Dear Parents,

A new academic year is a time to seize opportunities, to renew our commitment to excellence, and to step forward to overcome new challenges. This is true for the Institute, but it is also true for your cadet.

We are entering this new year having scored some notable successes last year.

• Academically, a cadet and a faculty member were named Fulbright Scholars; another faculty member received the Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award; and the quality enhancement plan we undertook during our 2017 accreditation effort, Math That Matters, continues to mature as it was rolled out to 4th Class cadets.

• Noted speakers who came to post included a highly regarded presidential historian; former U.S. secretaries of Defense and Education; and Carolyn Miles, CEO of Save the Children, who was awarded the Jonathan Myrick Daniels ’61 Humanitarian Award.

• In the military arena, Army ROTC received the prestigious MacArthur Award as the best ROTC unit in the nation; a cadet was recognized as the top Army ROTC cadet in the nation; another cadet received the top leadership award from the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States; and the VMI team performed well in the grueling Sandhurst Competition held at West Point.

• In sports, the club sport power lifting team set 11 state records and four world records, with the women’s team finishing first in the nation; both NCAA wrestlers and the basketball team bested the Citadel; and VMI played host to the Southern Conference indoor track championship and the historic VMI winter relays, giving us the opportunity to present the new Corps Physical Training Facility with high-level competition.

In the coming year you will see continued growth at VMI. The obvious signs will include major construction and renovation projects, as well as enhanced security features; less visible will be such things as steady progress in the evolution and maturation of our academic program as we work to ensure the VMI diploma remains the passport to success in life.

You will notice the demolition of the old Bachelor Officer’s Quarters as you enter post on Letcher Avenue and rising in its place a new headquarters for the VMI Police; Preston Library will undergo a thorough floor-by-floor updating; and a major new addition will be built to enlarge space for academic departments in Scott Shipp Hall. We will break ground for a new Aquatics Center next to the Corps Physical Training Facility on Main Street. Finally, significant construction work will upgrade our post infrastructure.

These projects may have impacts on traffic flow from time to time. Refer to the website for updates as the year progresses. Also, see pages 7 and 18 about how to sign up for text alerts during games and major events.

Most importantly, I want to emphasize to you that families are very much a key to the success of cadets. By selecting VMI, a cadet commits to a unique form of education. A cadet’s journey over four years is not easy, but it is one that is surely worth the making. I ask, whether you are a parent of a new cadet or of a returning member of the Old Corps, that you continue to support your cadet with objective, mature advice and encouragement, and that you support the Institute as it applies its unique and time-proven adversarial system, regulations, and transformative processes.

A key transformative process at VMI is the honor system. It is the very foundation on which the Corps and the Institute operates...and the single-sanction aspect of our honor system is what distinguishes VMI from honor systems in high schools and at other colleges. At graduation, if not before, cadets come to recognize the VMI Honor Code and the system that undergirds it as one of their most cherished possessions...and, I believe, it will instill a “life of honor” as they lead their families, communities, and our nation in the days ahead.

We strongly encourage commissioning and service to the nation for a short period of time by our cadets before they transition to their chosen profession in the spirit of being citizen-soldiers. Commissioning in any branch and in active, guard, or reserve service is a “capstone” to the leadership training and routine they experience at the Institute. It sets them up so well for life. The professions—law, medicine, business, etc.—are actively seeking former commissioned officers to join their ranks. The recently graduating Class of 2019 commissioned over half of its members into all four branches of the service.

Please discuss the breadth of options and advantages commissioned service offers with your cadet and his or her ROTC professors.

Social media continues to be of concern. We work hard to educate cadets that social media is a double-edged sword—it can connect friends, but if it is used carelessly it has the potential to end a career before it starts. If you see a posting on social media that you find concerning, please contact the VMI Parents Council or VMI before entering the fray. They and we can provide context and correct information.
I count on parents to reinforce all aspects of our honor system; to exert discipline in the area of social media; to address the challenge of alcohol and sexual conduct; and to emphasize safety in all actions. The following pages describe our activities and efforts to meet the challenges of a very busy new academic year, and I hope that this letter provides useful information that will facilitate your planning. I very much look forward to welcoming you and your cadet back to the Institute in August. Moreover, I thank you for your trust in us by sending your cadet to our care and their education.

Sincerely,

J.H. Binford Peay III ’62
General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Superintendent.

Secretary Esper Visits Post
Secretary of the Army Mark Esper visits VMI April 11 to speak with Army ROTC cadre and cadets. During a town hall discussion in Gillis Theater, cadets had the chance to ask questions about their prospective careers as Army officers, leadership within the organization, and the future of the U.S. Army. His visit also included a tour of post, lunch with cadet leaders, and a meeting with the superintendent.—VMI Photos by Kelly Nye and Maj. John Robertson IV.

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Cadet Life

Blue Book

The Blue Book contains the rules and regulations that govern a cadet’s daily life, from matriculation to graduation. Cadet knowledge and understanding of “status”—right place, right time, right uniform, doing the right thing—is a constant and continuous point of emphasis. It is the responsibility of all cadets to know when they are in an “all right” status and when to place themselves on report. Cadets should refer to the Blue Book with frequency and ask questions if unsure of rules or procedures.

Honor Code

Cadets live by the VMI Honor Code, which states that “A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do.” Cadets must ensure that their actions are in line with the Honor Code’s standards, and that they do not turn simple Blue Book violations into Honor Code violations through being untruthful.

The Honor Court, which is comprised of fourteen 1st and 2nd Class cadets, is responsible for educating cadets on the Honor Code. In addition to education, the Honor Court is responsible for adjudicating reported violations of the Honor Code.

The honor system is a single-sanction system. The sanction for any breach of honor is dismissal.

Dating

VMI’s military-based regimental system operating in the close quarters of barracks requires strict rules about relationships within the Corps. No cadet may date another cadet within his or her chain of command. Since the focus of the 4th Class year is training, all dating within the Corps is prohibited during the 4th Class year.

Motor Vehicle Use for Cadets

VMI restricts most cadet use of automobiles, and the Institute expects consistent and continued parental support for these policies.

Only 1st Class cadets with full class privileges are authorized to register, maintain, and operate a motor vehicle in Rockbridge County. However, 2nd and 3rd Class cadets who are active members of drilling Reserve or National Guard units outside of Rockbridge County may request permission to store a car in VMI-designated parking areas for the sole purpose of attending drill.

Upon returning for the start of the fall semester, 1st Class cadets must register their vehicles, and each will be provided a designated location for parking. Parking spaces will be provided on post.

New cadets study the rat bible during breakfast in Crozet Hall.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Cadets learn honor lessons during the first week of the Rat Line.—VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.
Standards

Superintendent’s Newsletter

for nearly half of the 1st Class vehicles. Parking spaces for the remaining vehicles will be provided at a remote parking area. The goal is to provide at least one permanent parking space on post for each 1st Class room.

Parents are reminded that parking fines and penalties for unauthorized vehicles or non-registered cadet vehicles are strictly enforced.

There are exceptions to the parking regulations for major conferences and Corps events.

Use of Social Media

vmi.edu/ITApproUse
vmi.edu/GO71

VMI takes the proper use of social media very seriously. Social media is constantly monitored by law enforcement, media organizations, and others. If a post to any social media site, such as Jodel or Twitter, is perceived as threatening, the consequences can be serious for the cadet who made the post. Though cadets may believe they are posting anonymously, the source of the post can usually be discovered and the post could lead to legal action or dismissal from the Institute.

Parents should remind their cadets that social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are checked by employers to screen applicants for hire and by the federal government for security clearances. Careless posts could be used as the basis to deny a cadet employment or the security clearance needed for employment in the future.

A good rule for social media posts is, “If you wouldn’t want your family to see it, you shouldn’t post it.”

Parents are encouraged to follow official VMI accounts and those administered by the VMI Parents’ Council to ensure they are receiving accurate information. Parents should also be wary of social media accounts mimicking VMI’s official accounts, which have spread misinformation in past years.

Post Safety

Weapons

vmi.edu/GO25

A state regulation prohibits possessing, carrying, or storing any weapon by any person, except a police officer, in any building on post and at any event held on post. This restriction applies to everyone: cadets (except where authorized by the Cadet Weapons Policy), parents, faculty, staff, and the public.

Cadets may not bring personal weapons onto VMI property unless they are current members of the Skeet or Marksmanship clubs and have the appropriate authorization from the commandant’s office. Exceptions to this policy are very rare. Cadets who wish to bring a privately owned weapon to VMI for official business must submit a permit to the superintendent through the commandant’s office.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs

vmi.edu/GO02
vmi.edu/GO53

At VMI, preventing underage drinking is a primary goal—but it is a goal that cannot be achieved without parental support. The freedom that college brings tempts many students, including cadets, to test their limits, but when it comes to alcohol, parents should remind their cadets that underage drinking is illegal and drinking to excess can be fatal.

Another key point of this conversation should be that alcohol is not necessary to have a good time nor is its use a sign of maturity.

All new cadets must complete “Alcohol Wise,” an online training program, before matriculation. Throughout the year, the Center for Cadet Counseling offers events, such
as a drunk driving simulator brought in by the Virginia State Police, to increase cadets’ awareness of the dangers of alcohol abuse. There is also an anonymous, online self-assessment for substance abuse on the Center for Cadet Counseling’s website.

Cadets caught with alcohol in barracks are automatically referred for substance abuse education offered by the counseling center.

Though strict rules, stiff penalties, and constant briefings deter most cadets from serious alcohol incidents both on and off post, parents should remind cadets of the risks associated with infractions of these rules.

Disciplinary actions following a first violation, either on or off post, include several months of confinement, many hours of marching, demerits, and conduct probation. A second alcohol-related offense will normally draw a suspension, and a third offense, a dismissal. Depending on the seriousness of any offense, VMI reserves the right to suspend or dismiss a cadet.

The Institute needs the support of parents in discouraging cadets from engaging in underage drinking and alcohol abuse. Parents are urged not to make local dwellings available to cadets as locations for parties or to make alcohol available to underage cadets or to any cadet in violation of Institute regulations. This includes tailgating, where alcohol is prohibited for everyone.

A new state law prohibits the purchase or possession of tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, and alternative nicotine products by individuals under 21 years of age.

VMI maintains a zero-tolerance stance in regard to the illegal use of drugs. The use of illegal drugs and the illegal use of prescription medications by cadets will normally result in automatic dismissal.

General Order Number 53, Policy on Prohibiting Controlled Substances and Drug Paraphernalia, authorizes VMI to randomly test cadets, on a periodic basis during the academic year and with regularity after furloughs, for the presence of illegal drugs and controlled substances.

**Former Secretary of the Army Laid to Rest**

In a ceremony attended by many dignitaries and an honor guard of cadets, former Secretary of the Army and Congressman John O. Marsh Jr. is laid to rest at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park Feb. 15. Marsh, who died Feb. 4, 2019, at the age of 92, served as secretary of the Army under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia from 1963 to 1971. His longstanding relationship with VMI included serving on the Board of Visitors and giving the speech to first-year cadets at the New Cadet Oath Ceremony for 25 years. In 2006, he was awarded the New Market Medal in recognition of his contributions to the Institute. —VMI Photos by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.
Emergency Management
vmi.edu/cadet-life/health-and-safety/emergency-management

At VMI, ensuring the safety of the Corps of Cadets, faculty, staff, and visitors to post is a primary goal. VMI takes a proactive approach to effective communication through the RAVE Alert system, which allows VMI to instantly send emergency information to users via text messaging and email. In addition, the RAVE Alert system is integrated into post systems that include an external public address system and the phone system. This is a no-cost service to cadets. Cadets are given the opportunity to participate in or opt out of this program during the registration process. VMI encourages cadets to sign up for this service to receive immediate alerts when threatening situations arise such as natural disasters, fires, bomb threats, or acts of violence.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention
vmi.edu/GO02
vmi.edu/GO16

VMI takes a proactive stance on preventing sexual misconduct, emphasizing safe choices, responsible behavior, and concern for the welfare of others. Because alcohol is involved in 80 percent of sexual assaults that occur on college campuses, parents should urge their cadets to take seriously Institute training and policies regarding alcohol.

VMI works closely with Project Horizon, a local organization whose purpose is to reduce dating, domestic, and sexual violence. The Institute has a memorandum of understanding with Project Horizon, ensuring that its resources are available to cadets, faculty, and staff and that all are informed of its services.

VMI’s policies concerning alcohol abuse and sexual misconduct are outlined in General Orders 2 and 16 and apply to cadets and employees, on and off post. Outside the judicial system, the penalty for cadet violations of either policy is normally dismissal from the Institute. New cadets and their parents should familiarize themselves with both orders prior to matriculation.

Health and Wellness

Infirmary

A modern infirmary, with 24-hour nursing provided, is located on post. The infirmary offers full primary care services in a confidential setting. A doctor and nurse practitioner are available daily. There is no charge for infirmary visits or the medical care provided there. All medical conditions that must be treated on post are treated at the cadet’s expense. Emergencies are referred to the local hospital, Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital.

Cadets are permitted to keep personal prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in a lockbox in their rooms. With proper documentation, the Institute physician will refill maintenance medications such as those for asthma, ADHD, etc. Most routinely prescribed medications are available on post at no charge, along with over-the-counter medications, but cadets also have the right to have prescriptions filled at a local pharmacy of their choice.

A team of local orthopedists visits weekly to assess and treat cadet injuries, both sports and non-sports related. Those visits are billed to the cadet’s insurance carrier.

Free flu shots are offered to cadets in the fall. In addition, the HPV vaccine is recommended for all cadets.

It is strongly recommended that any cadet not covered by his or her parents’ health insurance purchase a personal health insurance policy.

Each cadet is automatically enrolled in an accident insurance policy which will cover up to $5,000 for an injury incurred while participating in official VMI activities. This insurance policy will be secondary to any health care coverage provided by families. All international students are assessed a mandatory health insurance fee which covers the cost of a student medical insurance policy. Call the Post Infirmary at 540-464-7218 for additional information or visit vmi.edu/infirmary.

Mental Health

The Center for Cadet Counseling, located on the second floor of the Post Hospital, stands ready to assist cadets with their mental health needs. Among the center’s many offerings are health and wellness programs; free, confidential individual assessment and counseling; crisis intervention; and consultation.

The professional and licensed staff at the Center for Cadet Counseling view cadets from a strength-based perspective and routinely encourage cadets to develop resilience skills to help them bounce back more quickly from adversity and the rigors of the VMI
system. Topics of interest to cadets include maintaining emotional well-being, stress management, alcohol and drug abuse prevention, and building healthy relationships.

The third annual cadet health and wellness fair is planned for Sept. 18, 2019.

For more information, please call 540-464-7667 or visit vmi.edu/counseling.

Nutrition

Parkhurst Dining, which manages all of the Institute’s food service operations, emphasizes fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Crozet Hall offers gluten-free and allergen-free options for cadets, along with vegetarian fare.

Proper nutrition is vital for all cadets, but especially for new cadets, who are adjusting to the rigors of the Rat Line, while also adjusting to the physical challenges of military training and the intense demands of college-level academics. Parents should encourage their cadets to take nutrition seriously and to seek help if necessary.

Extracurriculars

At VMI, opportunities for cadet engagement in sports and activities abound. Options are as varied as cadets’ imaginations, and if a cadet would like to start a new club, he or she is welcome to do so. All club sports and activities are cadet-run, providing members of the Corps with a wide variety of leadership roles.

NCAA Sports

VMI competes in Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The Institute fields men’s teams for baseball, basketball, cross country, football, lacrosse, rifle, soccer, swimming and diving, track
and field, and wrestling. For women, NCAA sports offered are cross country, rifle, soccer, swimming and diving, track and field, and water polo. In addition to scholarship and recruited athletes, there are tryouts at the start of each NCAA season for cadets of all classes to earn a place on VMI’s NCAA teams.

**Club Sports**

VMI offers 22 club sports, including but not limited to boxing, basketball, lacrosse, golf, volleyball, and running. In many cases, VMI offers both NCAA and club versions of a sport, so cadets who are not NCAA athletes can still participate in their chosen sport. This is true for baseball, basketball, lacrosse, and soccer.

All club sports welcome beginners, and there is no additional fee for participation in club sports. In the spring of 2019, club sports attracted over 560 cadets. Club sports are well coached and well resourced.

New cadets may not participate until after Breakout.

**Clubs and activities**

Cadet activities are as varied as cadets themselves. Music is very much a part of life at VMI, as evidenced by the Regimental Band, Institute Brass, the Pipe and Drum Band, Glee Club, and more. Band Company is one of the 10 companies which make up the Corps of Cadets, and any cadet is welcome to participate in the Regimental Band.

Community service is a key theme of many cadet activities such as EMTs, Lexington Firefighters, Building BRIDGES, and more. Other clubs, such as the Fishing Club and Ducks Unlimited, mix service with enjoyable activities. Still others, such as the Theater Club and Tabletop Club (board games) are primarily about fun and camaraderie. No matter what activity a cadet might enjoy for relaxation and fellowship, chances are good it can be found at VMI.

**Religious Observance**

VMI respects the religious convictions of each cadet regardless of his or her faith. Cadets are not required to attend any religious services while at the Institute, but the chaplains’ office supports cadets who wish to express or deepen their faith.

Many cadets attend churches in downtown Lexington where they are welcomed by community members. A chapel service is held each Sunday evening during the academic year at 8 p.m. in Jackson Memorial Hall. An adopt-a-rat program provides cadets the opportunity to be “adopted” by a local family, and relationships built in this way can last throughout the cadetship and beyond.

The chaplains’ office provides opportunities for mission trips, often over spring furlough. It also works to accommodate the religious needs of all cadets and provides pastoral care and mentoring, regardless of religious affiliation.
Academic Support

VMI’s academic support offices have one purpose: to further cadet success. All cadets are encouraged to take advantage of the assistance provided. There is no extra charge for any academic support service at VMI.

**Miller Academic Center**

202 Carroll Hall

The Miller Academic Center supports cadet learning in a variety of ways, among them group study sessions open to all cadets and “academic Saturdays” for 4th Class cadets. “Academic Saturday” topics include time management, navigating course registration, and how to read a college textbook, among many other topics. Staff at the center also strive to teach subject-appropriate study skills, as well as the concept that when it comes to study, quantity does not equal quality.

Cadets on academic probation are invited to the center to learn what they can do to improve their standing, but when it comes to academic difficulties, prevention is key. Parents should stress that seeking help when necessary is a necessary life skill, and no one will think less of cadets who request academic support.

For the 2019-20 academic year, plans call for GRE study sessions for cadets interested in graduate study.

MAC staff is available from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday for individual meetings. Interested cadets may schedule an appointment or drop by. Appointments are encouraged.

**Writing Center**

215 Carroll Hall

The Writing Center extends and complements the classroom-based writing instruction at VMI by providing assistance with all stages of the writing process, from choosing a topic to polishing a final draft. Cadets of all majors and all class years are encouraged to utilize the center’s services.

The center serves as a space for both professional and cadet consultants to offer feedback on all forms of writing, from cover letters, resumes, lab reports, honors theses, presentations, speeches, and creative writing assignments. Consultants can also help with out-of-classroom

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Graduation
Cheered and celebrated by families and friends, approximately 300 cadets receive diplomas in Cameron Hall May 16. Graduation speaker for the Class of 2019, Gen. J. H. Binford Peay III ’62, superintendent, told those graduating that hard work and learned wisdom are still the keys to success in life. Graduates included Alec Hoopes ’19, the No. 1 ranked Army cadet in the country, and Annika Tice ’19, the first cadet
Superintendent's Newsletter

Academics

Writing such as resumes, personal statements, thank-you letters, and more.

Among the center’s offerings is a team of consultants specializing in digital and multimodal projects, including websites, podcasts, and videos, to assist cadets composing digital projects for classes. At the Writing Center, the VMI honor code is strongly upheld, and at no point do Writing Center consultants ever rewrite or rephrase cadet writing.

Appointments are strongly encouraged, especially at busy times during the academic year, although walk-ins are welcome.

Math Resource Center

Preston Library

The Math Resource Center is open to all cadets in need of help with mathematics. Tutors, a mix of adults from the local community and STEM major cadets, help with math assignments from a variety of classes, including but not limited to Math That Matters, calculus and analytic geometry, fundamentals of matrix algebra, and differential equations. Walk-ins are welcome; no appointments are necessary. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. The Math Resource Center will move to the sixth floor of Preston Library, next to the VMI Center for Undergraduate Research, once library renovations are complete.

VMI Center for Undergraduate Research

Preston Library

During their time at VMI, cadets will have the opportunity to partner with faculty and conduct research under a wide range of academic disciplines from the time they matriculate. The VMI Center for Undergraduate Research holds workshops and information sessions on those opportunities and also provides funding for research supplies and travel.

After their research is completed, VMI offers its own Undergraduate Research Symposium, held on post each spring, usually in mid-April, as well as a Southern Conference-wide undergraduate research forum in the fall, for cadets to present their findings. Proposals for the Undergraduate Research Symposium are due in March.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Institute allows cadets to work alongside a faculty member in an area of dedicated study over the summer. The deadline to apply for SURI funding is Feb. 15. Two other summer programs administered by VCUR have deadlines in mid-March. Those are the Applied and Industrial Mathematics program and the VMI/Virginia Commonwealth University engineering memorandum of understanding.

Office of Career Services

311 Carroll Hall

The Office of Career Services seeks to meet the needs of every cadet, whether commissioning or non-commissioning, with activities, workshops, and individualized counseling designed to identify and build upon career-related strengths and interests. Staff with the Office of Career Services are available throughout the cadetship to assist not only with identification of strengths and interests, but also internship placement, resume writing, and job interviews. Emphasis is placed on preparation for long-term career development and growth.

Online resources available to all cadets include KeydetConnect, which matches cadets with employers seeking both interns and permanent employees. The Office of Career Services also offers a full complement of online tools designed to identify a wide variety of careers possible for each major. For cadets interested in graduate study, the office provides numerous resources to prepare for entrance exams such as the GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc.

Each fall and spring, VMI hosts an annual Career Fair, with a wide mix of employers represented. The Office

Continued on next page
Academics

Academic Year 2019-20

Leadership programs, faculty, alumni, military colleges, students from other cadets from peer institutions and senior ethical leadership challenge. VMI cadets, discussions, interactive exercises, and an recognized speakers, table group dis takes place Oct. 28-29 in Marshall Hall

Challenging Leadership at Every Turn”
refine their ethical decision-making.
stimulate cadets’ critical thinking and
tance. The conference’s goal is to
address leadership and ethical issues of national impor

This conference addresses leadership
and the environment.
such as STEM education, cyber defense,
and think-tank communities on topics
demia, business, government, military,
strategic outreach to leaders in aca

Institutional and nationally recognized
speakers and conferences help broaden
the Corps’ perspectives on leadership
and prepare them to tackle issues of na

The center’s programs will focus on “Leadership
in a Fractured World” as its guiding programmatic theme for the 2019-20 academic year.

Institutional and nationally recognized
speakers and conferences help broaden
the Corps’ perspectives on leadership
and prepare them to tackle issues of na

The center’s capstone event is the
VMI Leadership and Ethics Conference. This conference addresses leadership and ethical issues of national importance. This conference’s goal is to stimulate cadets’ critical thinking and refine their ethical decision-making.

This year’s conference titled “Disruption: Challenging Leadership at Every Turn” takes place Oct. 28-29 in Marshall Hall and will incorporate internationally recognized speakers, table group discussions, interactive exercises, and an ethical leadership challenge. VMI cadets, cadets from peer institutions and senior military colleges, students from other leadership programs, faculty, alumni, and interested outside attendees participate annually.

Academic Year 2019-20 Conference Tentative Schedule:
• Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 8th VMI STEM Education Conference
• Oct. 28-29, 10th VMI Leadership and Ethics Conference
• Feb. 21-22, Commonwealth Cyber Fusion Conference
• Mar. 31-April 2, 31st Environment Virginia Symposium
• April 17-18, Business Leadership and Innovation Summit

The center sends approximately 50 cadets to conferences worldwide each year for broadening opportunities. It hosts the Leader in Residence program and the Cadet Superintendent’s Advisory Board. Center staff members teach a series of development courses for staff and faculty centered on professionalism and leadership and sponsor the Cadet Book Club. The center invites numerous speakers throughout the year that audiences have truly enjoyed.

Requirements to Graduate

All cadets should familiarize themselves with General Order 66, which outlines the requirements that must be met for cadets to participate in commencement and receive diplomas during the commencement ceremony, traditionally held on May 16 of each year.

Note: This does not impact or change the “10-hour rule.” This only applies to cadets being able to sit on the floor and cross the stage during the May 16 commencement ceremony.

Cadets are responsible for meeting all degree and graduation requirements. In order to receive their diplomas, cadets must have a conduct record that is satisfactory to the superintendent, be confirmed by the academic board, and complete all course requirements and grade-point average requirements. They also must have been in residence at VMI for at least three years.

If you are concerned that your 1st Class cadet may not meet degree requirements in time to graduate May 16, you and your cadet should be aware of the “six-hour rule” and the “10-hour rule.”

Cadets who are within six credit hours of completing degree requirements may submit an appeal to the Committee on Academic Appeals, which will consider the appeal if there are demonstrated extenuating circumstances, and if the cadet is a full-time student at VMI in the semester preceding graduation, with a 2.0 or above cumulative and major GPA, and provides proof of summer preregistration in approved classes.

If the committee grants the appeal, the cadet will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony May 16 but will not receive a degree until requirements have been met.

Cadets who are within 10 credit hours of completing degree requirements, with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, may complete the remaining hours at another college and transfer the credits to VMI. These cadets will receive their diplomas after their graduation requirements have been met and may then plan to participate in May, September, December, or January graduation ceremonies.
Financial Literacy

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges, which gives VMI accreditation, requires schools to provide financial literacy information to student loan borrowers. Financial literacy is an important part of understanding financial aid and other issues cadets may encounter during their time at the Institute.

The VMI Financial Aid office provides a webpage for cadets to learn the aspects of financial literacy.

International Programs/Study Abroad

The Office of International Programs provides cadets with individual advising to help them choose a study abroad program that best fits their personal, academic, and career goals. Study-abroad programs are open to all cadets, including STEM majors, NCAA athletes, and those who hold rank in the Corps. Cadets interested in studying abroad are encouraged to come by the office at the beginning of the fall semester to learn more about their options and, if they decide to pursue it, notify their academic advisers of their plans as soon as possible.

Cadets can study abroad for a semester or a summer, as early as the summer after their 4th Class year.

In academic year 2018–2019, VMI sent 167 cadets abroad on semester, summer, and furlough programs. Cadets traveled to or studied in Argentina, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Morocco, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Taiwan, Tanzania, and the U.K.

Semester study abroad requires a minimum grade-point average of 2.5. Summer study abroad requires a cadet to be in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of 2.0).

Important dates for study abroad:
- Spring and summer program application cycle opens: Aug. 26
- Study Abroad Fair: Sept. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. on the second floor of Crozet Hall
- Spring semester program deadline: rolling until filled, but usually middle to late October
- Summer program deadline: registered by mid-January and committed by mid-February
- Fall semester program deadline: rolling until filled, but usually middle to late April

The cost of study-abroad programs varies greatly and it is important to note that financial aid, institutional aid, and scholarships follow cadets when they go overseas on semester study abroad programs. This is not always the case for summer study abroad; however, VMI offers a number of partial scholarships that are available through a competitive process. There are also scholarship opportunities for Pell Grant recipients and numerous national scholarship opportunities for cadets interested in pursuing immersive critical language programs.

Additionally, VMI has expanded its military exchange programs and there are now opportunities available in the U.K., France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, South Korea, and Taiwan. The only additional costs are travel expenses. Cadets interested in pursuing any of these scholarship or exchange opportunities should contact Col. David Hall at 540-464-7350, halldb@vmi.edu or Mrs. Patricia Hardin at 540-464-7421, hardinpd@vmi.edu for more information.

Leadership Conference Focuses on Grit

The Center for Leadership and Ethics hosts the leadership conference, Grit and the American Character, Oct. 29-30, 2018, with attendees from VMI, the Citadel, the Air Force Academy, and various other schools. Participants heard from medal of honor recipient and author of Red Platoon, Clint Romesha, founder of Spike’s K9 fund and author of Touching the Dragon: And Other Techniques for Surviving Life’s Wars, James Hatch, and VMI alumna Elise Reed ’15 about how they dealt with unexpected life experiences.—VMI Photos by H. Lockwood McLaughlin and Kelly Nye.
Commissioning

Commissioning into the armed services is a goal for many cadets, and with good reason. A military career can last for several years or several decades. With its emphasis on virtues such as honor, duty, and service, plus the obligation to take responsibility for self and others, a military career can serve as an excellent springboard to a civilian career.

Each year, over half of the graduating class accepts a commission, and many VMI graduates make the military a career. Commissioning graduates can serve on active duty, in the National Guard, or in the Reserves.

At VMI, ROTC is an integral part of the Institute’s mission to produce citizen-soldiers. Each cadet is required to take eight semesters of ROTC training, regardless of whether he or she plans to commission. The discipline inculcated by ROTC serves cadets well in all of their future endeavors.

VMI’s Army ROTC program is the largest in the country and commissions more second lieutenants than any other Army ROTC unit in the nation. It has won the prestigious MacArthur Award, given by the U.S. Army Cadet Command, several times in recent years. The VMI Air Force ROTC is the third largest in the nation. The Naval ROTC Unit (Navy/Marine Corps) is the top commissioning unit in the nation, and it commissions more cadets into the Navy nuclear propulsion program than any other school except for the U.S. Naval Academy. VMI also provides a pathway for commissioning in the U.S. Coast Guard.

With a multitude of service branches and career paths to choose from, all cadets should strongly consider commissioning, as military service is looked upon quite favorably by civilian employers and graduate schools, who value highly the specialized skills that veterans often have.

Cadets should be aware that waivers are available for a number of medical conditions, and that each branch of the service has different medical requirements.

It is not uncommon for cadets entering VMI to select an ROTC unit, only to discover some time later that they would prefer to be part of another. Cadets wishing to switch from one ROTC unit to another should make their wishes known as early in their cadetships as possible.

Army ROTC

VMI’s Army ROTC is by far the largest of the three ROTC units on post—and offers a plethora of career paths. There are 17 basic branches in the Army, ranging from Infantry to Chemical Corps to Cyber Warfare and the Medical Service Corps. Within each branch are numerous career opportunities for cadets.

Cadets of all majors are welcome to seek a commission in the Army.

Cadets Compete in Sandhurst Competition at West Point

Cadets placed fourth in the functional fitness category among 49 other teams from around the world during the 51st annual Sandhurst Military Skills competition in West Point, New York, April 12-13. Adam Josephson ’19 won the Tom Surdyke Award for best squad leader. The award was named for a West Point cadet who died in 2016 after saving a swimmer from a rip tide. The award was presented by his father, Tim Surdyke. —Photos courtesy of United States Military Academy.

Tyler Brock ’19 receives his rank insignia from his parents during the Air Force pin-on ceremony May 15. —VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.
Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and current cadets. For additional information on how to apply for four- and three-year scholarships visit goarmy.com/rotc.

Cadets commissioning with an Army scholarship will be required to serve four years on active duty, followed by four years in the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

Cadets without scholarships can commission directly into the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve, which allows them to pursue a civilian career while serving their country on a part-time basis.

At VMI, 75 to 80 percent of cadets commissioning into the Army choose active duty, while the remainder choose to serve in the National Guard or Reserve. In fiscal year 2019, approximately 115 cadets chose to commission into the Army.

Army ROTC classwork stresses leadership training, Army structure, and functions. Army field training emphasizes physical training, marksmanship, land navigation, and tactical missions.

The Army offers a wide variety of summer training opportunities for cadets, including Airborne School, Air Assault School, Cadet Troop Leader Training, and more. In addition, the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program sends cadets each summer to countries all over the world to learn more about life outside the United States.

Army ROTC cadets can also apply for internships with government organizations such as the National Security Agency, the Army Medical Department, and the Defense Forensic Science Center. All of these summer programs are optional. Cadets who have been contract-ed into the Army must attend Advanced Camp, held at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the summer before their 1st Class year.

Navy/Marine Corps ROTC

Navy/Marine Corps ROTC offers a wide variety of career paths to cadets, and in fiscal year 2019, over 40 cadets chose to commission in either the Navy or Marine Corps.

Cadets interested in commissioning in either the Navy or the Marine Corps should be aware that scholarships are available for high school seniors through 2nd Class cadets. To have their names submitted for scholarships, cadets must have at least a 2.5 grade point average—but to obtain a scholarship, a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.2 is generally necessary. Scholarships are awarded on a national basis.

Cadets not offered scholarships may still be accepted to commission through a designation known as College Program Advanced Standing. Cadets with College Program Advanced Standing are offered a contract to commission into either the Navy or the Marine Corps but must continue to pay their own way at VMI.

Cadets of any major may seek a commission in the Marine Corps. For the Navy, there is a heavy preference for STEM majors.

Navy ROTC cadets spend their classroom time learning about leadership, the history of the Navy, navigation, naval engineering, and naval weapons, among other topics. Outside the classroom, they practice survival swimming skills in the pool and also develop their climbing skills on the climbing walls and high ropes courses at the Corps Physical Training Facility.

Marine Corps ROTC cadets learn about leadership and history in their classes, but they also study amphibious warfare and the evolution of warfare. Field work for Marine Corps ROTC cadets includes land navigation exercises, going through the leadership reaction course on the North Post, patrolling, and small unit tactics exercises.

Air Force ROTC

Commissioning numbers are strong for VMI’s Air Force ROTC, with just under 30 new 2nd lieutenants commissioning in 2019. The Air Force welcomes cadets from all majors, although academic standards are high. There are approximately 40 different occupational specialties within the Air Force.

Cadets wishing to become pilots should be aware that while private flying lessons are valuable, they are not a requirement. The Air Force ROTC now has a flight simulator, which can help prospective pilots decide if a pilot slot is the right fit for them. In addition, Air Force ROTC cadets have the opportunity to fly with the Civil Air Patrol from the Lynchburg, Virginia, airport.

Pilot slots are plentiful. In 2019, all Air Force ROTC commissioning cadets who were seeking a pilot slot and were medically cleared received them.

Recently, the Air Force has been granting fewer scholarships to college students, although this change has not affected the number of scholarships granted to high school students. High school seniors and 4th Class cadets must meet minimum score requirements on the SAT and ACT; all applicants for an Air Force ROTC scholarship must have at least a 3.0 grade point average.

Scholarship applicants should be aware that there is a national competition for scholarship money. Factors determining the assignment of scholarships include commander’s ranking, physical fitness, and grade point average. Parents should be aware that while some scholarships cover the full amount of tuition at VMI, no scholarships cover the cost of room and board.
Facilities

As the 21st century concludes its second decade, a number of construction and renovation projects are planned on post to support the Institute’s mission of preparing citizen-soldiers capable of taking their place on the global stage.

Among the projects visitors to post will notice in academic year 2019-20 are complete renovations of Preston Library and Scott Shipp Hall.

Also in the works is a new, modern home for the VMI Police Department and a widening of Anderson Drive to make the Jordan’s Point entrance to post more accessible. Both of these projects are part of the $33.2 million post infrastructure project, which is centered around a wide variety of post-wide upgrades.

Athletics, too, are part of the planned construction projects. A $41.2 million, state-of-the-art, Olympic-size aquatics center, to be built along Main Street immediately adjacent to the Corps Physical Training Facility, is slated for a 2020 groundbreaking.

All of these projects will impact vehicular traffic on post. Visitors will likely experience some delays and rerouting of traffic as the Institute strives to provide top-notch facilities for educating tomorrow’s leaders.

Preston Library

Last renovated in 1996, Preston Library is currently undergoing a complete floor-by-floor renovation and external face lift at a cost of $19.2 million. When the project is complete, the building’s elevator will service all floors, and a fire sprinkler system will be installed. Additional room will be made for the archives section of the library, with a museum-quality HVAC system to protect the rare and valuable items held there. The building will also have wireless internet connectivity available throughout. The project is slated for completion in the fall of 2020. The library will remain open for use by cadets, faculty, staff, and community members throughout the renovations.

Scott Shipp Hall

Scott Shipp Hall is home to five academic departments and is thus one of VMI’s most heavily used academic buildings. It was originally built in 1918, with an addition in 1955. A $43.2 million renovation, beginning in June 2019, is planned to ease crowding and modernize classrooms. The project will include building a 28,000-square
a foot addition onto the side of the existing building.

A small auditorium with tiered seating similar to that in Nichols Engineering Building will be added as part of the work, along with a new main entrance to the building.

The building will remain in use during the renovations, with academic departments moving from one part of the building to another as the work takes place.

The Scott Shipp Hall project should be completed in time for the 2021-22 academic year.

VMI Post Police

Housed in a building that dates to 1870, the VMI Post Police has long been in need of a more secure, modern home. This summer, work is underway to demolish the Bachelor Officers’ Quarters, which houses the police department, and construct a new facility on that site designed for the unique needs of security in higher education. The new building will match the buildings on Officers’ Row. Construction will commence in the summer of 2019 and be completed by the fall of 2020.

Anderson Drive

Anderson Drive, which runs through the Jordan’s Point area of post, serves as the primary entrance to VMI during high-traffic events such as home football games and graduation, and a secondary entrance year round. Because of its importance, Anderson Drive will be widened, and a sidewalk added, during the 2019-20 academic year. The current one-lane bridge over Woods Creek will be replaced with a two-lane bridge with a higher weight limit. This project will require the closure of Anderson Drive during the winter and spring of 2020.

Aquatics Center

Phase III of the Corps Physical Training Facility, construction of a new aquatics center to replace the 50-year-old pool in Clark King Hall, is slated for groundbreaking in the spring of 2020. The $41.2 million facility will be built along Main Street, immediately adjacent to the Corps Physical Training Facility. Construction is expected to take 20 to 22 months.

Visiting the Institute

Parades

The Corps of Cadets marches in full parade on many Friday afternoons and certain Saturday mornings during the school year. These parades—military reviews of the cadet regiment by the superintendent—are open to the public and display the level of discipline, order, and uniformity the cadets train hard to achieve. Witness one of the longest-held traditions at VMI on Friday afternoons at 4:35 and select Saturday mornings at 10:30. For the full schedule of parades, check the calendar at vmi.edu.

Parking

Parking spaces across post not otherwise designated may be used by visitors to the Institute. Free parking is also available on city streets. The two-hour time limit does not apply on weekends. No parking is allowed on Diamond and Randolph streets as spaces on those streets are reserved for residents and violators will be ticketed.

On home football game days, off-post parking is available from the Lowe’s parking lot off U.S. 11 north of Lexington. Shuttle service will run continuously.

Continued on next page
between the parking lot and Cameron Hall beginning at 9 a.m.

**Game Day**

[vmi.edu/gameday](https://vmi.edu/gameday)

Game day tailgating is one of VMI’s most memorable traditions. Tailgaters must use the Jordan’s Point entrance and, in good weather, may park on the Parade Ground for a small fee. Parking opens for tailgating at 7:30 a.m. A parade by the Corps of Cadets is held at 10:30 a.m. Following a full Corps march-on ceremony at Foster Stadium, the game typically begins at 1:30 p.m.

An on-post shuttle service runs continuously from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the football game, shuttles will be positioned at Cameron Hall to transport spectators from the stadium back to the Parade Ground area.

Alcohol is not permitted at tailgate parties or outside receptions, nor is it permitted in the football stadium. These prohibitions arise from state law as well as VMI regulations. Other items not permitted in Foster Stadium include coolers, backpacks, and weapons.

Please use clear bags to carry any items into Foster Stadium in order to facilitate security checks. Pets are not permitted at game day events. Cadets with full class privileges may use the “Visit with Family” or the “Dine by Invitation” permit to be excused from post following football games and to miss Supper Roll Call formation. Rats must return by 10 p.m. on Saturday. Upper-class cadets must return by Taps at 1 a.m.

Get up-to-the-minute information about weather, traffic, parking, and more on your cell phone. Text the word “Keydet” to 772-95.

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**VMI Commemorates Founders Day**

VMI observes Founders Day in November with a parade and a 17-gun salute to honor the nation’s veterans and the founders of VMI. The four howitzers were fired from the North Post drill fields due to wet weather.—VMI Photos by Kelly Nye and Maj. John Robertson IV.
Aug. 31-Sept. 1—New Cadet Oath Ceremony

Rats will be authorized to take the “Visit/Dine by Invitation” permit beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, and may remain off post until 10 p.m. Rats must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister 23 years of age or older, full-time member of the VMI faculty or staff, or parent of another cadet.

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 1, Gen. Peay will administer the Cadet Oath to the rat class at the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield in New Market, Virginia. At completion of a picnic (noon), the rats will relocate to the town of New Market for a 2 p.m. parade down Main Street. They will return by bus to VMI by 5 p.m. and may use the “Visit with Family” permit to leave post until 10 p.m. Rats may miss Supper Roll Call formation while using the permit but must be off post and in uniform.

Oct. 11-13—Parents Weekend

Parents may attend classes and the parade on Friday, Oct. 11; the Parents Weekend permit ends on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 8:30 p.m. Restrictions are lifted only for cadets and rats who are in the company of an authorized adult, i.e., parent or guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister 23 years of age or older, full-time member of the VMI faculty or staff, or parent of another cadet. Cadets and rats signed out on the “Parents Weekend” permit may leave the county but are not authorized to spend the night off post and must observe the following schedule: Friday, Oct. 11—return by midnight; Saturday, Oct. 12—Breakfast Roll Call (BRC) at 7 a.m., parade at 10:30 a.m., football game march-down and football game at 1 p.m., and return by 1 a.m.; Sunday, Oct. 13—cadets are released from quarters at 7 a.m. Status check is at 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 11—Founders Day

Alumni from around the country will gather on post as the Institute observes the 180th anniversary of its founding Monday, Nov. 11. Among the many activities planned are a full dress parade with salute battery and the Institute Society dinner at 6 p.m.

Nov. 22—Ring Figure

The Class of 2021 will begin its Ring Figure celebration with a class-only supper on Thursday, Nov. 21. The ring presentation ceremony will take place Friday, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m. in Cameron Hall; this ceremony is open to the public. The Ring Figure Ball will take place at 8 p.m. that evening and is restricted to cadets and their dates. Parents should be aware that any serious alcohol offense during the week of Ring Figure forfeits a cadet’s participation in Ring Figure activities, including the ring presentation. Parental support for this policy is needed, as inappropriate alcohol use can cause cadets to miss out on this milestone of their cadetship.

Nov. 23-Dec. 2—Thanksgiving Furlough

Thanksgiving furlough will begin at the completion of military duty Saturday, Nov. 23, and ends at 10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2.

Dec. 18-Jan. 13—Christmas Furlough

Christmas furlough begins at the completion of academic duty Wednesday, Dec. 18, and ends at 10 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13.

March 12-22—Spring Furlough

Spring furlough begins at completion of academic duty Thursday, March 12, and ends Sunday, March 22, at 10 p.m.

April 10-13—Easter Break

Easter break begins at completion of academic duty Friday, April 10, and ends Monday, April 13, at 10 p.m.

May 14-16—Commencement Week

At VMI, the completion of final exams does not mark the end of the academic year but rather the start of Commencement Week activities. During this period, many required events and practices are scheduled for cadets of all four classes.

The mandatory 4th Class Field Training Exercise will take place during this period. For all classes, ceremony and parade rehearsals begin May 12 in preparation for the Institute Awards, baccalaureate, and Graduation Parade Thursday, May 14; commissioning ceremonies and New Market Parade Friday, May 15; and graduation Saturday, May 16.

Summer Furlough

Summer furlough begins at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony May 16. VMI policy prohibits departures prior to graduation except in the case of family emergencies and graduations of immediate family members. Medical appointments and surgeries must be scheduled after May 16. Cadets seeking internships and summer jobs must not accept positions requiring a start earlier than May 16.

Important Information

Furlough Protocol: Cadets and families must schedule travel times, family events, and medical appointments to avoid conflicts with Corps requirements and responsibilities. Please use the following information to make plans and take particular care to build in adequate travel time to meet VMI’s departure and arrival requirements. Cadets may use Academic Days only to extend a furlough and may not depart VMI until their scheduled classes are completed. Note that cadets’ individual exam schedules may vary; talk to your cadet before scheduling end-of-semester travel.
## Critical dates—Academic Year 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Matriculation Day</td>
<td>Aug. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Corps returns</td>
<td>10 p.m. Aug. 25</td>
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<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Cadet Oath Ceremony</td>
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<td>Parents’ Weekend</td>
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<td>Homecoming Weekend</td>
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<td>Ring Figure</td>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Furlough</td>
<td>CMD Nov. 23 to 10 p.m. Dec. 2</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
<td>Dec. 15-18</td>
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<td>December Commissioning Ceremony</td>
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<td>December Graduation</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Furlough begins</td>
<td>CAD Dec. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Furlough ends</td>
<td>10 p.m. Jan. 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Furlough</td>
<td>CAD March 12 to 10 p.m. March 22</td>
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<td>Exam Period</td>
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<td>Institute Awards, Baccalaureate &amp; Graduation Parade</td>
<td>May 14</td>
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<td>Commissioning Ceremony &amp; New Market Ceremony</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>May 16</td>
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*CAD = Completion of Academic Duties

## Important Contacts

### 540 area code
- Contact a Cadet (Visitor Center): 464-7306

### Academic Information
- Dean of the Faculty: 464-7212
- Academic Advising: 464-7741
- Registrar: 464-7213
- Summer Session Office: 464-7319

### General Information
- Admissions Office: 464-7211
- Athletic Ticket Office: 464-7266
- Visitor Center: 464-7306
- VMI Bookstore: 464-7657
- VMI Museum: 464-7334

### Cadet Support
- Guard Room: 464-7294
- Athletic Advising: 464-7722

### Administrative Offices
- Chaplain’s Office: 464-7390
- Infirmary: 464-7218
- Cadet Counseling: 464-7667
- Financial Aid: 464-7208
- Information Technology: 464-7341
- Anonymous Reporting: 464-7702
- Inspector General/Title IX: 464-7072
- Office of Career Services: 464-7560
- Postal Services: 464-7745
- The Bomb (VMI yearbook): 464-7245
- The Cadet (VMI cadet newspaper): 464-7242
- Writing Center: 464-7045

### ROTC Programs
- U.S. Air Force: 464-7354
- U.S. Army: 464-7351
- U.S. Navy/Marine Corps: 464-7275

### Parents Council
- Amanda and Chris Nott: parentscouncil@vmi.edu

### To mail a package:
- Cadet (followed by name): 450 Burma Road, Virginia Military Institute, VMI Box (followed by box number), Lexington, VA 24450-0304

### To mail cards and letters:
- Cadet (followed by name): 450 Burma Road, Virginia Military Institute, VMI Box (followed by box number), Lexington, VA 24450-0304

Keep this information—tear at perforation →