

## Thigh-high fashion craze on Hampton U. campus

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*By Jordan Parker*

The thigh-high boots sensation is definitely evident on Hampton University's campus.

A "thigh high boot" can be described as a sleek women's boot with a zip reaching just above the knee, creating a knee-high sock effect varying in material. The most popular style features a heel platform, stiletto, or pump. (Rana Shephard, pictured right)

The art of popping out, or dressing your most fashionable best, has been studied and mastered by many Hamptonians. This fall's most notable advancement in popping out appears to be thigh-high boots.

Blake Newby, a senior from Washington, D.C., said she "can't wait for the weather to finally get cold so I can break out my three pairs of boots I got this summer." As fall approaches so does homecoming season, the time people use to exercise their pop-out skills and flex on everyone.

The new trend was anticipated. Big names such as Rihanna, Beyoncé, and reality stars, Kim Kardashian and Kylie Jenner gave fans and future customers a taste of the looks early on in candid photos captured by the paparazzi.

The boots come in a variety of colors and styles. Designers incorporate materials ranging from suede, denim, and leather. It's almost as if the standard boot is evolving into something much more runway ready. This has made the thigh high boots a staple piece for many fall and winter pop outs.

The most appealing aspect of the thigh high boot is the versatility in outfits you can pair them with. Wear them with your midi skirts and dresses, leggings, your skinny leg pants. If you want your boots to make a bold statement, get a color that pops, like blue, orange, or red. For an everyday look, black, grey, and nude are perfect additions to an outfit. You can dress them up or down.



Hannah Pink, a freshman from Sugarland, Texas said, "I'm wearing the boots I wore to class yesterday to the club, with a bodycon dress this weekend."

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**ABOVE-THE-KNEE BOOTS** are taking the fall fashion scene by a storm.

On Hampton University's campus, dozens of young women have been sporting the trendy and in-season thigh-high boots since the temperature has dropped.

After the spring 2015 release of Kanye West's boots, the popularity of thigh highs has

skyrocketed. Celebrities such as the Kardashians, Kylie Jenner, Chrissy Teigen, and Karrueche have also been seen sporting West's boots, adding to their popularity. However, most women have been purchasing the bargain brands that range anywhere from \$39 to \$100 opposed to West's \$995 boots. Stores that carry the boots include Aldo, DSW, H&M and more. Online sites such as boohoo.com also carry a variety of thigh-high boots.

"Thigh-high boots are trendy and they're in style. Every celebrity is wearing them and they make any outfit pop!" said Iyana Crawford a sophomore, psychology major from Georgia.

The popularity of the boots has also risen on campus due to Hampton University's homecoming. It's a tradition that Hamptonians only look the best during the week and wear the trendiest and latest fashion. Many women have also admitted to only buying thigh-high boots just to have for Homecoming week.

"Boots are the best fall shoe because there are so many different ways to wear them," said Autumn Evans (pictured above right), a sophomore, elementary studies major and fashion blogger from New Jersey. "Thigh highs have the ability to make or break an outfit and I plan on doing them justice this season."

Fashion choices and statement pieces such as thigh-high boots will most likely be seen being worn for the remainder of fall and transition into winter. Whether it be Kanye West's boots or the competition brand, ladies on campus plan on turning heads and rocking thigh high boots with pride. -- Nia Wellman



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