

2 | Integrate the Academic Campus and the HS District

The 2008 Grounds Plan for the University of Virginia describes the relationship of the Health System district with the larger campus plan for the University as a whole. At the same time there have been a variety of focused area studies in and around the district that identify potential growth concepts including the Brandon Avenue Study, the South Lawn Plan and the West Main Street Study. All are focused on carrying forward axes, travelways, visual quality and a campus environment in the spirit of the original Thomas Jefferson University of Virginia plan. The Health System district sits in the middle of these studies and at one of the four main entrances to the University, providing the opportunity to tie the whole of Central Grounds precinct together. This can be done in a manner that both supports and enhances the program of the very active and demanding Health System district.

Given the density and unique patient travel and proximity issues, the connections to the larger University are more effective wrapping around the core rather than moving through it. Likewise, there seems to be a natural progression from the UVa academic campus to the academic portions of the Health System district, including the research focused portions and the patient serving facilities. This can be emphasized by developing a hierarchy of travel that moves from automobile intensive at the hospital core area, to pedestrian priority as one approaches the more academic student areas. The greenbelt could help stitch together different densities while also providing continuity, allowing circulation to move around the denser center.

