



Mark Pittman

UVA School of Medicine, Class of 2011

Hometown: Aiken, SC

Specialty: My interests lie in primary care—in developing relationships with and helping others where they are. There is power in knowing someone long enough to understand how they came to their current problem. Primary care creates opportunities not only for quick fixes and chronic management, but also for prevention and education.

Why UVA? I chose UVA because of the balance it offered. I wanted to surround myself with people who would provide support and be positive role models—both inside and outside of the hospital.

Extracurricular Highlights: The most significant volunteer activity I've been involved with has been Charlottesville Health Access (CHA), which I helped create/structure during my first year of med school. CHA provides healthcare access and navigation for the homeless and underserved in the Charlottesville area, which now includes coordinating the health/social services management of those released from prison. I have helped coordinate daily clinical functions, worked on the fundraising committee, assisted on the education committee, and served on the board of directors throughout.

Scholarship Support: UVA was by far my first choice; however, my second choice was offering a full scholarship, while UVA was offering virtually no assistance. I committed to the other school, but never felt comfortable with the decision. Eventually I approached UVA, sharing how much I loved the school but was led elsewhere due to financial constraints. Somehow, UVA was able to offer more assistance. It wasn't equal to the other school's offer, but it was enough that I could make it work. And I've never regretted that decision.