Preface

The purpose of the New Cadet Handbook is to provide information necessary for the transition from civilian life to life as a new cadet at Virginia Military Institute. It is intended to present information not found in other VMI publications, such as the VMI Catalogue, which is provided to cadets at matriculation. If you have detailed questions on academic programs and academic support, tuition and financial aid, or the Reserve Officer Training Corps, please refer to the VMI Catalogue. If you have questions regarding National Collegiate Athletic Association sports, contact the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at 540-464-7251. Information is also available at www.vmi.edu.

The three major components to life at VMI are academics, military, and athletics. This handbook focuses on the Corps of Cadets military component and, specifically, the Rat Line. It is important that you fully understand all aspects of the Corps of Cadets so that you can prepare yourself for success. New cadets at VMI embark on a road less traveled. Use this handbook to plan your journey. Good luck!
Rat Mass of 2022+3,

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment and commend you on your decision to attend the Virginia Military Institute. By accepting this honor, you have made a dedicated and deliberate effort to set yourself apart from your peers. Your decision exemplifies the depths of your maturity and character and presents your desire to grow as a person of character and as a servant leader. Your conscious decision is one of grit and dedication, setting yourself apart from the ordinary.

Those who seek to attend VMI do so out of a desire to improve their sense of leadership and dedicate their lives to service and growth. With this being said, the Rat Line will push you mentally, physically, and emotionally, beyond the normalcy you have experienced. Do not falter from these hardships. Rather, use these adversities and hardships as motivation to be a better person: one of character, determination, and integrity. Use these moments of hardship to mold yourself into the image of a VMI cadet, improving the standards for years to come.

The moment you enter barracks, your slate is wiped clean. The achievements you have earned in the past do not follow you here. Rather, you must generate your own successes and accomplishments through the direct effort you put into the system and the cohesion you create with your brother rats. The training you will receive does not discriminate. It is in this adversity that you and your fellow classmates will be equals and will lean on each other to succeed, as you cannot traverse this journey alone. There will be support to accomplish whatever you set your mind to, but nothing will be given to you. You will be provided a blank slate; you must decide how to fill it in. Your reputation will be marked by your willpower, integrity, and the tenacity you show during your cadetship.

The path you choose to travel, the bonds you choose to create, and the goals you set yourself to achieve from this point forward will define your success here. When the pressure of the Institute is at its peak, you must remember that for 182 years before you cadets have been faced with the same challenges and have prevailed. The difficulty of the system we have will prove to be too overwhelming for some of you. However, some of you will distinguish yourselves as exemplary individuals who have the perseverance to succeed above and beyond initial expectations. With that, you will be honored to earn the distinguished title of a VMI cadet. It is these very successes that give our diploma its worth. A prosperous future is in front of you, and the decision to accept the challenge is up to you.

Your reward is a transformation that will set you up for success not just at VMI, but for the rest of your life. Those that have completed this transformation enter into the permanent brotherhood of the Institute and its legacy of producing the best leaders and citizen soldiers in the country. There is no other place like VMI in the world and earning the title VMI cadet is an honor you have never experienced and one held with great pride and respect.

Stay true to the reasons why you chose VMI. The standards you are expected to live by will consistently increase with each year. Maintain these standards, improve upon them, and never let yourself forget them. Consistently set goals for yourself that you can and will succeed. If you have the privilege of joining the VMI ranks, prove to those who do not know VMI why it is the most successful and distinguished military college in the nation. I will never expect anything but the absolute best from each and every one of you.

Very Respectfully,
Cadet First Captain
Kasey Meredith
Regimental Commander
VMI—An Overview

The Mission of Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Military Institute, founded in 1839 and now in its 182nd year, has remained true to its mission to produce educated and honorable men and women by preparing them with an education for the future. VMI combines the studies of a full college curriculum within a framework of military discipline, with emphasis placed on the qualities of honor, integrity, and responsibility. VMI is a state-supported college, organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Institute is governed by a Board of Visitors appointed by the governor. In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia, the cadets constitute a military corps. Most of the members of the faculty and staff are commissioned in the Virginia Militia (Unorganized) by the governor acting as commander-in-chief.

We at VMI believe that the measure of a college lies in the quality and performance of its graduates and their contributions to society. Therefore, it is the mission of VMI to produce educated and honorable men and women, prepared for the varied work of civil life, imbued with love of learning, confident in the functions and attitudes of leadership, possessing a high sense of public service, advocates of the American democracy and free enterprise system, and ready as citizen-soldiers to defend their country in time of national peril.

To accomplish this result, VMI seeks to provide qualified young men and women an undergraduate education of the highest quality, that embraces engineering, science, and the arts, all conducted in, and facilitated by, the unique VMI system of military discipline.

Vision 2039

In 2003 VMI began a journey that will culminate in the year 2039, VMI’s 200th birthday. This journey involves physical change in the form of renovation and new construction. It also involves cultural changes—a move toward more civility within the Corps of Cadets and across the VMI post.

Academic Program

A four-year undergraduate college, VMI is recognized as one of the nation’s top institutions of higher education. Acknowledging VMI’s total educational value as well as the high demand for VMI graduates in the job market, major ratings publications name VMI in their lists of top undergraduate programs. U.S. News and World Report consistently ranks VMI among the nation’s top five public liberal arts colleges.

Almost 100 percent of full-time faculty hold either a doctorate or the terminal degree in their field. Over 1,700 cadets pursue B.A. or B.S. degrees in 14 major fields of study: Biology; Chemistry; Civil Engineering; Computer and Information Sciences; Economics and Business; Electrical and Computer Engineering; English, Rhetoric and Humanistic Studies; History; International studies and Political Science; Applied Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; Modern Languages and Cultures; Physics; and Psychology.

Civil engineering, a subject rarely taught in colleges and universities before 1839, was the cornerstone program at VMI’s founding. The first industrial chemistry course in the South was offered at VMI, and, in 1868, modern courses in physics and meteorology were developed. Today
the Institute's engineering program remains nationally recognized for its quality. In fact, in its most recent rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* again ranked VMI engineering among the nation’s best undergraduate programs.

VMI’s demanding academic program reflects the established needs and the emerging trends of a constantly changing society on the local, regional, national, and international levels. VMI’s global outreach includes student/faculty exchanges with a number of foreign academies and universities, internships, numerous semester-abroad programs, and summer-abroad programs. Each year, more than 100 cadets are involved in VMI’s international programs. VMI also offers outstanding academic enrichment programs in writing, undergraduate research, and honors.

Successful completion of VMI’s unique educational system enables cadets to enter many civilian professions, the armed forces, or to continue at graduate and professional schools. VMI produces leaders for all walks of life: business, industry, public service, education, the professions, and the military. One reason the Institute is held in such high regard is that approximately 98 percent of each class has full-time employment or has entered graduate school within five months of graduation. Approximately 50-60 percent of graduates take a commission, and about 18 percent of VMI graduates make the armed forces a career; however, the percentage of cadets who take commissions per class is growing every year.

**Athletic Program—NCAA and Club Sports**

VMI believes that all cadets are athletes and all athletes are cadets. Athletics at VMI form an integral part of the mission to develop the whole person. VMI’s proud intercollegiate athletic history dates back to 1866 with the formation of a baseball team. In 1892, Cadet Walter H. Taylor served as captain and coach of the first football team.

VMI fields 18 teams on the NCAA Division I level: baseball, basketball, men’s and women’s cross-country, football, lacrosse, men’s and women’s rifle, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s swimming, men’s and women’s indoor track & field, men’s and women’s outdoor track & field, women’s water polo and wrestling.

VMI also boasts a thriving club sports program. While the sports vary from year to year based on the interests of the cadets, the standard sports include lacrosse, rugby, ice hockey, basketball, running, trap and skeet, triathlon, powerlifting, equestrian, and wrestling. New cadets may join a club sport in full member status after the Rat Line ends.

**Corps of Cadets Program**

The challenging military-based portion of the VMI program is a distinctive aspect of the VMI experience. All cadets are part of the Corps of Cadets and participate in officer training programs associated with one of the three ROTC units on post: Army, Naval (which includes the Marine Corps), and Air Force (which includes the Space Force). New cadets are called “rats” until they break out of the Rat Line in the spring semester and earn their cadet status.

Cadets live together in barracks, eat together in Crozet Hall, and wear the historic cadet uniforms. Cadets’ daily lives and conduct are regulated by the traditions and rules of the Institute and the Honor Code.
Pre-Matriculation

Packing
While bringing a trunk to VMI is allowed, they're highly discouraged due to limited storage space. Each cadet is allowed one piece of luggage. The dimensions of a large suitcase are between 28 and 32 inches long and approximately 19 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Smaller luggage pieces/stored belongings must fit inside the large piece of luggage because there isn’t unlimited space in the trunk rooms located in the concourse area of the barracks. It is recommended that the luggage be lockable. Sensitive and expensive items should not be stored in the barracks trunk room. VMI is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of personal property stored in the barracks trunk room, barracks cadet rooms, or other areas on post. It is recommended that personal items be labeled with the cadet’s name. If you are driving to VMI, consider bringing some of your items in a cardboard box that can be recycled or a plastic bin that can go back home after you are dropped off at VMI.

Use the following list to pack for VMI. Most items should be brought from home, but some items may be purchased at the VMI Bookstore (540-464-7637 or www.bkstr.com/vmistore). The bookstore accepts all major credit cards. The number of clothing items recommended is the minimum based on having to change clothes two or three times a day during the August heat. Laundry is sent out once a week so plan accordingly.

New cadets may purchase shower shoes, hydration system, shirt stays, mouth guards, and academic bags at the VMI Bookstore on Matriculation Day.

Mandatory and Optional Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory and Optional Items</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clothing—MANDATORY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Each</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pair</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Black 1.5-liter (50 oz.)** hydration system, i.e. Camelbak, Blackhawk, or equivalent—very important to have before matriculation

- Watch, black, athletic style recommended. *Rats cannot wear smart watches during the Rat Line.*

- Running shoes, predominately white or black

- Please visit [www.vmi.edu/auxservices](http://www.vmi.edu/auxservices) for information regarding purchasing approved military-style boots, breaking them in, and other details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>White pillow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pair</td>
<td>Compression shorts (reduces chafing), black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pair</td>
<td>Underwear, must be white (males: boxers OR boxer briefs OR briefs); females do not need male underwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>Crew neck t-shirts, must be white (v-neck or tank top style not authorized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>Females—Sports bras (minimum), must be white, high-impact recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>Shower shoes (rubber thong sandals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pair</td>
<td>Plain white, ankle or crew length athletic socks with no visible logos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pair</td>
<td>Long (over the calf) black boot/hiking socks to be worn with combat boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pair</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Plain black dress socks to be worn with low quarter shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>One pair civilian clothes and shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swimsuit, conservative one piece or traditional swim trunks, navy or black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mouth guard (for boxing class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plain white bath-size towels (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Plain white wash cloth (minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blanket (comforter), dark solid color, twin XL size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Twin XL white flat sheets (no elastic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Personal Hygiene—MANDATORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razor and Shaving Cream</td>
<td>1 Kit</td>
<td>(non-electric)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunscreen</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td>Tube or bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo/conditioner</td>
<td>1 Bottle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>1 Bar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyeglasses, if needed</td>
<td>2 Pair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body/foot powder</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deodorant</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Planner</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop Computer or iPad</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black fabric brief case style computer bag (not a backpack)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pens/Pencils</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notebooks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlighters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash drive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Miscellaneous—Highly Recommended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dusting supplies (Swiffer)</td>
<td>1 Set</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lint roller</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirt stays</td>
<td>1 Set</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floss</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotion</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lip balm</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shower Caddy</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockbox—can be purchased from 3rd Class Finance Committee on Matriculation Day</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desired personal hygiene products not listed</td>
<td>1 Each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Prohibited Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapons of any type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appliances including microwave ovens, hot pots, heating elements, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants and Pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flammable materials including candles, fireworks, incense, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVs or any other type of entertainment media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol, illegal drugs or associated paraphernalia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prohibited Items Until After Breakout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric razors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DVDs, CDs, computer games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPods or similar devices, MP3 players, and Computer speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing with emblems/logos, to include socks, underwear, t-shirts, linens, and towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition lens in eyeglasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart watches that can access social media, email or can text</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rats of 2022+3:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Virginia Military Institute, a school that will not only challenge you to do things you have never done before, but more importantly, demand you to perform at the highest standard. With your acceptance, you have already identified your desire for the pursuit of excellence and have begun to meet the standards that will be demanded of you for the next four years. You should be proud of your decision to attend this challenging yet rewarding institution. The system you are about to enter will transform you into men and women who display the highest level of character, honor, and respect. Do not let excuses derail you from your goals and aspirations to better yourself.

I urge you to remember that in choosing to pursue this track of a unique lifestyle, you will need to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. While you get excited and ready for August, remember one thing: failing to prepare is preparing to fail. In order to ensure you arrive prepared for one of the most rigorous schools in the country, there are several areas in which you must begin to train prior to matriculation.

First, you must arrive at VMI physically fit. The physical challenges and standards you will be met with are far from easy. It is crucial that you begin to train now. If you arrive unprepared for the fitness tests that you will be tasked with, it will be clear to myself and to my cadre that you have already begun to fail yourself. Without proper physical fitness, you will find the day-to-day tasks of being a rat to be harsh and unforgiving. I encourage you to focus on building core, upper body, and cardiorespiratory strength.

Second, and of critical importance, you must understand that VMI is an institution that will not only challenge you physically, but mentally and academically as well. Begin to learn how to properly balance academics with other aspects of your life. Upon your arrival at VMI, you will quickly learn that you are going to have many obligations and that your free time will be limited. Developing a sense of organization and time management is the first step to success. Failure to adhere to all aspects of the VMI system will ultimately result in failure.

Lastly, you must develop a sense of humility, respect, and selflessness. Any success you have obtained up to this point will be irrelevant once you set foot on VMI grounds. You must learn to be humble and always place your brother rats before yourself. You will arrive at VMI as an individual and leave as a class. In order to excel in the VMI system, you must lean on and care for your brother rats.

While preparation in these three aspects will help contribute to your success, becoming a VMI cadet is a long and difficult process that does not happen on Matriculation Day. You must demand nothing less than your best effort. If you display actions of perseverance and determination throughout the training that my cadre and I will lay out before you, then and only then will you become a VMI cadet. Prepare yourself and embrace the system which you are about to enter, for if you succeed you will become a part of the noble line of people who have the honor to call themselves a VMI cadet.

Cadet Captain Robert T.C. Hoeft
Regimental Executive Officer
Matriculation Week

Matriculation Week Overview

After you say goodbye to your family and form up with your company for the first time, you will march into barracks to meet your cadre. Fourteen upper class cadets from each company known as cadre are responsible for the training new cadets undergo to become VMI cadets. Collectively you are known as a rat mass and the Class of 2022 plus 3. You will not earn the status of 4th Class cadet, Class of 2025, until after Breakout.

Meeting your cadre will be the first in a long series of events designed to train and test you as you prepare for assuming the responsibilities of cadetship. During Matriculation Week, you will participate in numerous training activities, get your rat haircut, engage in daily physical fitness routines, learn about the history of VMI, and become familiar with the requirements of cadet life. You will also purchase textbooks, so ensure funds are available. Matriculation Week concludes with an event called the Rat Crucible.

Uniform Issue

Fitting and issuing of many uniform items is done during Matriculation Week. Identification of clothing is made by a laundry number assigned by the VMI Laundry Department. New cadet bags containing various supplies issued during the first week include a marking pen. New cadets are given time to mark all washable items they bring with them. These issued items are subject to change.
The Rat Line and Life as a Rat

During the first several months at VMI, new cadets are called “rats,” the accepted term (since the 1850s) for a new cadet. You will be part of a tradition and encounter the challenges that VMI cadets who came before experienced—the Rat Line. The purpose of the Rat Line is to assemble a class imbued with honor, discipline, pride, and respect. The Rat Line is conducted in phases of development, employing supporting virtues such as cohesion, humility, physical fitness, knowledge, and self-reliance, while teaching self-control, self-discipline, time management, and followership as prerequisites for becoming a VMI cadet. Even those who matriculate with advanced academic standing or prior military service must go through the Rat Line. To achieve success, new cadets must depend on their mental and physical skills, and the help and support of classmates (brother rats). With persistence and determination, new cadets will get through the Rat Line. It is through the rigors of the Rat Line that the bonds of brother rat spirit are forged.

The Dyke System

A new cadet’s greatest ally during and after the Rat Line is his or her 1st Class mentor, known as a dyke. The phrase originated in the 19th-century mispronunciation of the term “to get decked out,” or to dress up in one’s finery, as it takes two cadets to “dyke out” (put on the white cross belts) for the dress uniform worn at parades. In exchange for certain tasks performed by the new cadet, the dyke offers good advice, moral support, and a haven on the first stoop (“floor”) of barracks. New cadets learn that the dyke, as a mentor, will not allow avoidance of duties, but will help them through the rat year. Normally, the upper-class cadet initiates the contact with a new cadet for a possible dyke relationship. This contact may be based on common background, sports team, or shared hometown with the new cadet, or it may be facilitated by a member of the faculty, staff, or a coach. New cadets are closely monitored to ensure they receive a dyke.

A Typical Rat’s Day

Initially, new cadets are awakened by their cadre. After classes begin, they learn to wake up in time to get properly dressed, roll up their “hay” (mattress) and complete chores in their dykes’ rooms before Breakfast Roll Call (BRC).

At BRC and all other formations, squad corporals (3rd Class cadets) inspect new cadets for personal appearance. They then march down to Crozet Hall for breakfast. After breakfast, classes begin at 0800. All cadets must be on time and prepared for class.

After Supper Roll Call (SRC) and the following dinner, cadets must be in an approved study area such as barracks, the library, or an academic building. The end of the duty day is signified by Taps (lights out) at 2330 Sunday–Thursday. Saturdays are filled with various activities including military duty and academic meetings. On Sunday mornings, cadets are offered the opportunity to attend services at one of the local churches. On Sunday evenings, VMI’s full-time chaplains hold a non-denominational service in Memorial Hall.
To the Rats of 2022+3,

First, I would like to congratulate all of you for your acceptance into VMI. You had the opportunity to apply to any college/university across the country, yet you chose to attend one of the toughest military colleges in the nation. This alone speaks volumes of your character and desire to embrace new challenges. I hope you all choose to pursue the various opportunities for improving yourselves that will arise throughout your four years here; furthermore, I hope this will allow you to develop into the competent military leaders of which I know all of you are capable.

VMI stands apart from other universities for many reasons, but our Honor Code is by far the most unique feature in our possession. Honor is more than just a word or an empty concept. It is a lifestyle here at the Institute. Our Honor Code is simple: “A Cadet will not Lie, Cheat, Steal, nor Tolerate those who do.” These words constitute the compass that will come to guide your actions over your next four years at the Institute and those extending well beyond this time. You will realize very soon upon your arrival here at the Institute that your word is your bond, and once you sign the Matriculation Book, you will have signed on for a life full of honor, integrity, and commitment.

During your time at VMI, the honorable path will not always be the easiest one to follow. In fact, it may be the hardest, but your adherence to it can, and must, always be achieved. It is your responsibility to hold yourselves to the higher standard that we as cadets of the Virginia Military Institute strive to embody. Stonewall Jackson said that you may be whatever you resolve to be. I hope you resolve to live a life of honor.

That said, I am excited to see you all begin your cadetships this August. Be proud of your accomplishments up to this point and be prepared to embrace the system that will change your lives for the better. Enjoy your summer and come ready to face the challenges on the horizon.

Very Respectfully,
John D. Delaney
Honor Court President
Cadet Life

The VMI Honor System

On arrival at VMI, new cadets and parents will realize that it is indeed a unique place with a culture and a life all its own. The life of a VMI cadet is one of self-denial, self-control, and strict discipline. Nevertheless, as generations of cadets have discovered, it is possible not only to survive, but to thrive within these stone walls. Aiding and guiding cadets are several systems at the Institute that regulate and advocate for cadets.

The VMI educational system provides cadets with a constantly changing set of academic, military, physical, and psychological challenges. These diverse challenges are designed to provide each cadet with the opportunity to develop life skills that will contribute to his/her success regardless of endeavor. Paramount among those skills and the common thread that ties all aspects of the VMI experience together is honor. Above all else, cadets are men and women of honor and integrity who can always be trusted. They live by the VMI Honor Code, which simply states that “A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do.” The Code pervades all aspects of a cadet’s life. A cadet’s honor is his/her most guarded possession. The education of new cadets about the honor system is the responsibility of the Honor Court. The Honor Court is comprised of fourteen 1st and 2nd Class cadets elected by their classmates. In addition to education, the Honor Court is also responsible for adjudicating reported violations of the Honor Code. The VMI honor system is unique in that it is a single-sanction system. The system does not recognize degrees of honor. The sanction for any breach of honor is dismissal. So when new cadets sign the book on Matriculation Day, they are committing themselves to a life of honesty and integrity. If their commitment is not complete, their stay at the Institute may be short.
To the Matriculating Rat Mass of 2022+3,

I would like to start off by saying congratulations. The decision to attend the Virginia Military Institute is not one be taken lightly, and this decision is empowered even more by the tumultuous state of the union today. By taking the first steps into your cadetships, you have separated yourself from many who chose to take the easier path. The path you have chosen reflects highly on your personal character and desire to serve the community. Take this fact with pride, but also with humility. To make it through the hardships of VMI is to join the ranks of thousands of illustrious alumni who have trod the same path as us.

The Virginia Military Institute is a unique experience, one you will not find at any other school in the world. The challenges you face, decisions you make, friends you find, and subjects you study will have the potential to impact so much more than you realize. The four years you spend here will develop a citizen-soldier, prepared to step into the community ready to serve in any way that is needed. You are embarking on a journey of transformation, and it will not come to all of you easily. There will be hard times. There will be dark days, and I can personally guarantee that there will be times you want to quit. At these times, I implore you to take a moment to look at the brother rats that surround you and remember what you are fighting for every single day. Perhaps the most important piece of this journey is the unbreakable bonds that you will form with your brother rats, a bond forged in blood, sweat, and tears. I for one can say that my brother rats, my classmates, have become so much more. I look around and see my brothers and sisters looking back at me. These are the people who will push you to your personal limits and beyond. This is the family who will inspire you to become more than you ever thought possible.

For many of you, the days ahead are full of confusion, anxiety, and hardship. For those who believe they know what lies beyond the gates of barracks, I can personally assure you that there will be surprises. In this lies the beauty of VMI: every day at this Institute will be exactly what you make of it. In every difficulty, find opportunity. In every dark day, find a light. In every failure, find a lesson. You have chosen to come to VMI for a myriad of reasons, and if I can offer one piece of advice, work every day to find a new reason to stay. This Institute will test you at every turn. It will not, however, force you to fulfill your untapped potential. The decision to make your time at VMI worth it rests with every single one of you, and it is a choice you must make every single day. Make your voice heard through your actions, and never forget where you have come from.

Rah VA Mil,
Noah Ericson Kirk
General Committee President
VMI Class of 2022
The Class System

At VMI, rights and privileges as well as responsibilities depend on class. There are four classes: rats (who eventually become 4th Class cadets [freshmen] after Breakout), 3rd Class cadets (sophomores), 2nd Class cadets (juniors) and 1st Class cadets (seniors). There are also some fifth-year cadets who require additional time to complete their degree requirements, or remain for a 9th semester to participate in athletics resulting from a redshirt year or injury.

New cadets enjoy only one privilege: to strain. First class cadets, however, having completed three years at the Institute, enjoy many privileges, including the use of any arch to enter and exit barracks and operating a vehicle in Rockbridge County.

The class system is upheld by the General Committee, which is a board of cadets voted into office by each class and oversees the student government of VMI. Each class has a president, a vice president, and a historian, who are elected for life. The new 4th Class will elect its officers after spring furlough.

Regimental System

The regimental system should not be confused with ROTC. The regimental system administers the military component of the Corps of Cadets. Consisting of three battalions composed of three companies each (nine line companies plus a Regimental Band), this system is, after the Honor Code, the most enduring aspect of VMI. The regimental structure of the Corps of Cadets parallels that of a regular infantry regiment. Cadets are grouped into squads led by corporals (selected 3rd Class cadets); squads into platoons led by sergeants (selected 2nd Class cadets) and lieutenants (selected 1st Class cadets); platoons into companies commanded by 1st Class cadet captains; companies into battalions under the command of yet more cadet captains; finally, battalions into the regiment, commanded by the cadet first captain. This structure, along with other cadet officers and noncommissioned officers, makes up the military structure of the Corps of Cadets. It is important to note that at VMI, rank is not given freely by class; each cadet with rank has applied and been selected for rank based on demonstrated performance and leadership potential.

Company Transfer Policy

The Commandant of Cadets has the authority to assign and transfer cadets to and from any company within the Corps of Cadets for the purpose of health, welfare, morale, safety, security, or any other reason deemed necessary by the Commandant.

Regimental Band and Pipes

The Regimental Band is organized as its own company, comprised of approximately 150 full-time members. The Regimental Band, along with the Pipe Band, performs at over 150 events annually and in the past five years they have appeared at the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Pearl Harbor Commemoration in Hawaii, and at the New Orleans Mardi Gras Parade. They also perform at home and away athletic events. While representing VMI to the public, they are still required to participate in the duties and activities required of every VMI rat and cadet.

Club and Service Opportunities

www.vmi.edu/cadet-life/clubs-and-activities

Opportunities for cadet engagement and volunteerism include the Cadet Equity Association, Promaji Club, International Club, VMI Theatre, and Building BRIDGES.
VMI has several governing committees run by cadets under the supervision of the assistant commandant for cadet government. These committees handle the issues of the Corps and enforce regulations of the Institute.

The General Committee (GC) makes up the cadet leadership of the school. The GC upholds the standards and traditions of the Corps. It is the guardian of the class system through its enforcement of class privileges, and it is the officially recognized voice for cadets when interacting with the administration. The GC consists of the nine class officers and one elected 1st Class secretary.

The Officer of the Guard Association (OGA) maintains order and harmony within the Corps. This is the main organization through which the Corps polices its own, dealing with offenses from the most trivial to the most important. This organization, among other things, is charged with enforcing VMI’s anti-hazing policies. The OGA consists of 1st Class privates.

The Cadet Equity Association (CEA) promotes the Superintendent’s Statement on Equity at VMI, and monitors a post-wide climate of respect and equitable treatment for cadets. The mission of these cadets is to receive reports of incidents of discrimination or sexual harassment, to investigate these matters when appropriate, and to protect the privacy of the individuals involved insofar as it is possible. CEA cadets receive training in matters and procedures related to
investigations and legal issues that involve gender, racial, religious, sexual orientation, and ethnic discrimination.

**Physical Fitness**

Cadets have to take the VMI Fitness Test (VFT) every semester. The VFT is gender-normed and consists of pull-ups, sit-ups and a 1.5 mile run. It is highly encouraged that rats begin to get themselves into shape as soon as possible. VMI is notorious for ample stairs and never-ending hills. This is very important to keep in mind while preparing for the Rat Line. Following is a basic workout outline. Make sure to modify it to your ability.

- **Day 1:** 1 mile run at a fast pace/3 sets of 15 body weight squats/3 sets of lunges 10 each leg/4 sets of 30 seconds flutter kick then 25 crunches then 30 seconds plank
- **Day 2:** max set of pull ups/3 sets (1 min between sets). Diamond push-ups till exhaustion wait 30 seconds. Regular grip push-ups till exhaustion wait 30 seconds Wide grip push-ups till exhaustion.
- **Day 3:** 3 mile run/4 sets of pull ups till exhaustion
- **Day 4:** rest/stretch
- *(Repeat)*

Cadets are also required to take seven semesters of physical education classes. Cadets are also involved with several programs that encourage physical fitness. Physical Training Time (PTT) is administered by the respective ROTC departments and the Commandant’s staff. These sessions are mandatory. PTT is conducted twice each week and consists of a variety of physical training activities. Additionally, rats will engage in NCAA sports or Rat Challenge. This is where they will learn teamwork and leadership principles while doing many physical tasks such as runs, rope climbs, obstacle courses, rappelling, and swims. New Cadet Military Training (NCMT) teaches basic military skills, marksmanship, first aid, and land navigation.

**Privileges and Leaves**

Privileges and leave are based on General Committee (GC) class and are tempered by a cadet’s academic performance and/or conduct record. A cadet’s GC class is the class with which he/she matriculated unless the cadet has left and returned to VMI. Only 1st Class cadets with full class privileges are authorized to register, maintain, and operate a motor vehicle in Rockbridge County. New cadets are authorized one weekend leave after Breakout if they have full class privileges. Emergency leave of 72 hours may be granted because of serious illness, death, or other emergency in a cadet’s immediate family. The emergency leave must be approved by the commandant’s office or officer-in-charge and recommended by the chaplain. A time limit of 72 hours is stipulated for this furlough, but may be extended with the commandant’s approval. Special leaves are granted by permit. A cadet must have full class privileges and a cumulative 2.0 GPA to take advantage of special leaves. Cadets may submit a permit to attend religious conferences, retreats or encounter weekends off post. Religious permits may be submitted through the chaplain to the commandant and will require use of a weekend, unless the event is Institute sponsored or approved. A cadet may be placed on medical leave if he/she has a medical condition requiring an absence from duties at VMI. Medical permits are submitted through the Institute physician to the commandant. Other permits must be submitted by the cadet. Parents should not be involved in the permit process.
Women’s Health at VMI

The VMI Infirmary staffs a physician and nurse practitioner who offer full gynecological services while you are at VMI. Most of these services are free or at very low cost. The physician and nurse practitioner are available Monday–Friday from 0700–1700 and Saturday at sick call (0700).

Nurses are available at the VMI Infirmary 24 hours a day while cadets are in barracks.

What extra items might women need to bring to VMI?

» Pads, tampons, or other hygiene products
» Sports bras
» Any prescriptions or over-the-counter medications you use regularly
» Neutral colored hair clips & bobby pins (elastics not permitted after rat haircut)

It is not uncommon to get your period during Matriculation Week. Getting your period during Matriculation Week can be frustrating, but here is what to expect if that happens.

During that time, all 4th stoop bathrooms will be stocked with pads and tampons for rats if needed. All EMTs will be carrying pads and tampons for rats if needed while not in barracks. If you get your period, let an EMT know, so that you have additional support. A woman having her period will be given additional time for showers and hygiene if an EMT is aware.

Some women have irregular periods or miss their periods completely during times of high stress or intense exercise. Let the Infirmary know if you miss more than three periods in a row.

If you get painful cramps or have questions, go to the Infirmary. There is a medicine you can take to decrease the cramping. Many women at VMI use birth control pills, not just to prevent pregnancy, but for painful periods, irregular periods, or acne treatment.
Expectations for Cadet Conduct

General
Cadets are expected to conduct themselves as men and women of character at all times. Exemplary conduct both at and away from the Institute reflects credit on the cadet, the Corps, and the Institute. A cadet is always considered to be of good conduct and honorable under all circumstances, unless proven otherwise by the cadet’s own actions.

Conduct unbecoming of a cadet is any behavior which compromises, or can reasonably be expected to compromise, the character of the cadet, or the name and reputation of the Institute. Actions which constitute improper conduct are described in the Blue Book (regulation on standards and behavior) or established as such by the traditions of the Institute. Unacceptable conduct of a cadet may result in dismissal or other disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis.

Alcohol
The VMI post is commonwealth of Virginia property and subject to its laws concerning consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs. Consumption of alcohol on post by cadets, regardless of age, is strictly prohibited. There are severe penalties for all cadets who violate VMI’s policy regarding alcohol. All visitors to post should be aware of VMI’s rules regarding alcohol and illegal drugs and that they must absolutely refrain from providing alcohol or illegal drugs to cadets anywhere, to include “tailgate” parties. The Institute closely monitors the Parade Ground and all on-post activities.

Civility
VMI expects every cadet to be committed to respectful living, while treating everyone with dignity and fairness and encouraging others to do the same. In that light, cadets must understand the impact of their behavior on others and strive to uphold the values outlined in the Code of a Cadet.

Dating Among Cadets
Dating within the Corps is acceptable among the three upper classes as long as it is in accordance with policy. Typical cadet friendships based on shared backgrounds, academic or extracurricular interests, or organizational associations do not constitute dating. Cadets are not allowed to date within their own chain of command. New cadets may not date another member of the Corps during their entire first year at VMI.

Dangerous and Destructive Behavior
VMI is committed to the well-being and safety of cadets and the VMI family as a whole, as well as to the integrity of its learning environment. A cadet who presents a serious danger to self or others, or who substantially disrupts the learning environment on post, may be required to engage in a psychiatric evaluation followed by treatment on post if possible, and if not, while at home on a medical furlough.

Drug Testing Program, Controlled Substances, and Drug Paraphernalia
www.vmi.edu/drugtestpolicy
VMI General Order Number 53 is the Policy on Prohibiting Controlled Substances and Drug Paraphernalia. VMI does not tolerate the possession, solicitation, distribution, sale, or use of controlled substances, and/or of drug paraphernalia. VMI prohibits all cadets at any time or place, whether on- or off-post,
from possessing or using any controlled substances or other drug paraphernalia as defined in sections 18.2-250 (included in schedule I through VI of the Drug Control Act, Chapter 34 (§ 54.1-3400)) and 18.2-265.1 of the Code of Virginia, unless authorized by legal prescription for such substance or otherwise specifically permitted by law. Any cadet knowingly and willfully possessing or using such a substance or item in violation of this policy will be dismissed from the Institute. However, if the possession or use is not knowing and willful, the cadet will be subject to a penalty up to and including dismissal from the Institute.

VMI may conduct unannounced random drug tests of members of the Corps of Cadets for the presence of illegal drugs and other controlled substances periodically during the academic year. All matriculating at VMI do so with the understanding that they are subject to requirements of VMI’s random drug testing policy. In addition, the Commandant may direct members of the Corps of Cadets to be tested when a reasonable suspicion of drug use exists. Refusal to provide a specimen for testing upon request in accordance with the provisions of VMI policy may be treated as the equivalent of a positive test and turned over to the Commandant for appropriate disciplinary action. A positive finding of the presence of a prohibited substance shall be treated as confirmation of possession and use of the prohibited substance in violation of VMI policy and will result in dismissal.

**Go-16 Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation Policy**

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 any protected status, 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 GO-16, which includes VMI’s Discrimination Grievance Procedures (Appendix A of GO-16). Retaliation against those who have alleged violations of this policy, those who have filed complaints or reports under this policy, and those who have testified or otherwise participated in enforcement of this policy will be addressed in a separate General Order.

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination based on sex. It is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other conduct of a sexual nature including: verbal (e.g., specific demands for sexual favors, sexual innuendos, sexually suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, or sexual threats); non-verbal (e.g., sexually suggestive emails, other writings, articles or documents, objects or pictures, graphic commentaries, suggestive or insulting sounds or gestures, leering, whistling, or physical (e.g., touching, pinching, brushing the body, any unwelcome or coerced sexual activity, including sexual assault). Sexual harassment, including sexual assault, can involve persons of the same or different sexes. Sexual harassment may also include sex-based harassment directed toward stereotypical notions of what is female/feminine v. male/masculine or a failure to conform to those gender stereotypes.

**Bystander Intervention Training**

VMI adopted the “Step UP! Bystander Intervention program” beginning in 2014.
As new cadets, you will receive training in a small group setting to maximize your understanding of the program and the need to be proactive in helping others. The goals of Step UP! are to:

- Raise awareness of helping behaviors
- Increase motivation to help
- Develop skills and confidence when responding to problems or concerns
- Ensure the safety and well-being of self and others

Most incidents on college campuses involve bystanders. Step UP! training provides a framework explaining the bystander effect, reviews relevant research and teaches skills for intervening successfully using the 5 Decision Making Steps, and the S.E.E. Model (Safe; Early; Effective). A survey at three universities (The University of Arizona, University of California, Riverside and University of Virginia), revealed that students are encountering multiple situations where bystander intervention would be appropriate including, among other things, alcohol abuse, hazing, eating disorders, sexual assault, and discrimination. Almost 90 percent stated a problem could have been avoided with intervention and up to 85 percent of the student-athletes indicated they would like to learn skills to intervene. The bottom line is that many, if not most, unfortunate results are preventable.

Hazing

The Rat Line and cadet life is difficult, but the conduct of cadre is absolutely professional and hazing is prohibited under Virginia law. Rats cannot choose to be hazed. Section 18.2-56 of the Virginia Code states: “Hazing is unlawful; civil and criminal liability; duty of school, etc., officials” is as follows: “It shall be unlawful to haze, or otherwise mistreat so as to cause bodily injury, any student at any school, college or university. Any person found guilty thereof shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person receiving bodily injury by hazing or mistreatment shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants. The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university, receiving appropriations from the State treasury shall, upon satisfactory proof of the guilt of any student hazing or mistreating another student, sanction and discipline such student in accordance with the institution’s policies and procedures. The institution’s policies and procedures shall provide for expulsions or other appropriate discipline based on the facts and circumstances of each case. The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university receiving appropriations from the state treasury shall report hazing which causes bodily injury to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which such school, college or university is, who shall take such action as he deems appropriate.”

Marriage and Parenthood

All VMI cadets must live in barracks and participate in a demanding and rigorous military program that does not permit attention to the duties implied by marriage or parenthood. Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Board of Visitors, any cadet who marries or becomes a parent is expected to resign from the Corps. Absent voluntary resignation, should the Institute, in its reasonable judgment, conclude that a cadet is married or the parent of a child, such cadet shall be separated from the Corps, for failure of eligibility, at the end of the semester in which the information is received and investigated. For the purpose of the policy, the responsibilities of parenthood are deemed to begin upon a cadet’s learning that a child has been
conceived as a result of his or her conduct. All cadets shall, upon matriculation and return each fall, sign a statement confirming their knowledge of this policy.

**Penalties**

Penalties that may be assigned for violations are demerits, confinement, penalty tours, and suspension or dismissal from the Institute. In addition, cadets may be declared ineligible for privileges or be placed on conduct probation. Appeals for reconsideration of a penalty assigned as a result of a special report must be submitted in writing to the Commandant within one week of the date of the special report. Appeals of disciplinary dismissals may be heard only in the most unusual of circumstances. The president of the United States and the governor of Virginia may suspend confinement and penalty tours through the granting of amnesty. Amnesty does not affect demerits or any probationary status, i.e., conduct or academic probation.

**Punitive Restrictions**

Restrictions placed on a cadet affect his/her status by redefining limits and negating privileges. Cadets given restrictions will be fully aware of the limits of their restrictions. Ignorance is not an acceptable explanation for breach of restriction. Restrictions include arrest, room confinement, barracks confinement, conduct probation, and physical training probation.

**The Blue Book**

The Blue Book outlines the regulations governing the Corps of Cadets and provides broad guidelines for cadet standards and conduct. Cadets adhere to the provisions of the Blue Book at all times including during furloughs (including summers) and while on and off post. VMI cadets are subject to this regulation from the time they sign the Matriculation Book and become a cadet until relieved of duty at graduation. Violations of the Blue Book that occur, for example, during the summer furlough and off post, may result in action being taken for misconduct.
Support Services and Information

Campus Security
www.vmi.edu/police
540-463-9177

The Jeanne Clery Act requires all institutions of higher education to publicly disclose three years of campus crime statistics and basic security policies. In addition, federal regulations require disclosure of graduation rates for each institution. VMI has chosen to include its sexual harassment and sexual assault policies with this information.

The personal safety of cadets and the security of the community are of vital concern to Virginia Military Institute. A copy of the Institute’s annual security report is available upon request. This report includes statistics for the most recent three-year period concerning reported crimes that occurred on post, in certain off-post buildings, on property owned or controlled by VMI, and on the public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the post. The report also includes information regarding the law enforcement authority of the post police and policies concerning campus security, such as crime prevention, alcohol and drug use, sexual assault, and reporting of any crimes that may occur on campus.

Commandant’s Office
540-464-7962

Overseeing cadet life in barracks is the responsibility of the commandant and his staff. There are at least two experienced individuals on duty within the barracks 24 hours per day. Their most important responsibility is to ensure the health and well-being of cadets. The officer in charge can be contacted at 540-464-7962. In addition to this, each cadet is a member of a company, and each company is supervised by a member of the commandant’s staff. Cadets and parents with questions or concerns can also contact the appropriate tactical officer for assistance.

Emergency Management
www.vmi.edu/cadet-life/health-and-safety/emergency-management

VMI is committed to informing the community of an emergency, disaster or potential disaster immediately upon determining the nature of the emergency. It is important for you to take an active role in staying informed.

VMI takes a proactive approach to effective communication through the VMI Mass Notification system, which allows VMI to instantly send emergency information to users via text messaging, email, and a phone call to its community. This is a no-cost service. Cadets, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to participate in or opt-out of this program during the registration process. VMI encourages everyone in the VMI community 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.

VMI 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 only need to 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-College Edition” app, download it, and select “Virginia Military Institute” when prompted. VMI encourages all cadets to have this safety app on their mobile phones.

Barber Shop
www.vmi.edu/auxservices

Each rat receives a “rat haircut” during Matriculation Week at the Institute’s own barber shop, located in the concourse of New Barracks. New cadets are required to get a haircut every week during the Rat Line. New cadets should not get a regulation haircut before matriculating. The quartermaster charge covers the cost of all haircuts.

Preston Library
www.vmi.edu/library
540-464-7129

The mission of Preston Library is to provide library materials and services of the highest quality; to teach skills needed for academic inquiry and lifelong learning; to support faculty and undergraduate research; to provide access to and promote the use of Institute historical materials; and to offer library services to the community at large.

Renovation of Preston Library was completed in spring 2021. The library’s collections include books and journals in print and electronic formats, non-print items such as DVDs, and databases covering a wide range of academic fields. Preston Library is also a selective depository of U.S. government publications. Patrons interested in doing primary source research involving rare books and photographs, along with Institute historical records and growing digital archives, can find those materials in the VMI Archives in Preston Library.

Cadets may check out books, videos, and other materials for their research and study needs and can access materials on course reserves. Preston Library also offers cadets free interlibrary loan service, which provides access to materials not owned by our library. Personalized research consultations are available by appointment or on a drop-in basis.

Workstations with access to the internet, the library’s online catalog, discovery tools, databases, digital resources, Microsoft Office and local network drives are available in the library and the open computer lab. Wireless network access and FindMe printing are available throughout
the building. Study and learning spaces include study carrels, group study rooms, large study tables, whiteboards, and gallery areas on each floor with comfortable seating.

More information about Preston Library and its resources, services, staff, and facilities is available at [www.vmi.edu/library](http://www.vmi.edu/library).

**Lejeune Hall**

Food Court (also called “The X” or “PX”) is located in Lejeune Hall and is adjacent to Third Barracks. It is open seven days a week, from 0830–2300, Monday–Saturday; 1100–2300 on Sunday. An assortment of food, from salads to pizza, is available. Sales are for cash, check, or major credit card. Orders can also be taken for special event items (birthday cakes, exam packs, etc.).

**VMI Bookstore**


The VMI Bookstore, located in Lejeune Hall, sells textbooks, authorized supplies, and toiletry items. For the convenience of cadets, the Bookstore also carries stationary, paperbacks, greeting cards, post cards, imprinted sportswear, grooming supplies, and souvenirs. Free gift wrapping is provided. New cadets will make several purchases in the Bookstore during Matriculation Week. These purchases must be paid for at the time of sale by cash, check, or major credit card. Cadets may order books online and pick them up at a later time.

**Religious Support**

540-464-7390

The chaplain to the Corps of Cadets provides religious support and opportunities for spiritual development to the members of the Corps. The chaplain leads a vibrant, growing Sunday chapel service in Memorial Hall with contemporary worship, cadet testimonies, and inspirational preaching and teaching from the scriptures. Cadets are encouraged to mature in their faith through prayer, Bible study (small Bible study groups meet on each stoop weekly), fellowship (numerous religious groups assemble on and off post each week), worship (local churches offer weekly services), community service (students are encouraged to participate in activities benefiting those in need), and missions (spring and summer furlough mission trips are made available). The chaplain also provides personal counseling and mentoring. The chaplain's office liaisons with local denominational churches that include Episcopal, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Pentecostal, Methodist, etc. Support is provided through a local Hillel group for Jewish cadets. The chaplain provides religious support for all faith groups based upon availability of local churches, mosques, and synagogues. For any questions, please contact Col. Robert “Bob” Phillips ’87, Institute chaplain, at his office.

**Telephones**

New cadets are not authorized to have a cell phone in their possession. They will often keep their cell phones in their dykes’ rooms until the end of the Rat Line. Since rats are difficult to directly contact, parents should contact their son or daughter’s dyke if they want to reach their cadet quickly. In the event of a true emergency, parents should call the Commandant’s Office during normal duty hours at 540-464-7313 or the officer in charge of barracks at 540-464-7293.
Uniform Laundry, Cleaning, Pressing, Alterations and Repairs

Laundry service is provided once a week. Each cadet is assigned a laundry number on Matriculation Day. New cadets will receive a permanent laundry marker in their rat-bag to mark their laundry number on all of the non-issued clothing. Uniforms are cleaned and pressed in the VMI Laundry Department. The cost of laundering, cleaning and pressing of regulation uniform items is included in the quartermaster charge. The VMI Tailor Shop alters and repairs uniforms. There is no charge for normal uniform alterations and repairs due to fair wear and tear.

Military Store

The Military Store, located in Richardson Hall, stocks regulation uniform items. Additional and replacement uniform items may be purchased, but must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash, check, or credit card. Hours: Monday–Friday from 0730–1100 and 1200–1530.

Health Services

COVID-19

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, see www.vmi.edu/COVID.

Center for Cadet Counseling

The Center for Cadet Counseling (CCC) offers services that help develop awareness, knowledge and skills necessary for cadets to make healthy choices, meet future challenges and lead meaningful lives. Services include educational programming, individual assessment, and counseling, psychiatric services, crisis intervention and consultation. Counseling services are confidential and conducted by licensed mental health professionals.

Post Infirmary

An 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 Rockbridge Community Hospital, which serves the Lexington-Rockbridge County area. Medical conditions that must be treated off-post are treated at the cadet’s expense. Cadets are permitted to keep personal prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in their rooms.

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

If you have specific questions, please email: infirmary@vmi.edu.

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology Department serves as the management and support group for all technological services offered at VMI. From maintenance to training courses, the continually modernizing program provides many courses aimed at promoting learning and assisting faculty and staff. The IT Department’s home page contains links to many helpful resources.

Wireless Network Connectivity

VMI provides wireless network access in many classrooms and general access
areas around post, giving cadets ample opportunity to use laptops equipped with wireless network adapters in the completion of academic obligations. There are two IT help desks located at VMI. One help desk is located in room 315 of Nichols Engineering building, and the other help desk is located in the barracks study room. Office hours are Monday–Friday, 0700–1200 and 1300–1600. Instructions for gaining access to the wireless network can all be found on the IT Department’s homepage.

Museum System

VMI operates three historic sites: the VMI Museum, the Jackson House Museum, and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. Founded in 1845, the VMI Museum is the oldest museum in Virginia. It preserves and exhibits the history of the Cadet Corps and is located in the lower two levels of Memorial Hall. The Jackson House Museum is an historic house museum located at 8 Washington Street in Lexington that interprets Jackson’s domestic life of the late 1850s. Purchased by then professor Maj. Thomas Jackson in 1858, Jackson owned the home until his death in 1863. The New Market Battlefield State Historical Park is a 300-acre battlefield park commemorating the Battle of New Market and participation by the VMI Cadet Corps on 15 May 1864. The Virginia Museum of the Civil War is the Commonwealth’s only state-owned Civil War museum and is located on the grounds of the park, just off Interstate 81 at Exit 264. All three museums are open daily, 0900–1700. Parents and current cadets receive free admission at all three sites.
Rat Mass of 2022+3,

All of you have opted to take a road less traveled. Your decision is admirable, but only one small step in the journey that is a VMI cadetship. What lies before you is the hardest undergraduate experience in the nation. While your peers at conventional universities coast through their years in college, you will be tested emotionally, mentally, and physically in ways inconceivable to you. Shortly, you will have the opportunity to prove your determination to withstand the challenges before you.

The transition from high school-level academics to college-level academics is demanding. While there are many things demanded of you at the Institute, your academics will be under your own control. Your unique burden will be to manage your time efficiently in order to balance the many trials and tribulations you will face every day as a VMI cadet. This ownership, however, does not come with a lack of support. Side by side, you and your brother rats will all be undergoing these unique challenges within the Rat Line. As you feel the stress overwhelm you, I ask that you recall that you are never alone at VMI. Rely on your brother rats for support and seek help. Additionally, my S-2 staff, composed of cadets that have mastered the academic systems of the Institute, exists to support your transition into and continued success in the rigorous academic environment of VMI. It is our mission, in tandem with the Miller Academic Center, to provide you with access to a network of cadet peer tutors, group study sessions, and professionally staffed organizations devoted to promoting the educational development of all VMI cadets. Your S-2 company representative will work with you personally to determine your needs and the resources that are most applicable to your academic situation.

It is my personal promise to you that my staff and I will do everything in our power to provide you with every opportunity for success. However, remember that it is contingent on you, the individual rat, to seek help in pursuit of the grades you are capable of earning, and to take your success into your own hands. My staff, and every other resource the Institute has to offer, cannot help you if you do not first reach out for support. You will never be given anything at the Virginia Military Institute. Here, you must win every grade through your own efforts. My staff’s mission is to open every door you could need to be successful at VMI. Yours is to walk through those doors from your own volition and to act on your own definition of academic success.

Very respectfully,
Alex N. Rice
S-2 Captain AY 21–22
Academics and Related Support

S-2 Staff Description
The S-2 staff serves as academic advisors to the Corps of Cadets, and representatives of the Corps to the VMI faculty. Each company is assigned an S-2 academic representative who monitors the company’s academic performance and helps struggling cadets in need of academic help. The S-2 staff is particularly focused in working with rats and ensuring that they have a successful academic transition from high school to college academics. Additionally, the S-2 staff serves as scribes for cadet meetings and writes permits relating to academics.

Recommendations for Incoming Rats
» New cadets need to be aware that courses in colleges are much more difficult than courses in high school, especially here at VMI, where new cadets need to learn how to manage their time between the Rat Line and academics.
» It is better to over-prepare than under-prepare.
» Be ready to create and maintain good relationships with your professors. Introducing yourself to your professors at the beginning of the semester will be beneficial to your success throughout the course.
» Use your allotted free time wisely. Triage assignments according to their length and importance. For example, do a worksheet during a free hour, but use the uninterrupted Dean’s evening hours to work on a long paper.
» Seek help as soon as you feel you’re struggling—even if only a little bit. It’s better to get help as soon as something is unclear so that you don’t fall behind even more.
» Place your academics first. It’s easy to get so caught up in the Rat Line that you put your homework off. You don’t get kicked out for unshined shoes, but you can easily get kicked out for bad grades.
» Familiarize yourself with the Academic Handbook to find out more about academic policies, departmental information, program requirements, and opportunities by reading through the course catalog on the website (www.vmi.edu/majors).
» Start off strong. At VMI, you are starting fresh and developing/maintaining a strong work ethic will be important for succeeding later in life.
» New cadets need to be aware that they have a lot of academic resources they can use, and we are here to help. (Writing Center, Group Study Sessions, Miller Academic Center, and especially the tutor system).

Academic Advising
Upon entry into VMI, each cadet is assigned an academic advisor who, unless the cadet subsequently changes academic major, will work with the cadet until graduation. During the first year there is extensive contact between the advisor and cadet in order to facilitate the cadet’s transition into the VMI culture, assist the cadet in mastering the academic policies and regulations, and assist the cadet in coordinating the demands of a multi-faceted academic and co-curricular experience.

The academic advising program is a pivotal element of the broader program of academic support services provided by Virginia Military Institute and is a major force in ensuring a successful progression.
through the VMI program. Cadets are encouraged to take full advantage of the Institute’s commitment to the academic advising process.

Financial Aid
[www.vmi.edu/financialaid](http://www.vmi.edu/financialaid)

The mission of the Office of Financial Aid is to provide financial assistance and counseling to cadets and prospective cadets, so as to reduce the financial barriers that could hinder enrollment, retention, and success at VMI. The office strives to provide responsible and courteous service and functions in compliance with all federal, state, and VMI policies.

The application process for financial aid consists of two important steps:

- The completion of the VMI Financial Aid Application
- The completion of the FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (#003753)

Deadline: March 1 of each year for new and returning cadets. Failure to submit materials by the deadline may affect VMI’s ability to provide financial assistance.

The completion of these two forms determines the level of need-based aid for which a cadet qualifies. In addition to aid awarded by VMI (need-based grants, merit scholarships, and ROTC scholarships), assistance may also be received through Federal Direct Loans and Parent PLUS Loans. All aid received by a VMI cadet, regardless of the source, will be processed through the Office of Financial Aid. Please visit [www.vmi.edu/financialaid](http://www.vmi.edu/financialaid) to find additional details regarding VMI’s Financial Aid program, as well as contact information for staff members.
Special Academic Programs

Office of Disabilities Services.  
www.vmi.edu/ds

The Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) is committed to meeting the ethical and legal responsibilities to ensure equitable educational access for cadets with documented disabilities. We support cadets’ development of academic, life and leadership skills in a manner that fosters self-awareness, self-determination, and self-advocacy. ODS also serves as a resource to the VMI community by promoting awareness and understanding of disability issues in higher education.

Cadets with documented disabilities are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the director of ODS as early as possible to allow adequate time for review of documentation, to allow for a thorough assessment of academic needs, and to familiarize new cadets with administrative procedures.

Institute Honors Program  
www.vmi.edu/honors

This program exists to enrich the academic experience of VMI’s outstanding cadets through activities that encourage an affinity for intellectual inquiry and develop the capacity for sophisticated engagement of issues and problems, whether ethical, civic, or professional. In all of its elements, the program stresses peer leadership, strong oral and written communication skills, and the highest standards of academic integrity and excellence. The Institute Honors Program recognizes a broader range of achievement than honors earned in any particular major. Attainment of Institute Honors is viewed as the highest academic achievement at VMI.

International Programs  
www.vmi.edu/ip

Broadening global perspectives and increasing cultural awareness is an inherent component of VMI’s mission of educating citizen-soldiers. The Office of International Programs (OIP) offers a complete portfolio of study abroad opportunities designed to prepare young men and women for successful service in an increasingly global community. VMI’s study abroad opportunities include programs at both civilian and military institutions around the globe. Because cadets are not permitted to study abroad during their first two semesters at VMI, the summer following the rat year presents cadets with their first chance to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity. Cadets may study abroad one semester during their cadetship and as many summers as they like. Faculty-led summer programs occur during the same time frame as the VMI summer sessions and are intended not to conflict with regular duties during the year, such as ROTC training, intercollegiate athletics, or other responsibilities within the Corps.

Open Math Lab (OML)  
www.vmi.edu/oml

The Open Mathematics Laboratory (OML) is designed to allow cadets to freely seek and find as much help as needed for any of VMI’s mathematics core curriculum courses. The model for the lab is one wherein tutors are prepared to help cadets in an open and shared setting. Walk-ins are welcomed. OML tutors are trained, knowledgeable, and current on the specific techniques and problems taught by VMI mathematics teaching faculty. The OML is meant to complement and support, but not replace, course activities within the VMI mathematics curriculum.
Miller Academic Center Academic Success Programs
www.vmi.edu/mac

The Miller Academic Center (MAC) helps cadets transition to college academics and college life. Cadets can learn how to effectively manage their time through the use of the VMI College Success Planner. Group Study Sessions (GSS) are available for a number of core courses including science, math, history, and foreign languages. The GSS meetings are a weekly opportunity for new cadets to discuss coursework and strategies with successful upper-class cadets. Academic Saturday workshops provide new cadets with valuable information on effective study skills and strategies to optimize their time. Staff will also meet with individual cadets to discuss concerns or questions about academic success at VMI. New cadets are encouraged to learn more about the MAC programs and services designed with them in mind by visiting www.vmi.edu/mac.

Writing Center
www.vmi.edu/iwp

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, at any level and in any discipline. Professional tutors work with cadets in one-on-one conferences on every aspect of the writing process, from planning a paper to polishing a final draft. For further information, contact Colonel Christina R. McDonald, Institute director of writing, or visit the Institute Writing Program’s website.

Transfer Credit
www.vmi.edu/admissions-and-aid/apply

VMI has stringent rules in regards to transfer credit approval. It should be known that VMI requires cadets to have at least 6 semesters in residence at VMI to graduate, with a 75% rule requiring that at least 75% of all credits a cadet graduates with were earned at VMI. In regards to AP credit and college credit transfer, VMI requires students to earn a C or better in order for the credit to transfer.
The VMI Center for Undergraduate Research (VCUR) is both a program and a centralized office with the mission of promoting and facilitating faculty-mentored undergraduate research at VMI. VCUR operates on the premise that some of the most enduringly meaningful academic experiences of college students come through opportunities to be mentored one-on-one by faculty outside the classroom, while also believing in the merit of research and other inquiry-based experiences within a more traditional classroom setting. VCUR simultaneously nurtures existing mentoring efforts and coordinates new institutional support for joint investigative projects by faculty members and cadets. Programs include an annual Undergraduate Research Symposium held on post; a Summer Undergraduate Research Institute; cadet travel grants to present at professional meetings or conduct research in the field; Wetmore Fund for supplies for cadet academic year research; and awards to encourage and acknowledge faculty who engage cadets in undergraduate research experiences. For more information, contact Col. Scott Frein or visit VCUR’s website.

ROTC

In order to graduate from VMI, every cadet is required to take eight semesters of ROTC classes and successfully pass each semester. Each ROTC unit prepares cadets to receive a commission in their respective branch, whether a cadet chooses to commission or not. Throughout the year, there are two scheduled training exercises during which it is likely that cadets will leave post to train in the field for a weekend. These weekend Field Training Exercises (FTXs) provide experience specific to the service the cadet has selected. If a cadet is interested in earning a commission, scholarship and non-scholarship commissioning programs are available in each of the four service branches.

New cadets are required to select a ROTC branch during the summer scheduling process. In attempting to determine which ROTC branch they should enroll, new cadets can contact representatives of each branch through their departmental emails. Each ROTC department will be available at matriculation to answer additional questions. In order to enroll in the Air Force or Naval (Navy or Marines) ROTC programs, new cadets must express a desire to commission and meet individual service requirements. Cadets who are not anticipating commissioning will be assigned to Army ROTC.

The Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve Simultaneous Membership Programs are avenues that a cadet may take for additional income and possible tuition assistance. While these are great programs, prospective cadets are strongly encouraged to contact the Army ROTC Department (USAR or ARNG Liaison Officers) before enlisting, as Basic Training and School dates could prevent the cadet from completing a semester, which could result in disenrollment from VMI. There could also be some conflict when applying for an ROTC scholarship. For more information contact Mr. Thomas Atkinson (Army) 540-464-7680, armyrotc@vmi.edu; Retired Chief Yeoman Rick Schemehorn (Navy) 540-464-7277, nrotc@vmi.edu; Ms. Diane Fishburn (Air Force) 540-464-5354, afrotc@vmi.edu.
To best protect cadets, faculty, staff, and visitors against COVID-19, and ensure a safe and productive academic year, **VMI will require cadets to be fully vaccinated by their report date.**

Vaccine confirmation must be shared with VMI before arrival.

Visit [www.vmi.edu/safereturn](http://www.vmi.edu/safereturn) for details about the submission process and other COVID-19 protocols.
Glossary of Common VMI Terms

1857 Limits Gates: Brick pillars on Letcher Avenue near Mallory Hall denoting an old boundary between VMI and the town.

Barracks: Where cadets live; dominant architectural feature of VMI; original section completed in 1851; a National Historic Landmark.

Barracks Study Room: Room in the concourse of barracks with study carrels, computers, and printers available to all cadets, including rats, for studying.

The Bomb: The VMI yearbook; the oldest college annual in the South, first published in 1885.

Boned: The act of being placed on report for an infraction of the rules; Bone: the specific punishment for being boned.

Boxed Lunches: A to-go lunch hand made for cadets during times they can’t make it to Crozet.

BRC: Breakfast Roll Call; the first formation of the day.

Breakout: Culminating event signaling the end of the Rat Line.

Breach of Permit: Failure to adhere to both the letter and the spirit of conditions associated with specific permission to do something. (See also: Permit.)

Brother Rat, “BR”: A term of affection for those who go through the Rat Line the same time you do.

CAD: Completion of Academic Duty. This is when the student is finished with class for the day.

CEA: Cadet Equity Association. Monitors the post-wide climate of respect and equitable treatment for cadets.

Certified: An oath, as in “I certify;” also, the promise not to share confidential information

Citizen-Soldier: The goal of a VMI education; modeled on the actions of Cincinnatus, the legendary Roman farmer/warrior/statesman who fought to save Rome, then returned to civilian life.

Class: First class (senior); second class (junior); third class (sophomore); fourth class (freshmen); rats become fourth class cadets after the Rat Line ends (following Breakout).

CLE: Center for Leadership and Ethics

CMD: Completion of Military Duty. This is when the cadet is finished with all required responsibilities for the day.

Coatee: Woolen jacket with tails and many buttons; part of full-dress uniform.

Commandant: Senior administrative officer responsible for the supervision and training of the Corps.

Concourse: Underground level of barracks.

Confinement: A restriction to room, barracks, or post; results from being boned for a rules violation.

CCQ: Close Call to Quarters. This is when cadets are required to be in their rooms if they are not in an authorized location.

CPTF: Corps Physical Training Facility

CQ: Call to Quarters. This is when the guard teams have checked barracks after Taps has sounded to release cadets from their rooms.

CQRB: Call to Quarters, Release in Barracks. This is announced 15 minutes before Taps.

CTT: Commandant’s Training Time used for training and inspections.

DTT: Dean’s Training Time; Dean’s weekly time for special academic activities.

Demerits: mark made against a cadet’s record for a fault or for misconduct; issued for breaking rules and as a result
of being boned; excess demerits may result in suspension or dismissal.

**DRC:** Dinner Roll Call

**Drum Out:** the formal announcement to the Corps of an expulsion of a cadet for an honor offense. The ceremony begins with a long drum roll.

**Ducks:** White cotton trousers worn with coatee during formal occasions.

**Dyke:** The term used for a first class cadet in relation to his/her rat.

**Dyke Out:** To get dressed in Coatee and don the signature white crossing straps, worn only for parades.

**EC:** Executive Committee; is composed of the GC (see definition) and the President of the OGA (see definition) and hears special cases of cadet misconduct.

**Formation:** Cadets standing in ranks for a specific event, such as parade formation, meal formation, etc.

**Form 24:** A form to self-bone. Used when cadets break a rule, which they are honor bound to follow.

**Furlough:** Vacation scheduled or approved by VMI.

**GC:** General Committee; composed of the nine class officers; maintains/ enforces the standards of the Corps. The EC, OGA, and CEA are subcommittees of the GC.

**Gim:** Term applied to Sick Call or those who receive relief from duty as a result of an injury or illness. The first Institute Physician had a horse named “Gimlet,” nicknamed “Old Gim,” which he used to transport cadets who were too ill to walk. Thus, cadets “rode the Gim” to sick call.

**General Orders:** Standing orders for members of the Guard Team or orders pertaining to VMI employees and/or cadets.

**Gray Blouse:** Woolen jacket (equivalent to coat and tie in formality)

**Guard Room:** Headquarters for the Guard Team; in Old Barracks Main Arch.

**Guard Team:** The group of cadets responsible for barracks for a 24-hour period.

**Guard Tree:** Formerly a tree on the Parade Ground where the guard team assembled; site now marked by a memorial tablet.

**Hay:** Traditional term for mattress which must be rolled up each morning; term originated from days when cadets slept on hay pallets.

**Hay Rack:** Folding cot upon which the hay is placed for sleeping; also known as one’s rack; must be placed against wall each morning.

**Help Received Statement:** Official, certified statement on any “work for grade” that acknowledges any work not belonging to the cadet whose work it is.

**Honor Court:** See section on Honor System in this handbook.

**Honor System:** See section on Honor System in this handbook.

**Hops:** Organized dances/mixers/social events at VMI.

**House Mountain:** Double mountain seen in profile from Parade Ground; located about five miles west-northwest of VMI; a Rockbridge County landmark.

**McKethan Park:** A recreation park and pavilion used for Corps and Institute activities located two miles east of Lexington.

**Memorial Hall:** The primary assembly hall for Corps functions; contains cadet chapel and VMI Museum.

**Military Duty:** The part of the day devoted to military duties and/or the intramural athletic program; follows academic duty and precedes supper.

**New Market:** A town located in southern Shenandoah County, Virginia where the May 15, 1864 Battle of New Market was fought. It is approximately 80 miles north of Lexington. This battle was fought through the town and on the
rolling hills surrounding it. It is also
known for the role of the VMI Corps of
Cadets in the action with 257 engaged, 47
wounded and 10 killed.

**North Post**: Location of the military
leadership field training grounds

**OC**: Officer-in-Charge, an Institute
official; represents the Commandant
and monitors guard team performance
after hours.

**OCMNI**: Officer-in-Charge Middle of
the Night Inspection. An after Taps check
of cadets by the OC.

**OCNI**: Officer-in-Charge Nightly
Inspection. An evening check of the
barracks by the OC.

**OD/OG**: Officer of the Day/Officer of the
Guard; the two ranking members of the
guard team (usually first class cadets).

**OGA**: Officer of the Guard Association
(first class privates); helps create and
maintain an environment that facilitates
communications, harmony, and
discipline in the Corps.

**Old Barracks Main Arch**: Main entrance
to Old Barracks; contains entrance to
Commandant’s office.

**Optional BRC**: Authorization to miss
Breakfast Roll Call.

**Orderly**: A cadet from each room who is
responsible for the cleanliness of the
room. Will receive all bones for an out of
order room.

**Parade Ground**: Open field in front of
barracks used for parades, physical
training, and tailgates during
football season.

**Parapet**: Wall along the south side of
barracks overlooking Memorial Gardens
and Cocke Hall; has a famous inscription
which rats must memorize.

**Penalty Tours**: A punishment consisting
of an hour’s worth of supervised
marching while carrying a rifle.

**Permits**: Typed documents approved by
the appropriate authority to address
situations needing special attention and/
or to grant approval for exceptions to
policies. Permits must be submitted no
later than four days prior to the effective
date. The Commandant approves certain
Standing Permits at the start of each
academic year for special purposes
such as dine with family. Cadets must
acquire the appropriate signatures prior
to submitting permits. This includes
professor signatures for class absences,
coach approval for intercollegiate
absences, the doctor’s signature for
urgent medical appointments or
furloughs, adviser signatures for club
activities, and Career Service approval
for interviews.

**PTT**: Physical Training Time with a
cadet’s ROTC affiliation or, if a non-
commissioning second or first class
cadet, with their VMI company.

**PX**: Post Exchange; where cadets get food
and can eat with families

**QMD**: Quartermaster Department;
is issues uniforms.

**Ranker**: Any cadet who holds an official
position in the regimental system.

**Rat**: Term applied to all new cadets during
their first year at VMI; precedes being
a fourth class cadet, which comes after
Breakout from the Rat Line.

**Rat Bible**: A small book of facts about
VMI’s history and certain information
specific to the current year; must be
in a rat’s possession at all times; rats
are responsible to know and recite the
contents of this book.

**Rat Challenge**: A physical program that
includes obstacle courses; promotes
teamwork and leadership; rats
participate during the fall semester.

**Rat Line**: The whole experience of being
a rat; also the specific path in barracks
which rats must use in going from one
place to another.
Ring Figure: The weekend events at which second class cadets receive their class rings.

Run the Block: To leave post against regulations, usually at night—results in a major bone.

Section Marcher: A cadet official in charge of accountability (attendance) for a particular academic class and responsible for presenting the class to the professor.

Sent up: Recommended to the GC (see definition) as a disciplinary measure.

Sentinels: Rats or fourth class cadets assigned to a daily rotating guard position around barracks and charged with upholding the regulations of the Institute.

Shako: Tall hat bearing either a pom-pom or feather plume (officers only) worn for full-dress parades.

Special Orders: Any additional orders posted for specific members of the Guard Team.

The Spirit: VMI’s “fight song;” also doubles as the Alma Mater.

SRC: Supper Roll Call; Supper formation with the entire Corps.

Visitor Slip: Colored note sent to a cadet’s room by the guard team notifying the cadet of the presence of a visitor, a phone message, etc.

Stoop: A floor of barracks; rats live on the fourth stoop.

Strain: An exaggerated position of attention; what rats are supposed to do when they walk the Rat Line.


Supernume: Supernumerary; an additional third class cadet attached to the Guard Team who acts as a messenger.

Sweat Party: Fifteen minute physical fitness workout reserved for rats.

Taps: This is the last bugle call at night blown as a signal that lights are to be put out.

Tailgate: To picnic out of the trunk of a car; usually on the Parade Ground preceding/following a football game.

Uncle Dykes: The first class cadets who room with one’s dyke.

VMI Museum: Preserving and interpreting the heritage of VMI and its alumni, the VMI Museum features galleries dedicated to the history of VMI, the Henry Stewart Antique Firearms Collection and VMI alumni service as citizens and soldiers. The oldest museum in the state of Virginia, it houses over 20,000 artifacts.

Woolies: Term for wool pants—part of the winter uniform

Work for Grade: Any work submitted to a professor for a grade is subject to the Honor System; it must be the cadet’s own work; any help must be acknowledged in the Help Received Statement.
VMI Telephone Quick Reference List

Area Code 540
General Hours are 0800–1630 Monday–Friday unless otherwise specified.

VMI Visitor Center (Use this number to contact cadets) ............... 464-7306

Academic Information
Academic Advising ............... 464-7741
Applied Mathematics .......... 464-7335
Biology ...................... 464-7247
Chemistry .................... 464-7244
Civil and Environmental Engineering ........................................ 464-7331
Computer and Information Science ........................................ 464-7858
Economics and Business ............. 464-7234
Electrical and Computer Engineering ....................................... 464-7236
English and Fine Arts ............. 464-7240
History ....................... 464-7338
International Studies and Political Science .......................... 464-7676
Mechanical Engineering ............ 464-7308
Modern Languages and Cultures ............. 464-7241
Physical Education .................. 464-7317
Physics and Astronomy ............ 464-7225
Psychology/Philosophy ............. 464-7194
Registrar ...................... 464-7213
Summer Session Office ............. 464-7319
Cadet Support
Athletic Academic Advising ........................................... 464-7722
The Bomb (VMI yearbook) .............................................. 464-7325
Cadet Counseling ....................................................... 464-7667
Career Services (0800–1630 M–F) .......................................... 464-7560
Financial Aid .............................................................. 464-7208
Information Technology/Barracks Help Desk (0700–1300, 1400–1600 M–F) .................................................. 464-7341
Inspector General/Title IX Coordinator ........................................ 464-7072
International Programs .................................................... 464-7421
Learning and Disabilities Services (Miller Academic Center) ................................................................. 464-7661
Post Infirmary ............................................................. 464-7218
Post Police ..................................................................... 464-7017
Postal Services ............................................................. 464-7745
Preston Library ............................................................. 464-7129
Writing Center ............................................................. 464-7045

Administrative Offices
Business Office .......................................................... 464-7321
Chaplain’s Office ......................................................... 464-7390
Chief Diversity Officer .................................................... 464-7789
Commandant’s Office ..................................................... 464-7313
Communications and Marketing ........................................ 464-7207
Comptroller’s Office ...................................................... 464-7270
Dean of the Faculty ....................................................... 464-7136
Deputy Commandant’s Office ........................................... 464-7314
Officer-in-Charge (nightly) ................................................ 464-7293
Student Accounting ..................................................... 464-7217
Superintendent’s Office .................................................. 464-7311
Treasurer’s Office ......................................................... 464-7215

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

General Information
Admissions Office .......................................................... 464-7211
Alumni Office ............................................................. 464-7221
Athletic Ticket Office .................................................... 464-7266
Auxiliary Services ........................................................ 464-7096
Bookstore (0800–1630 M–F, 1000–1600 Sat., closed Sun.) ................................................................. 464-7637
Keydet Club ............................................................... 464-7328
Keydet Kanteen .......................................................... 463-3331
Military Store ............................................................. 464-7303
Physical Plant Customer Service ......................................... 464-7357
Sports Information Office ................................................ 464-7515
Visitor Center ............................................................. 464-7306
VMI Foundation .......................................................... 464-7287
VMI Museum (0900–1700 daily) ........................................... 464-7334
VMI Theatre ............................................................... 464-7389

VMI Health Center
Cadet Counseling ......................................................... 464-7667
Post Infirmary ............................................................. 464-7218
For numbers not listed, please contact the VMI Visitor Center 464-7306.
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 90 addresses complaints or reports of retaliation against those who have opposed practices prohibited by General Order 16, 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, 212 Carroll Hall, VMI, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7072. 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, 448 Institute Hill, 2nd floor, Post Infirmary, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7667. For employment-related disability services, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator in the VMI Human Resources Office, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7322.