UVa Cemetery
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Directions: From Rt 29 South take a left on to Business 250. Travel on this road until the next intersection and a left on to Alderman Rd. Travel on this road for several miles and take a left on to Cemetery Rd. The Cemetery is on the left.

Back in the 1860’s, when the cemetery was being constructed, it was secluded from the rest of the campus. However, currently the graveyard is in a prime location on the University campus, and several students use it as a short cut to class, or run by it while jogging. The University of Virginia cemetery is a non-traditional public space open to anyone who wants to visit one of the 937 distinguished faculty members, staff, or their family who are buried there. These actions are limited to days when there is not a funeral in progress. The cemetery includes three distinct sections, including a confederate memorial and burial, the original burial ground, and the new burial region. The graveyard is open to the public, and has maps available for walking tours. The cemetery is governed by traditional social conduct, and University codes. This means that certain actions are deemed unsuitable. It is proper to follow appropriate and respectful actions in the cemetery because the majority of people there use the space to mourn, and remember their loved ones.

The confederate memorial statue is a monument dedicated to the remains of 1097 Confederate soldiers that died at the Charlottesville General Hospital during the Civil War.

To be buried in the University cemetery, you have to be a significant part of the University community and donate large sums. The newest addition to the cemetery is the Columbarium, where at one can purchase a slot holding four urns for $1800.

Even though it is surrounded by a college campus, inside the university cemetery there is a feeling of seclusion. Many people use this area to relax and help them get away from the outside world. The large trees provide a wall from the surrounding area.

At the intersection of Alderman Road and McCormick Road, the cemetery is in a prime location for tourists and students. Its location causes it to be used unlike most cemeteries, being a meeting place, a study area, and a tourist destination.
The University of Virginia cemetery has a long history dating back to the early 1860’s when it was first created. Back then, it was secluded from the main campus, and served as a burial ground for several of the distinguished professors, and faculty members. The main stone wall has had to be repaired several times, but some of the stones are still the originals. The second section of the cemetery was dedicated to all the fallen soldiers of the civil war shortly after the end of the war on June 7, 1893. This section serves as a peaceful glen for the remains of 1097 Confederate soldiers that died during the war at the Charlottesville General Hospital. At the center of the field is found a monument consisting of a gray granite pedestal twelve feet high on which stands an eight foot bronze statue of a young Confederate soldier, hat in hand and rifle at the rest position. At the base of the pedestal is in scripted, “Fate denied them Victory, but clothed them in glorious immortality.” As the original section of the graveyard filled, there became a need for new section. This was formed in the early 1960’s after reworking the stone fence to include the north-western portion of the site. As the cemetery has evolved so has the university around it. Also, as the enrollment has increased at the university, several new dormitories have been built all around the cemetery. Currently, the cemetery is no longer off by itself, and is actually a central point around campus. With lack of space to expand, the cemetery has evolved by creating a university columbarium spanning the north wall of the cemetery’s newer section. Phase one of the columbarium was completed in February of 1991, and included 180 vaults covered by granite panels with memorial inscriptions. Phase two consists of 180 more vaults and will be completed when funding becomes available.

Due to its surroundings, the cemetery doesn’t behave like a normal cemetery. It is set in the center of a large university, and not only mourners use the space, but also several students. Due to its location, many students cut through the cemetery while walking back to Alderman Dorms, or the Forestry building. It is also used as a comfortable, quiet place to go and study, especially in the confederate section. The graveyard isn’t seen as a scary place, but almost as an escape from the hectic college world, and students like to go there to get away from everything. The trees provide a comfortable place to sit and think, or nap. During football games, the cemetery parking lot is also a prime location for tailgate parties, and post-game picnics. Sometimes these flow over into the newer section of the cemetery. During the night, the cemetery is used for more illicit activities, including drug use, and sexual activity. This isn’t common social behavior for a cemetery, but students see it as a place where people won’t bother them, and the police won’t catch them performing these activities. The graveyard get used for several non-traditional purposes, yet there are still burial services held there when a dignified member of the university community passes away.