

Interview Questions for Alumnae (Swap out UVA when interviewing non-UVA women)

1. Tell us a few things about yourself (family, job, things that bring you joy).

Tuesday March 9, My name is Marisa Roman, I am an attorney living in Boston. A few things that bring me joy when I'm not working is skiing and golfing.

2. What is your UVA story?
 - a. How did you decide to come to UVA? **My dad had gone to UVA for graduate school and took me down here when I was young and I fell in love.**
 - b. What did you do when you were a student at UVA?
 - i. Were women encouraged or discouraged to join extracurriculars? **Very much encouraged.**
 - ii. Were some more welcoming than others? **No, everyone opened women with open arms and cared about them.**
 - iii. Greek life experience? **Yes, I joined one my second year, very welcoming and enjoyed being a part of Greek community.**
3. What is your favorite UVA memory? **Lighting of the lawn my first year, it really took me by surprises that my college cared that much to do such a cool event.**
4. What was a transformative moment for you at UVA? **I took a class called arts and culture of the slaved south which was super awkward to take now and helped shape some ideas I had as a young adult.**
5. What was the most challenging thing about UVA? **How competitive it can be, you can go from being a top student or athlete and then get here and everyone is top too.**
6. Tell us about a woman/women at UVA who inspires you – now, or during your time on Grounds. **She couldn't think of an exact one but said she was inspired by many women at UVA.**

- a. What relationships did you form with other women and did you find it easy to make those connections? **Yes, being in a sorority definitely helped and I had a great group of girlfriends like women in my hall and extracurricular.**
 - b. What was the presence of women's groups and movements on campus like? **Greek life, women center, and female Capella groups. Pretty co ed.**
 - c. How many courses did you take at UVA that were taught by female professors? Could you talk a little about the courses they taught and the kind of diversity that the courses and the prof(s) represented? **Pretty good number of female professors. American studies major had a lot of female professors and I loved it. I had one female professor and I loved her so much she really related to me. Found female professors to be way tougher and even now in my bosses who are female are super tough and extra hard.**
7. What were your experiences with sexism or misogyny on Grounds? **None**
 8. Was there an open LGBTQ+ presence when you went to UVA? **Yes, but it looks a lot bigger currently.**
 9. Did you feel pressured to go into a certain field or avoid a certain field during your time in college? **A lot of pressure to go into in commerce or finance. But then the recession happened and no one had jobs so it didn't seem that smart at the time.**
 - a. Did you notice a disparity in the population of men and women in your major? **No everyone got along well.**
 - b. Do you know of any efforts your institution has made since you graduated to make their classes more inclusive? **For the smaller seminar classes, they have but I don't know about the bigger ones.**
 10. What was relationship/hookup culture during your time at UVA? **Mix of both, I had boyfriend and then I didn't have one until my fourth year.**

11. Was there any talk about consent and respect on campus? If so, do you think it was thorough/helpful? **Not as much as there is today and I wish they would have had more.**
12. What was your journey after leaving UVA? **I was a paralegal in Washington DC and then went to Boston for law school and am still here now.**
13. Is there something you learned at UVA that you apply to your life now? A strong sense of honor, and integrity through the honor code and many other things. **This is something the engrain in you from the first day and it is something you take with you wherever you go.**
14. What does the UVA alumnae community mean to you? How have fellow alumnae affected your life/career/journey? **The alumnae community had meant a lot to me. I was on class council and on the young alumnae council, I loved UVA. I love having that community that brings back great memories and feelings at UVA.**
15. In your opinion, what is the legacy of women at UVA? **It is still evolving and I think now women at UVA are being embraced and I am so proud of are alumnae and current female students.**
16. If you could impart a piece of advice to a female student on Grounds today, what would you tell her? **I would tell her to say yes to every opportunity and enjoy every experience.**
17. Is there anything related to women's history at the University that you would like to learn more about? **I would really like to learn more about women in science, medicine and engineering. Going back into 70s 80s and 90s it was glossed over.**
18. What do you think the biggest difference was in terms of your experience at UVA and what is going on now in 2021? **I think there is more awareness at uva now that we are not in an isolated little bubble. They are finally realizing that there is a real world and people are affected by it and are starting to teach it.**

To see examples of responses to these questions go to <https://retolduva.com/alumnae/alumnae-profiles/>

To see examples of self-submitted stories on the [Retold Share Your Story platform](#) go to <https://virginia.brightcrowd.com/retold/sign-in/> The access code is **retolduva**