views that never gets old.

At Richmond, safety and well-being are our top priorities. The UR Police Department is available to help for emergencies and non-emergencies, even for things like a flat tire or a dead car battery. They arrive almost immediately and will either help or wait with you until help arrives! Like most schools, Richmond has the Blue Light System, as well as an Alert System that sends text messages and emails to students, notifying them of any potential safety threat on campus. Not to mention, students need swipe-cards to access their residence halls, and all other buildings require swipe-card entrance after hours. Every one of these levels of security promote a safe and healthy environment for all members of the Richmond community.

## **Stop 7: International Center Parking Lot Weinstein International Center**

The Weinstein International Center is the center for global learning and exploration on campus. This is where all of our language, culture, and geography classes are held. You'll also find the Office of Study Abroad, the Office of International Education, and the Passport Café – a campus favorite that serves all kinds of tasty, international cuisine. As part of our general education curriculum, every student must fulfill two credits of foreign language. Some will continue studying the language they've been learning in high school, and others will take advantage of the opportunity to learn an entirely new language!

Our Office of International Education supports and serves our international students. These students come from over 70 countries, and make up roughly 9% of the undergraduate population. Our University values a diverse campus which brings together students from all backgrounds and experiences.

Over 60% of students take advantage of the many study abroad opportunities during their time at Richmond. Whether it be short-term, for a semester, or even for an entire year, Richmond offers over 75 different programs in over 30 countries all over the world. Our Study Abroad team works to mentor students through program selection and credit transfer, as well as travel and finance logistics. Financial aid travels abroad, and every student receives \$1000 travel allowance.

## **Well-Being Center & Recreation Center**

Directly across from the International Center, you'll find the Well-Being Center which conveniently houses all elements of wellness under one roof. The Well-Being Center is home to Health Promotions, Student Health Center, as well as our Counseling and Psychological Services. Some really unique and exciting features of the Well-Being Center include massage rooms, a Himalayan salt room, a café that serves local and organic food, a meditation garden, and even pet therapy. Well-being is at the forefront of our University's strategic plan, and is a very important aspect of the Richmond Experience.

If you look to the far end of the Well-Being Center, you'll see the connected Weinstein Center for Recreation. The Weinstein Center houses cardio and strength training equipment, personal trainers, a three-court gymnasium and tons of free fitness classes! If you like your workouts in the great outdoors, you can check out our Outdoor Adventure and Recreation program to rent kayaks, tents and mountain bikes. They also host a variety of guided outings like whitewater rafting on the James River and hiking the Appalachian Mountains. If sports are more your thing, Richmond has more than 50 club and intramural teams that participate in non-varsity competition.

## **School of Law**

Have your sights set on a legal career? Get started early at Richmond. The Law School is tucked behind the international center and directly across from Robins Stadium back entrance. Our law school is integrated in the undergraduate curriculum, so you'll have the chance to learn from expert legal minds. Some of our First-Year Seminars — like Framing the U.S. Constitution and Wrongful Convictions in Modern America — are taught by law professors. A handful of other courses are cross-listed for both undergraduates and law students, meaning you'll get a glimpse into law school life prior to even graduating! For those interested in the corporate world, the law school also offers a joint JD/MBA with Richmond's Robins School of Business.

## **Stop 8: Stern Quad Parking Lot**

### **Stern Quad**

You are now facing Stern Quad which is home to many academic buildings on campus. There are 3 important buildings that surround this quad area: The Jepson School of Leadership, Weinstein Hall, and Ryland Hall. Every first-year student will enter the University with an undeclared major, and will automatically be enrolled in the school of Arts & Sciences. Starting sophomore year, students may declare their major in Arts & Sciences, or apply to either the Jepson School of Leadership or the Robins School of Business.

### **Jepson Hall**

Jepson Hall features a beautiful tower similar to Boatwright Memorial Library and is across from Ryland Hall to the right. Jepson Hall, home to the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, was the first leadership school founded in the nation and has since inspired many other institutions to follow suite. Classes here are collaborative, roundtable discussions led by professors from various disciplines including English professors, philosophers, social scientists, and even a member of the Mayor's office! All these different perspectives offer a holistic view of leadership. Jepson does not attempt to "breed leaders", but rather examine leadership as a construct from historical, ethical, and organizational lenses. Having a Leadership Studies background is always a conversation-starter wherever you may go, especially when speaking to employers. Leadership Studies majors have gone on to pursue careers in sales, marketing, public policy, education, consulting, finance, international affairs, and much more.

### **Weinstein Hall**

Weinstein Hall is located across from Ryland Hall on the left. Weinstein Hall is home to our social sciences such as anthropology, sociology, PPEL - which stands for Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law - journalism, rhetoric and communications, as well as women, gender & sexuality studies. It also houses our speech center, one of the many academic resource centers on campus. The speech center is run by many highly-trained peer-tutors who use a variety of tactics to help students develop their public speaking skills.

### **Ryland Hall**

Ryland Hall is our oldest building on campus, constructed in 1914, and as you can see, all our other buildings are modeled after its red-brick architecture. There is a significant renovation underway to expand this building. When it reopens in 2021 it will be home to the humanities at Richmond. As mentioned earlier, you'll begin your academic journey in A&S, and 70% of students ultimately declare a major in at least one of the school's 22 different departments and 10 interdisciplinary programs. Many

mix and match majors and minors and cross-department courses to forge their own path — just as the school's open and flexible curriculum encourages.

### **Robins School of Business**

On your drive over, you passed the main entrance to the Robins School of Business. As the name suggests, the Robins School of Business is home to our Business Administration, Accounting, and Economics majors. Business Administration majors are required to choose a concentration like Finance, Marketing, Management, or International Business to further hone in their areas of interest. It is rare to find a nationally recognized business program at a small university. Here, you have access to top-level resources coupled with small classes, personal attention, and big opportunities. Robins School's "hands-on" approach to teaching can be seen in various areas throughout the building. On the first floor is Ukrop Auditorium — a space that has hosted many distinguished speakers including the founder of Netflix, the CEO of Carmax, and the CEO of Macys. Additionally, the first floor is home to the Lessing Trading Floor, an area dedicated to the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF). In this space, a select group of senior finance concentrations manage a portfolio of stocks originally worth \$450k of the University's endowment. This stop wouldn't be complete without mentioning one of our satellite dining options on campus, Lou's Cafe. Lou's is a student favorite and serves up everything from sandwiches and salads to Red Pepper Gouda Soup!

## **Stop 9: President's Circle**

### **Robins Stadium & Robins Center**

The Robins Stadium, to your left, and the Robins Center, to your right, are home to the only Spiders in the country, thanks to our very unique mascot. Come by on a Saturday afternoon in the fall and you'll find tailgaters lined up and ready to cheer on the football team. If you love pompoms and face paint, you'll want to sign up to be a member of the Richmond Rowdies to take your school spirit game to the next level. Richmond may be small, but we're mighty when it comes to athletics. We're a Division I school with powerhouse teams in football, basketball, lacrosse, swim/dive, tennis, golf, and more that compete in the A10 and Colonial Athletic Conferences. Tickets are free for students, so you never have to miss a chance to show off your Spider Pride!

And with that, we've reached the end of our driving tour! Thanks so much for driving around with us and exploring our campus! If you have questions about something you saw or heard today, visit our admission webpage to contact a current student or your regional admission counselor!