Dear Parents,

For more than 15 years, the principles and objectives set forth in VMI’s Strategic Plan, Vision 2039: Focus on Leadership, have guided our efforts to ensure cadets achieve the impressive life goals they and their families set for themselves. During this timeframe, the military experience has been professionalized with growth in those seeking commissions; the academic program has been strengthened with a new core curriculum; a massive construction program and modernization of our facilities have enhanced the learning and leader development processes for our cadets; and we continue to more fully integrate wellness, physical fitness, and competitive NCAA athletics and club sports into the cadet experience.

We will continue to follow our strategic plan this academic year to ensure VMI remains a vibrant, relevant institution at its 200th birthday in 2039. Cadets returning in August to commence study for Academic Year 2018-19 will be introduced to two new important leaders on duty at the Institute: Colonel Robert W. Moreschi, who previously served as the Department Head of our Department of Economics and Business, has been selected as Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty, and Sergeant Major William T. Sowers, USMC (Ret), our Institute and Corps Sergeant Major, arrives from his final active duty assignment as Division Sergeant Major of the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. Both were selected after national searches, and we are thrilled to have these leaders direct key aspects of the VMI program.

For new cadet families, we are honored that your cadet has selected the Institute as the starting point for his or her college education. Families are hugely important to the success of cadets, and we look forward to your part in this journey. Upon signing the matriculation book, a cadet commits to a unique form of education. He or she becomes a member of something bigger than themselves—they join a class of Brother Rats, who pull each other through adversity, who celebrate victories small and large, and who commiserate and support one another over losses and setbacks. 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 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 an important differentiator 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 just-recently graduating Class of 2018 commissioned 60 percent of its members into all four branches of the service, which was the largest number and greatest percentage since the termination of mandatory commissioning years ago. I am particularly proud that they elected to serve in time of war. Please discuss the breadth of options and advantages commissioned service offers with your cadet and his or her ROTC professors.

I ask your reinforcement and assistance as we deal with the unfortunate aspects of social media. We and our nation continue to learn about the unforeseen consequences associated with social media and the damage it can cause to a person’s future. The potentially detrimental effect on a cadetship, future employment, and the obtaining of a security clearance that an “unthinking” social media posting can have is of concern. Increasingly, investigation of social media is the first step in the background search-vetting during the hiring process. We have also experienced instances of alumni and parents taking to social media, unwittingly spreading rumors concerning actions or events at VMI, which inevitably turn out to be based on misinformation and is very distracting to cadets and Institute officials. 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.

As I reflect on the past several years: your reinforcement of all aspects of our honor system; exerting discipline in the area of social media; addressing the challenge of alcohol and sexual conduct on all campuses to include ours; and safety in all actions would be helpful. 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
General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Superintendent.

Gubernatorial Inauguration
The Corps of Cadets marched in the inaugural parade honoring Gov. Ralph Northam ’81 at the Virginia State Capitol Jan. 15, 2018. Cadets also formed a cordon while the governor walked to the governor’s mansion after the parade.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

The cadet battery fires the howitzers during a practice parade for Founders Day, November 2017.—VMI Photo by Maj. John Robertson IV.

Contents

From the Superintendent’s Desk .................................................... 2
Academics ................................................................. 4
Commissioning ............................................................. 8
Standards ................................................................. 10
Rules and Regulations .................................................. 10
Post Safety .............................................................. 11
Health and Wellness ..................................................... 13

Information ................................................................. 16
Important Information .................................................... 16
Visiting the Institute ...................................................... 17
Events 2018-19 ........................................................... 19
Critical Dates ............................................................ 20
Contacts ................................................................. 20

Superintendent’s Newsletter
**Requirements to Graduate**

[www.vmi.edu/GO66](http://www.vmi.edu/GO66)

General Order 66 outlines the requirements that must be met in order 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**

[www.vmi.edu/about/offices-a-z/financial-aid/financial-literacy/](http://www.vmi.edu/about/offices-a-z/financial-aid/financial-literacy/)

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges, which gives VMI accreditation, has a new requirement for 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.

**VMI Center for Undergraduate Research**

[www.vmi.edu/academics/enrichment/research/undergraduate-research/](http://www.vmi.edu/academics/enrichment/research/undergraduate-research/)

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 session on those opportunities as well as provides funding for research supplies and travel.

After their research is completed, VMI offers its own VMI 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. Three other summer programs administered by VCUR have deadlines in mid-March. Those are the Applied and Industrial Mathematics program, the Mathematics Education Resource Center program and the VMI/Virginia Commonwealth University engineering memorandum of understanding.

**International Programs and Study Abroad**

[www.vmi.edu/ip](http://www.vmi.edu/ip)

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 study abroad opportunities, to inform 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 2017, VMI sent 38 cadets to study abroad in Australia, Austria, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, 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. 28

Continued on next page
Study Abroad Fair: Sept. 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. on the second floor of Crozet Hall
Spring semester program deadline: rolling until filled but usually mid-to-late October
Summer program deadline: registered by mid-January and committed by mid-February
Fall semester program deadline: rolling until filled but usually mid-to-late April
The cost of study-abroad programs can vary greatly; however, parents should not assume that finances will prevent their cadet from studying abroad. All financial aid, institutional aid, and scholarships follow cadets when they go overseas. In addition, VMI offers a number of partial scholarships. There are scholarship opportunities for Pell grant recipients, and there are numerous national scholarship opportunities for cadets interested in pursuing immersive critical language programs. For our military exchange programs with schools in France, Lithuania, Japan, and Germany, 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 or halldb@vmi.edu for more information.

Miller Academic Center
www.vmi.edu/mac
The Miller Academic Center provides cadets with opportunities to encourage their academic success and progression to a degree. The center offers course-specific group study sessions led by upper class cadets; supplementary academic advising; workshops and guidance on time management; and one-on-one tutoring.
The MAC is located in 202 Carroll Hall. For more information, call 540-464-7661.

Career Services
www.vmi.edu/academics/support/career-services/cadets/
The VMI Office of Career Services assists cadets throughout their time at VMI. Cadets can visit the office in 311 Carroll Hall to set up an appointment with a professional staff member. The office assists cadets with major and career exploration, devising an internship or job search strategy, exploring graduate school options, and preparing for the transition from VMI. Career Services offers a number of networking and employer events throughout the year. The Fall VMI Career & Internship Fair will take place on Nov. 5 in Marshall Hall. This event offers opportunities for cadets to make initial contact with numerous potential employers in a single day without leaving the VMI post.
Other resources provided by the Office of Career Services include
• Creating a four-year plan for career readiness
• On-Post interviewing and alumni networking through KeydetConnect.

Cadet-Alumni Networking
The VMI Alumni Association hosts a Cadet-Alumni Career Networking Forum which connects cadets with alumni for help landing internships and full-time positions. Last year’s event brought between 30 to 40 alumni to post to
share career and industry knowledge with cadets.

**Writing Center**

[www.vmi.edu/writingcenter](http://www.vmi.edu/writingcenter)

The Writing Center complements and extends the writing instruction cadets receive in the classroom by providing help with a full range of activities to improve their writing. The Writing Center is available to cadets in all courses and disciplines. Consultants assist with a wide variety of writing projects: essays and research papers; summaries and abstracts; case studies and lab reports; presentations and speeches; letters of application and résumés; honors theses and scholarship or graduate school applications; ePortfolios; creative writing or personal writing projects.

The purpose of the Writing Center is to provide non-evaluative assistance for cadets who wish to become more confident, flexible, and skillful writers. Consultants do not supply new ideas or phrasing, nor do they correct errors in the text. Instead, they help cadets develop the strategies and skills they need to improve their texts.


**Center for Leadership and Ethics**

[www.vmi.edu/cle](http://www.vmi.edu/cle)

The Center for Leadership and Ethics will focus on “Courageous Leadership” for the 2018–19 academic year. The Center offers leadership enrichment opportunities to educate, engage, and inspire the Corps, staff, and faculty.

Through its speaker and conference programs, the Center broadens the Corps’ perspectives on leadership and prepares them to tackle issues of national/regional/state importance. These conferences also provide strong strategic outreach to leaders in academia, business, government, military, and think-tank communities on topics such as STEM education, Cyber Defense, and the environment.

Each fall, the Center also hosts its capstone event, the VMI Leadership and Ethics Conference. This conference addresses leadership and ethics issues of national importance. The conference’s goal is to stimulate cadets’ critical thinking and refine their ethical decision-making skills in an uncertain world. This year’s conference will be Oct. 29–30 incorporating internationally recognized speakers, table group discussions, and an interactive Ethical Leadership Challenge.

**Conference Tentative Schedule:**

- Sept. 23-24, Vietnam War Symposium
- Oct. 2–3, 7th VMI STEM Education Conference
- Oct. 29–30, 9th annual VMI Leadership & Ethics Conference
- Feb. 22-23, annual Commonwealth Cyber Fusion
- March 26–28, 30th annual Environment Virginia Symposium
- April 12–13, Entrepreneurship Conference

**MERC**

[www.vmi.edu/merc](http://www.vmi.edu/merc)

The Math Education Resource Center offers free tutoring to cadets in mathematics courses. It is available during the Summer Transition Program, summer school, and throughout the academic year. The MERC is located on the 700 level of Preston Library.

Commissioning

Commissioning into the armed services is a goal for many cadets, and with good reason.

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 later in life.

Each year, over half of the graduating class accepts a commission, and many VMI graduates make the military a career. Options are Active Duty, National Guard, or 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, commissions more second lieutenants than any other Army ROTC unit in the nation, and 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 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, 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 the Infantry to the Chemical Corps to Cyber Warfare and more. Within each branch are numerous career opportunities for cadets.

For members of the Class of 2018 commissioning in the Army, 77 percent received their first choice for branch selection and 98 percent received one of their top three choices.

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

As with the other branches of the service, 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 www.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 Reserves. For cadets commissioning without a scholarship, the requirement is three years on active duty, followed by four years in the Reserves.

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 programs 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, but cadets who have been contracted 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 as with the Air Force, commissioning numbers are increasing.

Cadets interested in commissioning in either the Navy or the Marine Corps should be aware that scholarships are available for high school seniors through 3rd 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 2.8 to 3.0 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 advanced standing. Cadets with 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 certain degree of preference for STEM majors, but no major is turned away.

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 also 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 rising rapidly for VMI’s Air Force ROTC, with more than 40 members of the Class of 2018 accepting a commission. The Air Force welcomes cadets from all majors, although academic standards are high.

Air Force scholarships are available for high school seniors, 4th Class cadets, and 3rd Class cadets. 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 also 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. Recently, the number of scholarships awarded has been increasing, with strong growth in the number of scholarships for cadets with non-technical majors. 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.

Joint Commissioning

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. Cadets are bound by honor to know when they are or are not in an “all right” status and when to place themselves on report.

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 lying or malingering.

The Honor Court is responsible for educating cadets on the Honor Code and is comprised of fourteen 1st and 2nd Class cadets elected by their classmates. 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 dictates the need to be clear about fraternization 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 Cadet parking is limited to designated areas on and off post.—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

—VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.
Standards

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 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.

Also strictly enforced is the 15-mile-per-hour postwide speed limit.

Use of Social Media

www.vmi.edu/ITApproUse
www.vmi.edu/GO/171

Cadets must be careful about their use of social media. Though treated differently from face-to-face conversation, social media is constantly monitored by law enforcement, media organizations, and others. If a post to any social media site, such as Jodel, Instagram, 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, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are checked by employers to screen applicants for hire and by the federal government for security clearances. Careless posts now could be used as the basis to deny a cadet employment or the security clearance needed for employment in the future.

Parents are encouraged to follow official VMI accounts such as 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

Alcohol and Drug Use

www.vmi.edu/GO/02
www.vmi.edu/GO/53

Preventing underage drinking is one of the major goals of VMI’s alcohol and drug use policy. Not only is underage drinking illegal, but it is also quite dangerous.

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 acadet.

Parental support for Institute policies is key to preventing 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.

Green Beret Fundraiser

The Rat mass of 2018+7 takes part in physical challenges across post Dec. 9, 2017 as a part of the Rat Unity Event fundraiser. They raised over $14,000 for the Green Beret Foundation. —VMI Photo by H. Lockwood McLaughlin.

Continued on next page
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 result in automatic dismissal.

General Order 53, Policy on Prohibiting Controlled Substances and Drug Paraphernalia, authorizes VMI to randomly test cadets, on a periodic basis, for the presence of illegal drugs and controlled substances.

**Sexual Misconduct Prevention**

www.vmi.edu/GO/002
www.vmi.edu/GO/016

The abuse of alcohol and sexual misconduct often go hand in hand, with alcohol being involved in 80 percent of sexual assaults that occur on college campuses. As with alcohol abuse, VMI takes a proactive stance on preventing sexual misconduct, emphasizing safe choices, responsible behavior, and concern for the welfare of others.

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 maximum penalty for cadet violations of either policy is dismissal from the Institute. New cadets and their parents should familiarize themselves with both orders prior to matriculation.

**Reach Out App**

VMI has developed the VMI Reach Out app for safety and security information. The home page on the app displays icons that direct users to information, reporting contacts, and services they may need. Users need only tap the icon to access information concerning police, emergency services, the Title IX coordinator, chaplain, infirmary, and cadet counseling. The app also provides direct hotlines for support organizations such as Project Horizon, which assists victims of dating, domestic, and sexual violence.

The app can be downloaded free of charge from the Apple app store and from Google Play. Search for the "Reach Out Editions" app, download it, and select "Virginia Military Institute" when prompted. VMI encourages all cadets to have this safety app on their mobile phones.
Security in Barracks

Security in barracks is enhanced via the use of closed circuit cameras, which are strictly a law enforcement and security tool. They are used to optimize the cadet guard team’s and the officer in charge’s ability to be aware of unusual or suspicious activity and to provide a record should a violation of the law take place.

Cadets in the guardroom can see the arches on the closed circuit TV but cannot save or replay the video. The officer in charge, a member of the commandant’s office staff, can see the courtyards and the stoops, but cannot see into any cadet rooms and cannot save or replay the video.

Footage can be requested only under certain conditions and following specific procedures outlined in General Order 63.

The cadet guard team uses radios to report unusual or suspicious activity.

Weapons

State law 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 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 permit. Other 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.

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. Emergencies are referred to the local hospital, Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital. Medical conditions that must be treated off post are treated at the cadet’s expense. Cadets should schedule routine medical appointments during furloughs. Cadet are permitted to keep personal prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in a lockbox in their rooms.

It is strongly recommended that any cadet not covered by his or her parents’ health insurance purchase a personal health insurance policy. ACSA (American College Student Association) provides a low-cost, affordable health insurance plan developed specifically to meet the needs of college students and their families. Please see www.acsa.com for further information and enrollment online.

The Reach Out application provides information on various resources for cadets in need. —VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.

All cadets, whether on guard duty or not, are expected to be aware of their surroundings and report unusual or suspicious activity.
Free flu shots are offered to cadets in the fall. In addition, the HPV vaccine is recommended for all cadets.

VMI provides accident insurance for all cadets 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 www.vmi.edu/infirmary.

**Mental Health**

The Center for Cadet Counseling stands ready to assist cadets with their mental health needs. The center provides free, confidential counseling for cadets experiencing personal or interpersonal stress. The second annual cadet health and wellness fair is tentatively planned for this fall.

Other services provided by the counseling center include stress relief/resilience training for incoming rats enrolled in the Summer Transition Program and “stress buster” events prior to exams each semester so cadets can take a short break from their studies.

**Nutrition**

In January 2018, Parkhurst Dining took over management of all of the Institute’s food service operations, bringing with them an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Crozet Hall offers gluten-free and allergen-free options for cadets, along with vegetarian fare. In the fall, Parkhurst plans to hold a wellness day each week at which a Parkhurst nutritionist will be available for consultations. This will transition to a monthly event during the spring semester.

Sometimes, cadets need more in-depth help with making sure their nutritional needs are met. Maj. Meghan Ullrich, health and wellness coordinator, is available for one-on-one nutrition consultation with cadets free of charge. She also meets with several of the Institute’s sports teams to discuss sports-specific nutritional strategies.
Proper nutrition is vital for all cadets, but especially for new cadets, who are acclimating 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.

Physical Training Facilities

VMI’s newest building, the Corps Physical Training Facility, opened for cadet use in November 2016 after more than two years of construction. The building at the corner of Main and Diamond streets offers a plethora of training opportunities for the entire Corps and greatly broadens the types of exercise that cadets may participate in during inclement weather.

Individual cadets, club sports participants, and ROTC units can take advantage not only of the upper-level training track, but also the high ropes course, the endurance course, and the climbing wall. The building is also home to the Institute’s NCAA track team, which now has the use of a world-class hydraulic track plus facilities for field events such as pole vaulting, shot put, and high jump.

Complementing the Corps Physical Training Facility is the recently renovated Cocke Hall, now home to new weight and cardio rooms, all with state-of-the-art equipment. Cocke Hall has retained its elevated track familiar to generations of VMI alumni, so cadets can run in all weather in a facility close to barracks. The building also has updated mechanical systems and is air conditioned.

These fitness facilities complement the North Post training area, which has an obstacle course and high ropes course. The VMI-owned Chessie Trail, an abandoned railroad bed linking Buena Vista and Lexington, is also a popular spot for cadet runners.

With a wide variety of fitness opportunities available independent of weather, cadets will find greater opportunity to train for the required VMI Fitness Test. The VFT, which is administered to each cadet once per semester, includes pull-ups, sit-ups, and a 2,400-meter run. Passing scores are five pull-ups for men and one for women; 60 sit-ups within two minutes for both men and women; and a time of 12:30 for men and 14:20 for women on the run. Cadets who do not pass the VMI Fitness Test must take remedial physical training until they pass the test.
Important Information

Parents Council

The Parents Council is a source of accurate information, and parents are encouraged to bring their questions to the members of the council and follow the council’s Facebook page for updates. Members of the Council are selected from parents of cadets in the upper three classes.

The primary contact for the Parents Council is parentscouncil@vmi.edu. Co-presidents Tim and Tonette Hayes can be reached at vmipc2019@gmail.com.

The Parents Council Facebook group is a closed group, so parents should send a request to join and be sure to check their Facebook messages since the Parents Council will confirm requesters are parents of current cadets before adding them to the group.

Accounting Convenience

Parents and cadets may view VMI bills and make payments online. For parent access, cadets must register their parents as authorized bill payers through their cadet Post View accounts.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act prevents release of personally identifiable or educational information from a cadet’s record at the Institute without the expressed written consent of the cadet. VMI believes that its mission is best served by close coordination with parents to promote early resolution of problems which may arise during a cadetship. Therefore, the Institute requests that each cadet at matriculation complete a Consent to Disclosure Form which outlines whether a cadet is dependent on his/her parent(s) for tax purposes, and the cadet’s wishes regarding consent to disclosure of information from their educational record to their designated parent(s). This release is maintained by VMI for the length of the cadetship, and allows VMI to release information to the parent(s) at their discretion.

VMI News

www.vmi.edu/institutereport

VMI’s Office of Communications and Marketing publishes news and...
event information as the academic year progresses.

Visit the VMI the news feed on the home page, www.vmi.edu, to read the latest headlines. Subscribe online to the Institute Report for features on cadet and faculty activities and to find the newest stories and see photos and video, follow VMI on social media:

- Facebook—facebook.com/vmi1839
- Twitter—atvminews, @vmi1839
- Instagram—virginia_military_institute
- Tumblr—VMINews.tumblr.com
- YouTube—youtube.com/vmiweb

VMI Website
www.vmi.edu/cadet-life/families

This section of the VMI website is an invaluable resource for cadet families. There is information about many aspects of cadet life, including but not limited to health and safety, athletics, and Corps events such as matriculation and Ring Figure. There is also information about visiting VMI and paying cadet bills. The Corps Life section has links to PDF versions of the superintendent’s newsletter and the parents handbook, along with links to information about the Parents Council and the Commandant’s Office.

Procedures for sending cards, letters, and packages are also accessible on this page.

VMI Photos
www.flickr.com/vmiphotos/albums

Photographs of major events on post throughout the academic year are available for free at VMI’s official Flickr page, www.flickr.com/vmiphotos. Look there for photos of major events, including Matriculation Week, Ring Figure, Breakout, and Graduation Week.

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 www.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 between the parking lot and Cameron Hall beginning at 9 a.m.

**Game Day**

[www.vmi.edu/gameday](http://www.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 exceptions, 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.

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.

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**Rugby Team Reaches National Semifinals**

The VMI rugby team qualified for the national semifinals for the first time in the team’s 50-year history Nov. 19, 2017 in Annapolis, Maryland by defeating Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and then Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. –VMI

*Photo by Ashlie Walter.*

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**Continued from previous page**

The Corps of Cadets watches the football team play Wofford College during the Nov. 11 game at Foster Stadium. –VMI Photo by Kelly Nye.
Presentation Ceremony will take place Figure celebration with a class-only Nov. five–six—Ring Figure released from quarters at seven a.m. Status and football game at one p.m., and return at one/zero:three a.m., football game march-down Breakfast Roll Call (BRC) at seven a.m., parade turn by midnight; Saturday, Oct. two/zero—Following schedule: Friday, Oct. nine/re—re— the night off post and must observe the county but are not authorized to spend “Parents Weekend” permit may leave the cadet. Cadets and rats signed out on the VMI faculty or staff, or parent of another cadet. At 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. two, Gen. Peay will administer the Cadet Oath to the rat class at the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield in New Market, Va. 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. 19-21—Parents Weekend

Parents may attend classes and the parade on Friday, Oct. 19; the Parents Weekend permit ends on Sunday, Oct. 21, 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. 19—return by midnight; Saturday, Oct. 20—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. 21—cadets are released from quarters at 7 a.m. Status check is at 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 15-16—Ring Figure

The Class of 2020 will begin its Ring Figure celebration with a class-only supper on Thursday, Nov. 15. The Ring Presentation Ceremony will take place Friday, Nov. 16, 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. 16-26—Thanksgiving Furlough

Thanksgiving Furlough will begin at the completion of academic duty Friday, Nov. 16, and ends at 10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26.

Dec. 19-Jan. 14—Christmas Furlough

Christmas furlough begins at the completion of academic duty Wednesday, Dec. 19, and ends at 10 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14.

March 15-24—Spring Furlough

Spring furlough begins at completion of academic duty Friday, March 15, and ends Sunday, March 24, at 10 p.m.

April 19-22—Easter Break

Easter break begins at completion of academic duty Friday, April 19, and ends Monday, April 22, 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 mandato 4th Class Field Training Exercise will take place Saturday through Monday, May 11-13. For the upper three classes, ceremony and parade rehearsals begin May 12 in preparation for the Institute Awards and Graduation Parade Tuesday, May 14; commissioning ceremonies and New Market Parade Wednesday, May 15; and graduation Thursday, 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

**2018-19**

- **calendar.vmi.edu**
- Matriculation Day: Aug. 18
- Old Corps returns: 10 a.m. Aug. 26
- Classes begin: Aug. 28
- New Cadet Oath Ceremony: Sept. 2
- Parents Weekend: Oct. 19-21
- Homecoming Weekend: Nov. 2-3
- Ring Figure: Nov. 15-16
- Thanksgiving Furlough: CAD Nov. 16 to 10 p.m. Nov. 26

**Exams:** Dec. 14-19
- December Commissioning Ceremony: Dec. 18
- December Graduation: Dec. 19
- Christmas Furlough: CAD Dec. 19 to 10 p.m. Jan. 14
- Classes begin: Jan. 16
- Spring Furlough: CAD March 15 to 10 p.m. March 24
- Easter Break: April 19-22
- Exam Period: May 7-11
- Institute Awards & Graduation Parade: May 14
- Commissioning & New Market Ceremony: May 15
- Commencement: May 16

*CAD = Completion of Academic Duties

**2019-20 Tentative Dates**

- Matriculation: Aug. 17
- Old Corps returns: Aug. 25
- New Market Oath Ceremony: Sept. 1
- Thanksgiving Furlough: Nov. 23-Dec. 2
- December Graduation: Dec. 18
- Corps returns: Jan. 13
- Spring Furlough: March 12-22
- Institute Awards & Graduation Parade: May 14
- Commissioning & New Market Ceremonies: May 15
- Commencement: May 16

### Contacts

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

#### Academic Information
- Dean of the Faculty: 464-7222
- 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: 464-7637
- VMI Museum: 464-7334

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

#### Administrative Offices
- Chief of Staff: 464-7104
- Commandant’s Office: 464-7313
- Dean of the Faculty: 464-7212
- Deputy Commandant & Officer-in-Charge: 464-7314
- Office of the Superintendent: 464-7311
- Sergeant Major, Corps of Cadets: 464-7706

#### Student Accounting
- 464-7217

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

#### Parents Council
- Primary Contact: parents council@vmi.edu
- Co-Presidents Tim and Tonette Hayes: parentscouncil@vmi.edu
- vmipc2019@gmail.com

#### 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)
  - Virginia Military Institute
  - VMI Box (followed by box number)
  - Lexington, VA 24450-0304

Keep this information—tear at perforation

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*The Virginia Military Institute is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, genetic information, against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities, or based on any other status protected by law. In pursuit of this goal, any question of impermissible discrimination on these bases will be addressed with efficiency and energy and in accordance with VMI General Order 16. General Order 16 also addresses complaints or reports of retaliation against those who have opposed prohibited practices, those who have filed complaints or reports of prohibited practices, and those who have testified or otherwise participated in enforcement of General Order 16. Questions regarding discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or other federal law, may be referred to the VMI Inspector General and Title IX Coordinator, 222 Carroll Hall, VMI, Lexington, VA 24450. (540) 464-7062. Any cadet or prospective cadet having questions about disability services for students should contact the Director of the Center for Cadet Counseling and Disability Services, 408 Institute Hill, 2nd floor, Post Infirmary, Lexington, VA 24450. (540) 464-7666. For employment-related disability services, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator in the VMI Human Resources Office, Lexington, VA 24450. (540) 464-7022.*