

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 20)

2 April 2025

**Fitness Standards Governing the
Admission of Cadets**

1. **Purpose:** This policy explains the process for determining the medical fitness for attendance at the Virginia Military Institute.
2. **Background:** Admission to VMI is a two-step process. First the applicant is reviewed by the Admissions Office to determine academic eligibility. If approved by Admissions, the applicant is offered a “conditional appointment.” The appointment is conditioned upon the applicant completing other requirements, to include fitness approval. Appointees then complete an online VMI Health History at <https://vmi.medicatconnect.com/> and upload medical forms to include a physical examination form, a body fat measurement form, immunizations, and a medical release (certificate of understanding of the physical and psychological rigors of VMI) (Appendix A).
3. **Standards:** All VMI cadets including new cadets are expected to be able to accomplish all facets of the VMI educational program, which is a challenging, demanding program that involves significant physical and psychological challenges. A list of those program requirements is in Appendix B. Fitness evaluations for entry or continued enrollment at VMI will be based upon whether or not the prospective cadet can successfully and safely complete these program requirements. VMI uses the Department of Defense (DoD) standards as a reference. However, the ultimate decision to admit or deny entry will be based upon a review of the ability to meet program requirements.
 - A. For further information on DOD standards, Army Regulation 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness (most recent edition 17 March 2023), Chapter 2 - Physical Standards for Enlistment, Appointment, and Induction) may be consulted. This site may be viewed at https://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/ARN37720-AR_40-501-002-WEB-4.pdf. As detailed below, any appointee interested in commissioning in the Armed Forces must be able to meet the DOD standards.
 - B. Once conditionally appointed applicants submit their completed medical forms, they will be initially reviewed by the Institute Physician. The review will use the abovementioned Program Requirements as the baseline. If there are questions or concerns about an appointee’s ability to meet these requirements, additional information may be sought from the appointee and/or his/her physician. Appointees will be encouraged to submit any other supporting documentation that might affect their final appointment decision. If following review of this information it is determined that an appointee may not be able to meet VMI’s requirements, the medical packet will be reviewed by the Fitness Review Panel (Institute Physician, Commandant, and Head of the Human Performance and

Wellness Department) with recommendations submitted to the Superintendent for their review and decision regarding admission.

- C. The fact that an appointee is admitted to VMI has no bearing on that cadet's eligibility for commissioning through the ROTC Programs. Only the ROTC Departments determine eligibility for commissioning.
4. **Pre-Appointment Medical Determinations:** VMI does not consider medical history in deciding whether or not a conditional appointment should be offered. Similarly, for those prospective cadets who may be concerned about a particular health issue, VMI will not make a pre-determination of medical eligibility. Prospective students or their parents may contact the Institute Physician if they have questions, but no opinions or pre-determinations will be made. Parents and prospective students with such questions are encouraged to review the standards referenced in Appendix B, consult with their personal physician on them, and seek their personal physician's opinion whether or not their son or daughter meets those standards. Providing the family physician with a copy of the health forms (Appendix A) will also be helpful for the family physician to review in providing an opinion. VMI will encourage all appointees to send their medical documents in as early as possible after conditional appointment in order to make the determination of eligibility as early as possible. Appointees who have any reason to question their ability to meet program requirements are strongly advised to have an alternative plan to attend another college should final appointment to VMI be denied.
 5. **Authority:** The Institute Physician reviews the medical forms and collects further information as needed from the appointee, the family, and the examining physician(s) to clarify any questions raised by the medical forms. If there is a history of psychological issues, the Institute Physician will gather any additional information needed to determine if the appointee will be able to meet the extraordinary stresses of VMI's program safely and competently. The Superintendent has the authority to make the final determination of fitness eligibility.
 6. **Medical Histories:** VMI will provide its own health form for use by all prospective cadets to report their medical histories. The DODMERB will not be accepted.
 7. **Information about the Rigorous Demands of VMI's Educational Program:** The Office of Admissions shall provide a "Certificate of Understanding of the Physical and Mental Health Requirements for a VMI Education" for signature by all appointed students, their parents, and their personal physicians, by which they indicate that they understand the unique physical and psychological (fitness) demands of the VMI educational program and that the conditionally appointed student is physically and mentally fit to meet those demands. This form must be submitted, with the online VMI Health History, Physical Exam form and other required forms (noted in #2) to the Institute Physician. It is contained in Appendix A.
 8. **Physical Fitness Standards:** Because the program requirements of VMI present extraordinary physical and mental stresses that create risks to individual students, weight and body fat standards are employed as part of the medical evaluation process (for standards see

tables 2-1 and 2-2 in AR 40-501 linked above in para 3A) and the **1-point tape test for body fat estimation outlined in [ALARACT 032/2025](#)**. In some cases where the physical conditioning of a conditionally appointed student is in question, VMI may require the individual to complete the run component of the VMI Fitness Test. Additionally, all cadets will take the VFT on multiple occasions during their cadetship and are expected to achieve a passing score. Information on the Physical Fitness Standards can be viewed at www.vmi.edu/GeneralOrders (General Order 31, Corps of Cadets Physical Fitness Program).

9. **Medical Eligibility Review Process:** When a student is offered a conditional appointment for admission, a Health History and Physical Exam Form shall be provided and must be completed by the appointee and submitted to the Institute Physician, together with the Certificate of Understanding of the Physical and Mental Health Requirements for a VMI Education, by the deadline contained on the form. The Institute Physician shall determine the initial fitness eligibility of the appointee based upon the Physician's medical determination of the appointee's ability to meet VMI's Program Requirements. A list of these program requirements is at Appendix B. If there is a question or concern, the Institute Physician will contact the appointee and/or their physician(s) for more information. If upon review of all of this information the Institute Physician determines that the appointee's ability to meet program requirements is still in question, they will initiate the process for review by the Fitness Review Panel.
10. **Medical Eligibility:** All medical applications that indicate that there is a condition that may prevent safe and complete participation in all aspects of VMI training as determined by the Institute Physician will be reviewed by the Fitness Review Panel. The members of the Panel are the Institute Physician, the Commandant of Cadets, and the Head of the Human Performance and Wellness Department. Their review and recommendations are forwarded to the Superintendent who makes the final determination on the appointee's fitness eligibility.
11. **Fitness Eligibility Procedure:** The Institute Physician will review the initial medical packet. If there is a potential medical problem, the appointee will be notified by letter/email and requested to provide further information about the condition. The appointee will also be encouraged to send any other documentation that might support full admission. The appointee shall include a "Release of Information" authorizing the health care provider to share information about the medical condition. If the Institute Physician determines that the individual has a condition that may prevent safe and complete participation in the VMI training program despite reasonable accommodations, the Institute Physician will forward their assessment to the Commandant, who will in turn forward it to Head of the Human Performance and Wellness Department. Those three officials shall individually review the medical information, and each shall make an individual recommendation as to the appointee's ability to meet VMI's program requirements. The recommendations then go to the Office of the Superintendent. The Superintendent makes the final decision on eligibility for full admission to VMI.
12. **Notification of Superintendent's Determination:** The Superintendent, or his designee, shall notify the offices of the Commandant and the Head Performance and Wellness Department of any fully admitted student by the Superintendent after the Fitness Review

Panel's review. This step is taken to ensure the safety of the cadet during the training process.

13. **Summer Transition Program:** Students registering for STP must follow the same fitness review procedures as students applying to matriculate at VMI. Those who have not completed the review process will not be allowed to attend STP.
14. **Readmission Applications:** The medical standards, to include the weight and body fat standards referenced above, apply to those cadets applying for readmission to VMI. Questions may be directed to the Registrar's Office for these and other requirements for readmission.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

TRAVIS HOMIAK '95
Col (Ret.), USMC
Chief of Staff

Appendices:

A—Medical Forms

B—Program Requirements

OPR: Infirmary/Admissions

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

THIS PAGE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

ALL ITEMS BELOW ARE REQUIRED

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Today's Date: _____ **Date of Exam:** _____

Vitals: Blood Pressure: _____ **Pulse** _____

Vision: R: 20/ _____ **L: 20/** _____ **Corrected? Yes or No** (Please circle yes or no)

Normal	Abnormal		Normal	Abnormal	
		HEENT (Head, eyes, ears, nose, throat)			Abdomen
		Teeth and jaw			Skin
		Neck and thyroid			Spine, other musculoskeletal
		Ears (can hear whisper)			Upper extremities
		Eyes			Lower extremities
		Lungs and chest			Feet
		Heart- (lying and standing/valsava)			Neurological
		Vascular System - (Femoral pulses equal B/L)	NO ☐	YES ☐	*Any stigmata of Marfan syndrome?

* (i.e. arm span > height, thumb sign, wrist sign, kyphoscoliosis, pectus excavatum or carinatum, etc.)

1. Remarks: (Describe every abnormality in detail) _____

2. Are you aware of any psychological concerns now or in the past? YES _____ NO _____ (If yes, describe in detail, use additional sheet If necessary.) _____

3. The applicant may participate in VMI's required boxing course? YES _____ NO _____
4. The applicant is cleared for full participation in NCAA Athletics and required PE courses. YES _____ NO _____
5. This applicant is cleared for participation in ROTC, a program not more physically strenuous than a normal college PE program. YES _____ NO _____
6. How long has your practice known the applicant? _____

Please see that ALL ITEMS ARE COMPLETED before returning this form.

Printed name _____ Telephone _____

Office address _____ Fax _____

Signature _____ MD/DO/NP/PA

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

ALL ITEMS ABOVE ARE REQUIRED

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
BODY FAT MEASUREMENT FORM
REQUIRED FOR ALL APPLICANTS

TO BE COMPLETED BY A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL OR ATHLETIC TRAINER
Please see diagram below for tape measurement illustration.

Applicant's Name: _____

Male

Height: _____ (inches)

Weight: _____ (pounds)

Neck: _____ (to the nearest ½ inch)

Waist #1	Waist #2	Waist #3

Please measure waist THREE times to improve accuracy

**Measure to nearest 1/2 inch*

Female

Height: _____ (inches)

Weight: _____ (pounds)

Neck: _____ (to the nearest ½ inch)

Hips: _____ (to the nearest ½ inch)

Waist #1	Waist #2	Waist #3

Please measure waist THREE times to improve accuracy

**Measure to nearest 1/2 inch*

Signature: _____

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL OR ATHLETIC TRAINER

Printed Name: _____

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL OR ATHLETIC TRAINER

Date: _____



NECK - Men



NECK - Men



Figure B-3. Male tape measurement illustration



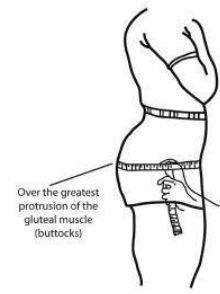
NECK - Women



WAIST - Women



HIP - Women
side measurement



HIP - Women
side measurement

Figure B-4. Female tape measurement illustration

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

IMMUNIZATION RECORD

This form must be **completed and signed** by the applicant's health care provider.

Applicant's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

REQUIRED: The following immunizations are required for enrollment at VMI.

1. Diphtheria-Tetanus (DTP) or Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP): **(Mandatory)**
Date of completion of childhood series ____/____/____
2. Hepatitis B: **(Mandatory)**
Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____ Date of 3rd dose ____/____/____
3. Meningococcal conjugate or MenACWY vaccines (Menveo®, MenQuadfi®, Penbraya® or PENMENVY®):
(Mandatory – One dose after age 16 required)
Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____
4. Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR): **(Mandatory)**
TWO IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED. THE FIRST ONE AFTER THE FIRST BIRTHDAY; THE SECOND ONE NO SOONER THAN ONE MONTH LATER OR ANY TIME THEREAFTER.
Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____
5. Poliomyelitis: **(Mandatory)**
Date of completion of primary series ____/____/____
6. Tdap Booster: **(Mandatory)**
Date of last booster ____/____/____ **(Must be within 10 years of matriculation)**
7. Chicken Pox (had disease) Yes____ No____ or Immunization Date(s) Date of 1st dose ____/____/____
(2 doses mandatory if no disease) Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____
8. Tuberculin Test: **(Required for applicants who have lived or traveled extensively overseas)**
Date ____/____/____ Result: (mm induration: _____)
CHEST XRAY RESULTS: (only if POSITIVE) _____
Treatment? _____

RECOMMENDED: The following immunizations are recommended.

If you have not had these vaccines, ask your provider why.

COVID-19 (Highly Recommended)

Indicate which vaccine ☐ Pfizer ☐ Moderna ☐ J&J ☐ Other specify _____

Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____ Date of Booster ____/____/____

Hepatitis A (Recommended)

Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____

HPV (HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE) (Highly Recommended)

Applicant had the 2 dose OR 3 dose series

Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____ Date of 3rd dose ____/____/____

Meningococcal B or Serogroup B meningococcal vaccines (Bexsero®, Trumenba®, Penbraya® or PENMENVY®)

Discuss with your provider Applicant had the 2 dose OR 3 does series

Date of 1st dose ____/____/____ Date of 2nd dose ____/____/____ Date of 3rd dose ____/____/____

Nurse/Provider Signature

Nurse/Provider Printed Name

Date

City, State, Zip Code

Area Code & Phone Number

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

CADET HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

PLEASE INCLUDE A CLEAR COPY OF BOTH SIDES OF INSURANCE CARD WITH THIS FORM

CADET INFO

Cadet's Name: _____

Cadet's Date of Birth: _____

Cadet's Cell Phone: _____

FOR NCAA ATHLETES

ONLY

Sport: _____

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE. THEN PROCEED TO PAGE 2.

POLICYHOLDER INFO

Policyholder's Name: _____ Policyholder's DOB: _____

Policyholder's Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Policyholder's Phone: Cell: _____

Home: _____ Work: _____

Policyholder's Employer: _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Insurance Company Name: _____

Insurance Company's Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Insurance Company's Phone Number: _____

Insured's Policy/ID #: _____ Group # or Name: _____

Do you need a referral from your PCP for x-ray or off post appointment? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, what is the PCP's name? _____ PCP's Phone # _____

***Cadets / Parents/ Guardians are responsible for obtaining referrals from PCPs ***

Do you have prescription coverage? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please provide a copy of medical/prescription information including co-payment amount.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFO

Parent/Guardian

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

EMERGENCY

If parent(s) or guardian(s) listed above cannot be contacted, please notify the following:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

MILITARY INFO

Military Dependents:

Military Dependent covered by Tricare _____ Yes _____ No

Please check which coverage: _____ Tricare Select _____ Tricare Prime

PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE A COPY OF THE APPLICANT'S MILITARY ID CARD

Because of recurrent problems with PCM assignment/referrals for off post care for cadets while here at VMI, we urge switching your cadet to **TRICARE SELECT** instead of **TRICARE PRIME**. Details are available from your local Tricare Service Center or you may want to visit the TRICARE website <http://www.mytricare.com>

CONSENT

I give consent for my cadet to receive treatment at the VMI Infirmary and for any other treatment or testing needed off post. ***I will notify the VMI Infirmary immediately of any changes in my cadet's insurance coverage via <http://vmi.medicatconnect.com>.***

Signature of Parent/Guardian (Required if cadet is under 18): _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

NCAA ATHLETES ONLY

For NCAA Athletes Only

- ☐ I have read and understand VMI's Athletic Insurance policy which is available online at www.vmi.edu. To view policy, click on the following tabs: Athletics (homepage) > Inside Athletics > Sports Medicine.
- ☐ I will comply with all medical insurance policies and procedures and I agree to the terms of the coverage. Following any medical services, I understand that I have 30 days to send bills and explanations of benefits to VMI Sports Medicine or I may become financially responsible.
- ☐ I will notify VMI Sports Medicine immediately upon any change in my cadet's health insurance coverage.

Date: _____ Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian _____

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

CERTIFICATE OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR VMI

The Virginia Military Institute's unique program of undergraduate education requires that cadets fully participate in all aspects of the program and meet its rigorous physical and psychological demands, including the intense freshman (rat) year, ROTC physical fitness tests, mandatory physical education and mandatory ROTC classes, including handling and maintaining weapons.

Examples of the specific demands that will be made are provided below. The list is not intended to be complete, but merely representative of the challenges of the VMI program. It is important to understand that none of these activities or expectations occur in isolation but many in combination. The demands placed upon each cadet's physical and mental resources are purposefully extraordinary, but so is the resulting VMI graduate.

Mandatory Physical Education and Training Requirements:

- Boxing
- Swimming
- VMI Fitness Test (timed run, push-ups, sit-ups)

Mandatory Rat Challenge Activities:

- 5-mile runs
- Forced marches of varying length and intensity
- High level entry into water
- Group and individual obstacle courses
- Rappelling (Approximately 150 feet)
- Rock climbing

Fourth Class Training:

- Intense workouts of 15 minutes or more (e.g. Push-ups, running in place, Crunches, Leg lifts)
- Forced marches
- Constant climbing of four (4) flights of stairs

Living Conditions:

- Close quarters (4 or more to a room)
- Minute regulation of all aspects of conduct
- Constant unpredictable and rigorous demands
- Extremely limited free time, very limited sleep
- Mandatory mutual reliance upon others (extreme peer pressure)

All 6 lines below must be completed, or form cannot be processed

1. _____ is, to the best of my knowledge, physically and mentally fit and able to meet all the
Applicant's Name (print) demands of a VMI education.

2. _____ Date _____
Applicant's Signature

3. _____ Date _____
Parent /Guardian's Signature even if applicant is 18 or older

4. _____ Date _____
Health Care Provider's Signature (MD/DO/NP/PA)

5. _____
Printed Name of Health Care Provider or stamp **Provider Telephone Number**

Medical Release

With my signature below, I grant permission for a member of the Medical Staff of the VMI Health Center to communicate with the provider listed above regarding my health/my child's health as it applies to admission to Virginia Military Institute.

6. _____ Date _____
Applicant's Signature if over 18 **OR Parent/Guardian Signature** if applicant is under 18

VMI PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Rat Year General Activities

Straining (at a rigid position, arms at sides, chin in)

Walking the Ratline (a prescribed route in barracks while straining)

Climbing stairs at a quick pace to the 4th stoop

Running (1-9 miles over hilly terrain) Marching

Rifle Manual

Calisthenics (upper and lower body)

Push-ups

Periods of prolonged standing/walking/marching

Cadre Week Crucible Event (extended period of physical exertion with intense upper and lower body workouts)

Periods of high stress from adversarial system (receiving instruction and learning from cadre and upperclassmen in a direct, intense manner) and accomplishing required activities in the time allotted

Limited free time with busy daily and weekly schedules of academic, military, athletic, and fitness activities

Limited ability to go off Post during the week

Early morning wake-ups and long daily schedule

Cannot use beds until after 10:15 PM

Rat Challenge Activities (Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sep – Nov)

Running (2-7 miles)

Calisthenics (including push-ups, sit ups)

Log Physical Training (lifting logs; upper body)

Obstacle Courses

Timed Obstacle Course (running, climbing; upper and lower body)

Rope Climbing (upper body)

Multiple High Rope Stations (balance, upper body) Multiple

Obstacle Stations (upper body)

Team Wall Climbing (upper body)

Pull-up and Monkey Bar Stations (upper body)

Rappelling (upper and lower body)

Climbing (170-foot cliff and House Mountain; upper and lower body)

Stretcher Carry and Sandbag Relays (upper and lower body)

Rat Disciplinary Committee and Rat Training Activities

Sweat Parties (high impact calisthenics for 15-minute periods)

Road Marches (3-20 miles with rifles and rucksacks)

Rat Line Culmination Activities (periods of high intensity workouts with upper and lower body workouts)

Physical Education Requirements

Mandatory boxing class

Mandatory swimming class

Other Human Performance and Wellness course elective requirements

Physical Fitness Requirements (All cadets; minimum of once per semester)

VMI Fitness Test (push-ups, sit-ups, timed run)

Service ROTC Fitness Tests (vary by service; 1 ½ -- 3 mile runs, sit-ups, push-ups, and pull-ups included)

Physical Training Time (PTT) twice weekly (calisthenics, sit-ups, pull-ups, push-ups running 1 ½ --7 miles)

Remedial Physical Training for VFT and weight/body fat failures

Weight and Body Fat Requirements (see website)

Other Cadet Activities and Environment

Attending mandatory class and/or other formations daily

Weekly parades and parade practices

Field Training Exercises (48 – 96 hours at off Post locations; involves sleeping in tents, marching with full packs and weapons; military training exercises)

Weapons firing and maintenance

Rifles and bayonets stored in rooms

Mandatory events attendance (athletic, distinguished speakers, and other VMI events)

Non-air conditioned barracks and no refrigerators in rooms

3-5 cadets per barracks room

Academic Requirements

135 credit hours required for degree completion

Mandatory 4 years of ROTC and leadership courses

Mandatory 4 years of Physical Education courses

Minimum 12 credit hours required per semester; normal course load is 15-18 hours