



University of Virginia

DARDEN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENT HOUSING

Executive Summary

The University of Virginia Darden Graduate School of Business is well known for its vibrant academic community where learning occurs both within the classroom and beyond. The Darden Student Housing Project is an opportunity for Darden to fully realize a community consistent with Thomas Jefferson’s original vision for UVA to create a holistic learning and living community, the Academical Village. The proposed project also supports the 2030 Plan goal to “cultivate the most vibrant community in higher education” and “offer [students] an unparalleled experience while on Grounds.”

Historically, most students have relied on private housing near the Darden Grounds; approximately 89% of Darden students live within walking proximity of Darden Grounds, while 11% commute from further distances in Charlottesville. Many of Darden’s peers have on-campus housing exclusively for their MBA students, and the trend among the top 15 business schools is to offer similar housing options. When this project is realized, residential life at Darden will become a strategic, vibrant, and integral part of a complete educational experience for Darden students.

Project Background

With a long list of shared amenities and communal spaces and a variety of thoughtfully designed accommodations that range from spacious 1-bedroom to 3-bedroom apartments, the proposed project recognizes the diversity of Darden students and their needs, be they single professionals or married with young children. All of Darden’s learning and living facilities would be within easy reach: dining (including venues to be located at the new UVA Inn at Darden

and the renovated Abbott Center), library and study spaces, indoor and outdoor recreation, and parking. All residential units will provide immediate access to the Darden Grounds as well as capture views either towards large, beautifully landscaped courtyards; the adjacent Arboretum to the east; or the forested hills to the north and west. The existing Darden School footprint and parking facilities would be leveraged to make the project business model more financially responsible and attractive; such attributes are not as readily available at certain other sites. Further, it is expected that the project would attract significant donor interest.

The proposed student housing project will provide approximately 440 beds to support a Darden MBA residential student population of approximately 680-690 students, before accounting for the additional housing needs of many students who have partners and families. Overall, the project will provide housing for approximately 60% of Darden’s students. The project will also include new recreation amenities and create new pedestrian-scaled brick paths lined with shade trees.

Proposed Timeframes

Planning/Design: FY2023
Construction: TBD
Expected Completion: TBD

Financial Information

Estimated project cost: TBD
Fund sources: Private gifts and debt