"Brown is a place where you can be who you really are."
- Professor Carl Trindle, former Brown College principal

This might sound hokey, but it is completely accurate. Brown is unlike other residential colleges in that is does not have a single overarching ethos. Rather, Brown changes every year with its residents.

Brown is for meeting the sort of people who would make it into the short version of your autobiography. The curious, the prematurely wise, the spiritually restless, the slightly and not-so-slightly bent: all make their homes here.

So, what is life like here?

Activities occur almost constantly, from movies to lectures to medieval warfare. Our faculty fellows come and deliver informal lectures on myriad topics, including medicine, popular science, and art. Our lounges, the social nuclei of Brown, offer a haven for all kinds of shenanigans, be they productive or otherwise. We don't force you to do these things - this isn't summer camp - but once you're here, you'll want to join in on your own.

We run ourselves here, and our system of student governance has inspired other residential colleges nationwide. Brown residents wrote and will read this application. Our social co-chairs have a massive annual budget to rent skating rinks, organize and cater semi-formals, buy us LEGO™s, bake us pies, and so forth. Hauntings - an annual haunted house for charity on Monroe Hill, staffed by Brownies - is also planned, built, and executed by students here. Our faculty liaisons keep Brown an intellectually stimulating environment by maintaining contact between teachers and students. Our community outreach co-chairs keep Brown involved in the city of Charlottesville through community service projects. All these and countless other positions are staffed by students.

Then there are the material benefits. If you live in Brown, you get a large room to yourself, with air-conditioning, a prime location in central Grounds, ultra-neat public spaces, and our own dining room in Newcomb. But chances are you knew that already.

Our application is our calling card. Open it up and think about it. With all due respect, we don't care about your extracurricular activities or your GPA. Résumés are for jobs; we want to know who you are. Will you be involved? Do we want to live with you? What will your contribute to our wonderful microcosm? Do you smell funny?

Brown College is a community. That word gets used too often for that statement to have the kind of meaning it should. People who live here are proud to live here, and to identify with Brown's unique place in the universe. The University of Virginia is a big place, and it's a joy to have a place to call your own.

We'd love to meet you.
personal info

The following information will be used solely for administrative purposes.

Name: ________________________________

Sex: F M

Current Status: entering first year
entering transfer 1 2 3 4 other
current UVa student 1 2 3 4 other

Student ID Number: ________________________________

Stable e-mail: ________________________________

Notification Address: ________________________________

Permanent Address: ________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

instructions

Please do not use your name, picture, or any other identifying material in your essays. If you enclose any attachments with your application, make sure to label them with your Student ID Number (not your SSN; your computing ID works as well) – but note that we cannot return any part of your application to you.

You can submit your application by mail or online. Please do not fax.

mail: UVa Housing: Residential College Program
BROWN COLLEGE at MONROE HILL
Page - Emmet House Station #1
Charlottesville, VA 22904

online: http://www.virginia.edu/browncollege/membership/
browncollege@virginia.edu

You must send your application by the appropriate deadline:

current UVa students: November 13, 2009
question 1 - PERSONAL BACKGROUND
a. Your friends are staging an intervention for you. They’re all fools, however, and you wind up organizing everything yourself. What vice will you focus on and why?
b. Who would be the worst person (real or fictional) to pursue you romantically? Be aware that you will NEVER love this person back.

question 2 - FUTURE PLANS
a. All of the world’s fluids will turn to mayonnaise, catching you unawares. As a result, you want to kill yourself, but you don’t want to bleed mayonnaise all over everything. You’d drink poison, but the poison is mayonnaise. What will you do?
b. You invented a time machine by putting a handful of change in a jar full of drain cleaner. If you sit next to it, you will travel into the future very slowly. How will you be able to tell?
c. You have access to a crystal ball, and discover your first-born child will be a total asshole. What do you do in order to warn the people he will someday meet?
respond to one question in each of these sets

your space:
This space is yours. Use it as you wish.
question 3 - ABSTRACT REASONING

a. If truth is a woman, what then?
b. Mr. Clean is your illegitimate father. How do you simultaneously gain his acceptance and tarnish his spotless reputation?

question 4 - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

a. You come home to find Amelia Earhart, caked in your parents’ blood. Your parents, oddly, are fine. Still, this is only your second-worst birthday. What the hell happened last year?
b. Dear Applicant: It seems my doppleganger appeared in a series of erotic daguerrotypes from the late 1800’s. Please advise.
question 5 - ARTISTIC SUPPLEMENT

a. Use pictographs to explain why your alimony payments are late.
b. Describe the ultimate sandwich either as a flowchart or in an established form of poetry (haikus will be brutally savaged).
c. Imagine your dream house, as conceived by your five-year-old self. Revise the blueprints given the bitterness and hostility that comes with the wisdom of age.

what happens next

Brown is looking for community builders; you should apply only if you have the time, interest, and dedication to get involved. There is so much here to experience; it would be a shame to miss out.

You can find detailed information on the selections process at Brown’s website:

http://www.virginia.edu/browncollege

Selections results will be posted on the website at the following times:

current UVa students: December 4, 2009