



# A Message from the Superintendent

Since 1839, Virginia Military Institute has been a training ground where the citizensoldiers and leaders of the future have honed their skills and are ready to take on the challenges of our nation and commonwealth upon graduation. Our dedicated



VMI faculty, staff, and administration continue to support our time-tested mission producing yet another class of citizen-soldiers prepared to lead their families, peers, and communities. I am proud of all that was accomplished during the 2023–24 academic year.

More than 350 cadets joined the ranks of VMI alumni during this past academic year, with 53% commissioning into one of the armed services. Many more will serve the commonwealth, our communities, and the nation in the public and private sector. Others will continue their education in graduate, medical, or law school. A few graduates will return to their home countries where they will be sterling examples of the VMI experience through their leadership in their sphere of influence. The VMI experience is truly one that transcends all boundaries.

VMI continues to be a nationally recognized institution committed to the foundational principles of our unique VMI experience: the Honor Code, the Rat Line, and the regimental and class systems. Throughout these pages, you will find an array of examples highlighting our cadets, faculty, and staff successes during this past year. I continue to be amazed at our cadets' accomplishments in the classroom, on the hill as part of cadet life, and in their club and intercollegiate athletic pursuits.

The admissions, financial aid, and marketing departments, under the supervision of the chief of staff, have collaborated to update and modernize our cadet recruiting process. Moving forward, I am confident VMI is well-positioned to compete for highly qualified high school students who don't want to do ordinary.

VMI's continued success is not attributable to any single person or group. It takes everyone within the VMI community to advance the mission of the Institute. Our alumni, parents, and friends are passionate about the Institute and the many visible accomplishments of cadets and our faculty and staff. Their continued support through time, talent, and treasure is an important part of our ability to deliver on the VMI mission. I am grateful to be able to give back to the school, which has given me so much. I look forward to seeing you on post and at other VMI events this upcoming year. Rah Virginia Mil!

Respectfully,

Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85 U.S. Army (Retired)

Superintendent

# Forging 21st Century Leaders

Considering every aspect of cadet life, taking into account the needs of the future and the successes of the past, a plan has been set in place. VMI's strategic plan, entitled, "Forging 21st Century Leaders," has five key initiatives that ensure we deliver on our long-standing mission, and move us closer to achieving our vision. In the following pages, you will see the importance of these initiatives, what's already being done, and how they are critical to each student we recruit and their families.



"The Institute and the Corps have grown and evolved since our humble beginnings in 1839. But what hasn't changed is our mission to train cadets to live a life of service and integrity that focuses on honor as a way of life."—Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, VMI Superintendent

### Who are we?

We are one Corps of Cadets, organized as a regiment, led by a 1<sup>st</sup> Class regimental command and staff, with cadets assigned to 10 companies, Alpha through India and Band Company. Cadets live in barracks with four to seven in each room. They eat together, train together, and wear cadet uniforms. They live by and embody the Code of the Cadet. They stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their brother rats through their entire cadetship, facing challenges, gaining leadership experiences, building confidence, and treating each other with respect. Their cadetship is built upon a foundation of honor and integrity, embodied in the VMI Honor Code.







VMI received 5 stars out of 5 in Money magazine's Best Colleges in America list for 2024.





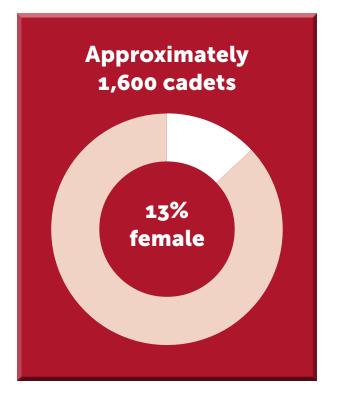


45 states and Washington D.C., as of Aug. 2023











**Prepare Exceptional Leaders** Leadership development opportunities abound at VMI. From being class president, regimental commander, battalion or company commander, member of the Honor Court, or a cadet in charge of a club to setting a strong example in the ratdyke relationship and earning additional privileges each year of cadetship, leadership opportunities are nearly limitless. The class system is a peer-to-peer structure, gaining additional rights and responsibilities each year of cadetship. Each class has a president, vice president, and historian, who are elected in the spring semester of their 4th Class year and hold that position for life. The regimental system brings military structure to the Corps of Cadets. Corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, company commanders, staff captains, and others set the course for the academic year. Each cadet captain or lieutenant applied and then was competitively selected based on their performance and leadership potential.



### **Center for Leadership and Ethics**

The Center for Leadership and Ethics (CLE) educates, engages, and inspires the Corps of Cadets, as well as faculty and staff, in leadership and character development, and shares insights gleaned from VMI's programs with a broader national audience.



The CLE conducts leader development programs for cadets and employees, as well as organizes conferences, symposia, and speaker series, engaging outside professionals, subject matter experts, and leading practitioners with the VMI community. The annual Leadership Conference in the fall offers national conversations on diverse themes of leadership and ethics in modern society. Learn more by reading the CLE's annual newsletter.

#### **Learning Civil Discourse**

In 2023, VMI was designated as one of only 10 colleges in the nation to be named a "Community of Practice" from Braver Angels, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting civil discourse, in their College Debates and Discourse Program, through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The relationship between Braver Angels and VMI began in 2017 when one of the founders of Braver Angels was invited to speak at the CLE's Annual Leadership and Ethics Conference. In 2021, the CLE invited Braver Angels back to demonstrate their newly developed college debate programming. Building BRIDGES and the CLE subsequently partnered and held several debates last year. As a result of VMI's enthusiasm for the program, Braver Angels offered a two-year research grant, which





provides for one faculty fellow and two student fellows, and stipulates that VMI conduct one debate post-wide, as well as one debate in a class each semester for three semesters. The fourth semester will involve data analysis. Intercollegiate debates have also been added, hosting neighboring colleges. Each event teaches and expands the philosophy of Braver Angels: deep listening, critical thinking, and thoughtful communication, all key elements of leadership and respect, regardless of the cadets' chosen paths after graduation.

VMI Army ROTC has produced more Army generals than any other ROTC program in the United States. VMI Naval ROTC
ranks No. 1 in producing
Marine second lieutenants
and No. 2 in terms
of producing Navy
ensigns nationwide.

VMI Air Force ROTC has been selected as 1 of only 2 Air Force Special Warfare Hubs in the Southeast Region.

# **Strengthen Academic Excellence**

In the 2023–24 U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges list, VMI was No. 4 in Top Public Schools and No. 63 in National Liberal Arts Colleges.

Within every curriculum and academic study pursued, each cadet hears from experts in their field, learns about career paths and graduate school opportunities, and can conduct advanced undergraduate research alongside faculty members. VMI has relationships with some of the best graduate and professional schools in the United States, that include programs of study in law, medicine, business, and engineering.

# **Areas of Study**

#### **Majors**

- » Applied Mathematics
- » Biology
- » Chemistry
- » Civil Engineering
- » Computer Science
- » Economics and Business
- » Electrical and Computer Engineering
- » English
- » History
- » International Studies
- » Mechanical Engineering
- » Modern Languages and Cultures
- » Physics
- » Psychology

# Minors and Concentrations

- » Aerospace Engineering
- » Arabic
- » Art History and Visual Culture
- » Asian Studies
- » Astronomy
- » Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB)
- » Business
- » Chemistry
- » Chinese
- » Computer and Information Sciences
- » Computer Engineering
- » Construction Management
- » Cybersecurity
- » Decision Analytics
- » Ecology, Conservation, and Organismal Sciences (ECOS)
- » Economics
- » Environmental Engineering
- » Exercise Science
- » Financial Analysis
- » Fluid Mechanics and Hydraulic Engineering» French

- » Geotechnical Engineering
- » German
- » Global Business
- » History
- » Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering
- » International Studies and Political Science
- » Leadership Studies
- » Literary Studies
- » Mathematics
- » Middle Eastern Studies
- » Military History
- » National Security
- » Nuclear Engineering
- » Philosophy
- » Physics
- » Psychology
- » Rhetoric and Writing
- » Spanish
- » Structural Engineering
- » Transportation and Planning Engineering



### **Technology and Partnerships Allow Cadets to Help Others**

Campers and hikers come from all over the country to experience Virginia's natural majesty. But what about those

with mobility impairments? Should rocks, steep elevations, and other natural occurrences prevent them from enjoying the trails? Twelve electrical and computer engineering (ECE) majors led senior capstone projects to develop better ways to document and assess hiking trails and share information about their navigability, in partnership with three external organizations: Quality of Life Plus, a nonprofit that challenges STEM students to create innovative technology to improve the quality of life for injured veterans and first responders; Move United, a nonprofit which promotes adaptive sports to youths and adults who have physical impairments; and Beneficial Designs (BD), a rehabilitation research and design firm which focuses on creating solutions for people with mobility impairments.

The ECE majors improved the High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) created by BD to map hiking trails, and to make information about trail navigability publicly accessible. One team of cadets focused on high-level measurements including trail slope, cross-slope, trail width and distance. They created a mobile device app that is user-friendly, provides GPS tracking, scalable, and is ABA compliant



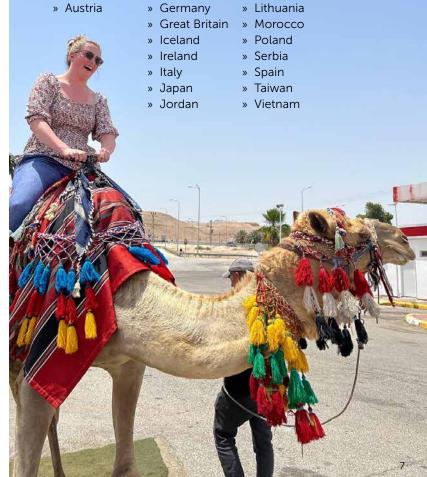


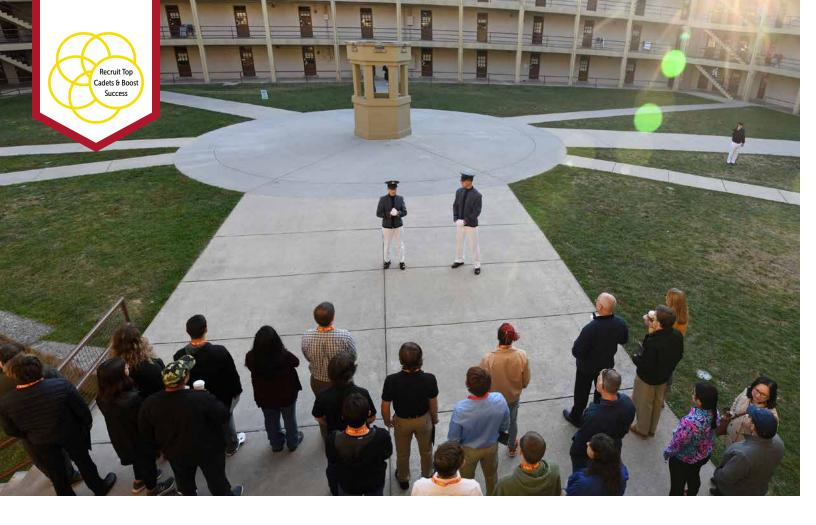
in its detections. The second group focused on providing real-time updates on trail conditions, surface types, and obstacles to enhance the outdoor experience for all users.



Nearly 100 cadets participated in a study abroad opportunity last year. Here's a sampling of countries cadets visited during the 2023-24 academic year:

- » Austria





# **Considering VMI? Visit Us!**

Prospective cadets and their families take advantage of the interactive experience of the admissions open houses, with three offered in the fall semester and three in the spring semester. Each offer a two-day program for students and their guardians to meet current cadets, hear from administration, visit academic departments, and eat in the mess hall. Prospective cadets have the opportunity to stay in barracks for a night with a rat host.

# At VMI? We Support You and Want to See You Succeed!



VMI's support offices have one purpose: to further cadet success. All cadets are encouraged to take advantage of the assistance provided by:

- » Office of Career Services
- » Miller Academic Center
- » Mathematics Education and Resource Center
- » Writing Center
- » Office of Disabilities Services
- » Office of Global Education
- » Center for Undergraduate Research
- » Chaplain's Office
- » Center for Cadet Counseling

There is no extra charge for any academic support service at VMI.

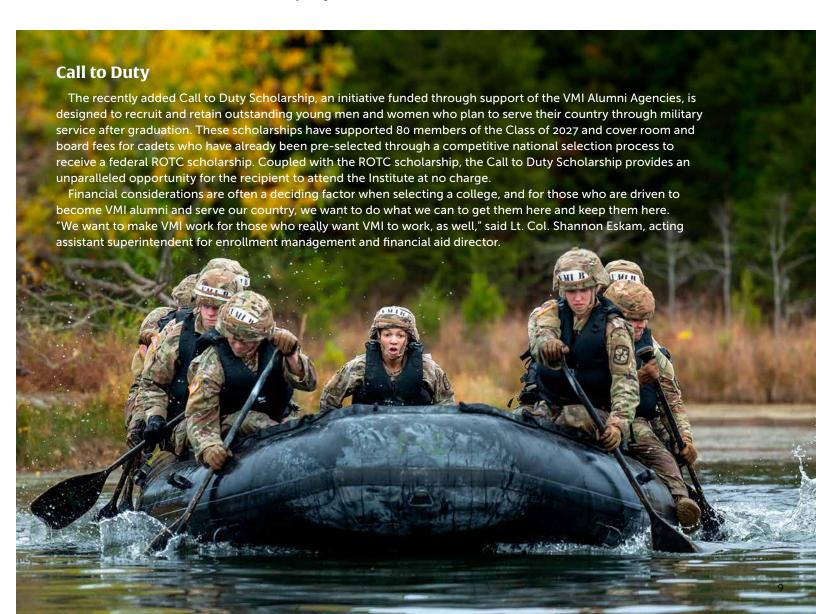
# **Collaborative Entrepreneurship Expands Horizons for Cadets**

The new Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program (SUEP) is for cadets who possess the mindset of an entrepreneur, regardless of academic major. Through the support of the Jackson-Hope Fund, cadets participating in the program receive three tuition-free elective credits, with room and board provided at no cost to them. SUEP consists of a five-week summer course, field trips to start-up companies and incubators, and interaction with guest speakers who are alumni and business leaders. Collaborative partnerships with private and military organizations are an integral part of the initiative, with established partnerships with Shenandoah Community Capital Fund (SCCF), an entrepreneurial support organization in Staunton, and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, Maryland.

One of the eight cadets enrolled in the new course is Simon T. Bucknor '25, from Loudoun County, Virginia. As



a mechanical engineering major pursuing an aerospace concentration, Bucknor has spent a lot of his time as a cadet repeatedly solving technical problems. "This course allows me to develop an entrepreneurial mindset when approaching different problems. So far, I am enjoying it, and my perspective is already expanding," he said.









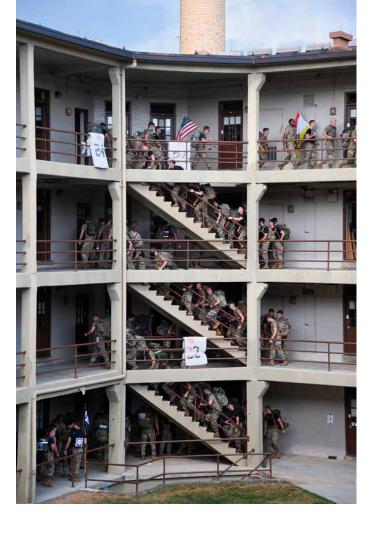
# Foster Esprit de Corps

While a VMI cadetship is challenging from the very start, there is no lack of support through the tough moments. In addition to the strong brother rat spirit looking out for one another, there are offices and services on post that foster an environment of success, belonging, safety, and encouragement. And, believe it or not, there are times for cadets to relax and build strong bonds with their classmates. It's not uncommon to find cadets playing catch or competing on the Parade Ground, heading into Lexington for dinner, relaxing

in The Arsenal, or enjoying events like the Midwinter Formal, Corps picnics, and holiday happenings.

Cadet activities are as varied as cadets themselves. Whether a cadet wants to be active in community service, the arts, music, singing, religious growth, or athletics, there are clubs available. The list of clubs varies from year to year, depending on the interests of cadets, but there are always opportunities to explore diverse interests and engage with others.







The Corps of Cadets continues to honor those who perished in the 9/11 terrorist attacks by climbing 110 stories in barracks, replicating the number of stairs first responders at the World Trade Center climbed during the rescue attempt, and in memory of those who lost their lives that day. Cadets taped the name of a 9/11 victim on the back of their rucks, including two VMI alumni



who perished, Lt. Cmdr. David Williams '91, and Charles Mathers '62. Some cadets took turns carrying a piece of glass recovered from the rubble of the Twin Towers, as well as an American flag recovered from ground zero.

During the most recent stair climb, Institute chaplain, Col. John P. Casper '04 shared with the Corps his own experience being a 20-year-old 3<sup>rd</sup> Class cadet on September 11, 2001. "We began to see the gravity of the situation, that life would never be the same. In the following weeks and months, some cadets left. They enlisted immediately, and came back to graduate at a later time. But there is a spirit in barracks, a spirit of resiliency, a spirit of VMI that only cadets and graduates can really understand and know," he said, then led the Corps in prayer.

At the completion of the climb, the Rat Mass, who had been at VMI less than a month, received their shoulder boards.



# **Deliver 21st Century Facilities**

The Institute continues to advance with renovations, enhanced safety measures, transportation improvements, and new construction projects. Facilities are maintained to maximize efficiency, sustainability, and cadet support. In the past few years, Scott Shipp Hall, home to multiple departments' classrooms and offices, underwent a \$43 million renovation and expansion; Preston Library underwent a \$19.2 million renovation to upgrade the facility and provide more study spaces; the Lackey Park parking lot became available for cadet vehicles; VMI Police moved into their modern headquarters on Letcher Avenue; and a new videoboard was installed in Foster Stadium. Up next is an expansion and renovation of Nichols Engineering Building. In the coming years, a new alumni building will replace Moody Hall, and a new building and parking structure will be added adjacent to Marshall Hall that will house the VMI Museum and additional classrooms. These projects, along with City of Lexington initiatives, will impact post parking and traffic.

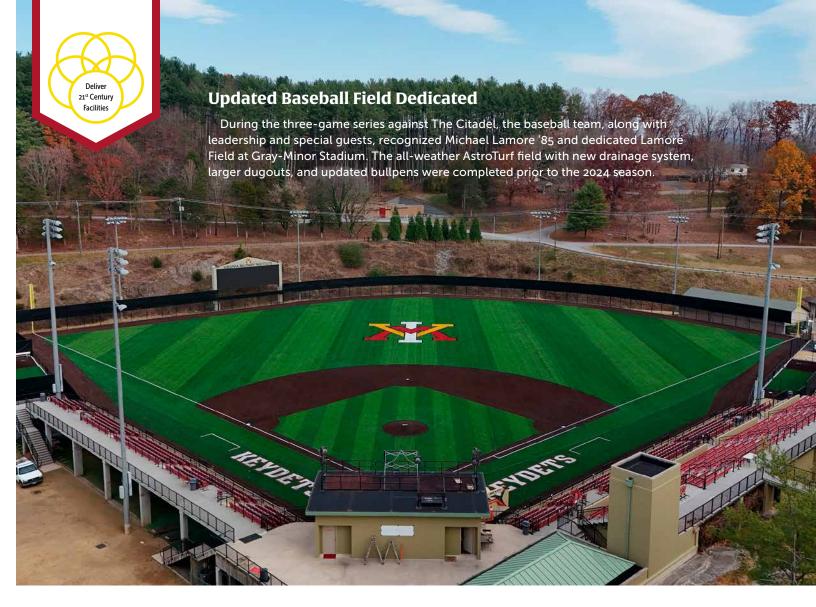


### Take a Dive in the New Aquatic Center

The ribbon cutting and dedication of the Corps Physical Training Facility Phase III, the Aquatic Center took place in January 2023. Construction on the \$44 million facility began December 2020, and it contains an indoor 50-meter swimming pool, which holds 800,000 gallons of water.

It has two 1-meter springboards, two 3-meter springboards, and a 5-meter dive platform, plus seating for 570 spectators. The pool is large enough to be divided into three sections, making diving, water polo, and competitive swimming possible simultaneously. NCAA teams use it for practice and competition,

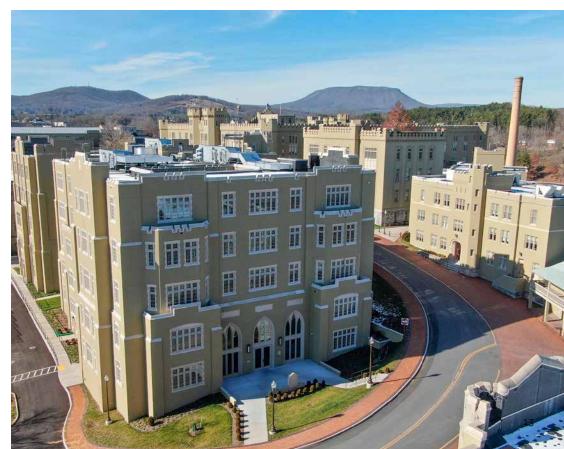
and ROTC and the Department of Human Performance and Wellness use it for training, as VMI requires all students to take one semester of swimming. Cadet clubs, like the scuba club, also find it valuable. High water entry exercises, which had been done in the Maury River, can now be conducted indoors.



### Upcoming: Safety and Security Enhancements

The goal of the Post-Wide Safety and Security project is to set up a system of vehicular gates and barricades that could be deployed as needed to shut down post or the area around the Parade Ground in the event of an emergency or to provide additional safety and quiet streets during cadet training.

Barracks safety will also be improved in coming years with the replacement of exterior doors and hardware, the replacement of windows and window frames in portions of barracks, an upgraded camera system, and updates to technology within barracks.





### A few highlights from 2023–24 Keydet athletics:

- » VMI recorded 145 cadet-athletes on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll for the 2023-24 academic year, while 20 were named Academic All-Conference for the spring season.
- » Sam Roberts '11, head baseball coach since 2022, became the fastest coach to record 50 wins. Justin Starke '23 became VMI's all-time leader in hits and runs scored.
- » Victoria Phillips '25, Emma Cameron '25, Zachary Mauriello '27, and Kyle Kemp '27, members of the rifle team, qualified and shot in the Junior Olympic Rifle Championship. The team also achieved a top-20 ranking for the first time in program history.



- » Danny Rocco, in his first year as head Keydet football coach, was named a National Coach of the Year finalist.
- » Women's soccer senior goalie Jillian Hall '24 became the program's all-time saves leader, finishing with 389 career saves.
- » Men's soccer had 27 goals on the season, the most in 17 years. The team also had the most shutouts in the left 45 years.

» Eleyah Armstrong '25 qualified for the NCAA Track and Field East Regional, the first round of the 2024 NCAA Track and Field Championships, in Lexington, Kentucky. She achieved a meet and school record in the 100-meter dash at the SoCon Outdoor Championships.



- » The men's track and field team earned its best finish at the SoCon Outdoor Championships since 2016, landing in second place.
- » Dyson Dunham '26 qualified for the NCAA Wrestling Championships, earning one victory at the national event to face the No. 1 wrestler in the championship bracket.
- » Beating our rival The Citadel is always a big deal, and there was no shortage of wins this past year. The football team reclaimed the Silver Shako in Charleston, a walk-off hit in baseball won the three-game series at home, the basketball team outlasted them in Cameron Hall in front of a boisterous crowd, and women's soccer rallied after being down 2-0 at the half to be victorious against the Bulldogs.



### What's Next?

At the time of graduation, more than 50% of cadets commission into the military, but for those who choose a path in the civilian world, VMI has set them up for success.

### **Accelerated Grad Program Launched**

VMI and Virginia Tech have partnered to launch an accelerated master's degree program for a Master of Science (MS) and Master of Engineering (MEng) in computer science and applications/computer engineering for VMI cadets. The program is open to all majors, as long as essential courses have been completed.

According to Dr. Mohamed Azab, associate professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences, the key advantage of the accelerated program is it significantly reduces the time required to complete a graduate degree. "VMI cadets can take up to 12 graduate credits that count

\$77,000

Typical early career earnings— Money magazine.

toward a VT graduate degree, allowing them to finish their master's program in just one year," he said.

Access to the program is limited to students currently enrolled at VMI. They must attain an overall minimum GPA of 3.3 for the MEng and 3.5 for the MS at the time of application. Once accepted into the program, they must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 for the remainder of their undergraduate coursework.



# Places Class of 2024 graduates are headed:

#### **Graduate Schools**

- » University of Virginia Law School
- » Virginia Tech Doctorate Program for Aerospace Engineering
- Bowling Green State University
   Doctorate Program for
   Physical Therapy
- » Life University
   Doctorate Program of Chiropractic Medicine
- » William & Mary Law School
- » University of Virginia Master's Program in Architecture
- Florida Institute of Technology
   Doctorate Program in
   Clinical Psychology
- » Rutgers University New Brunswick Doctorate Program in Toxicology

### **Employers**

- » Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- » National Security Agency
- » U.S. Secret Service
- » Luck Stone
- » ESPN
- » Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- » Virginia State Police
- » Prudential Advisors
- » Amazon
- » Turner Construction Company
- » ...and many more!









