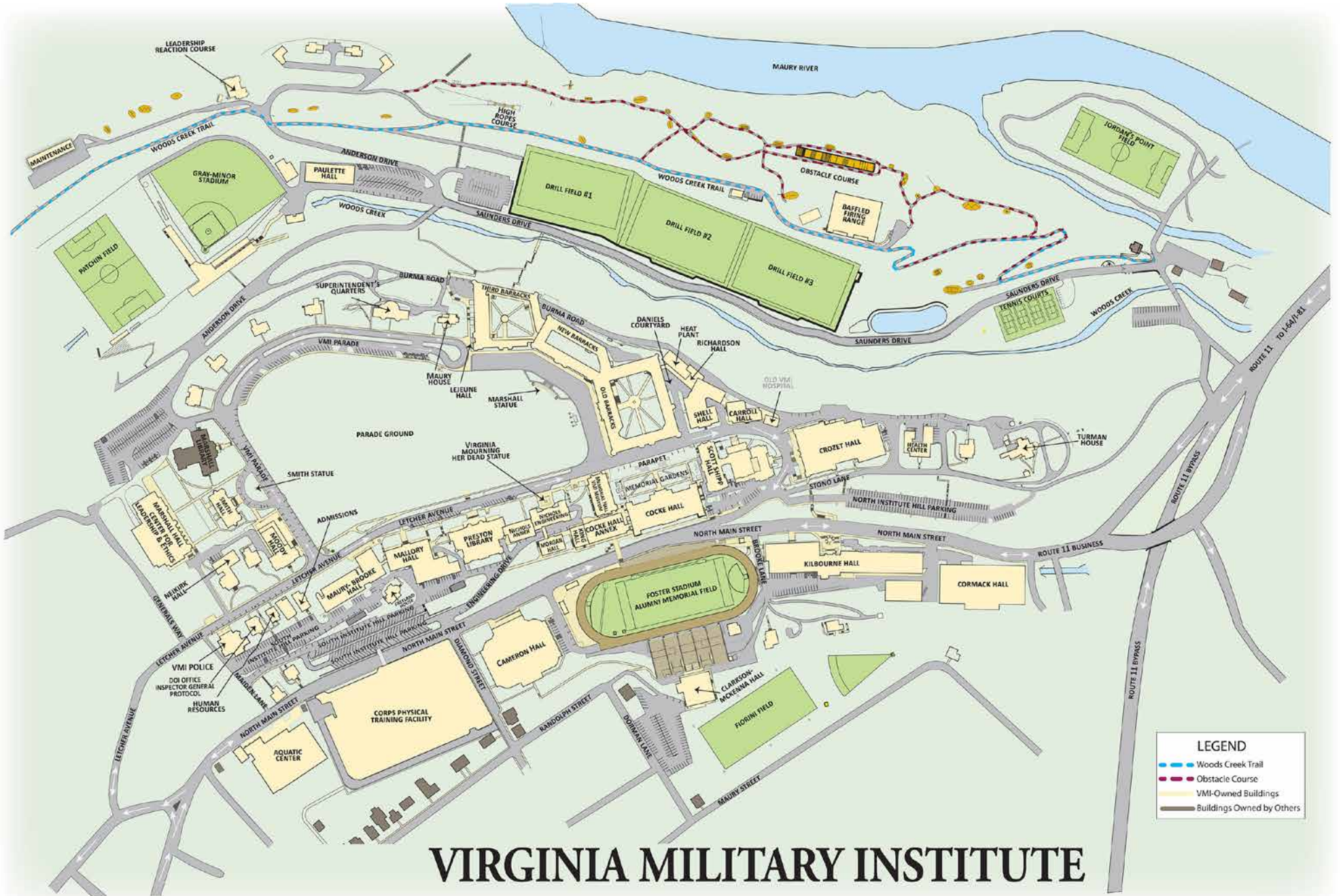


New Cadet Handbook

2026–27





VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE



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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 Catalog, 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 (ROTC), please refer to the VMI Catalog. If you have questions regarding National Collegiate Athletic

Association (NCAA) 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!





To The Rat Mass of 27+3,

I welcome your acceptance to attend Virginia Military Institute and to join a system that has stood since 1839, as one of the greatest creators of leaders for the American future. The I is a place of hardship, determination, and adversity designed to create an end product capable of pursuing the future of these United States. In coming here, you submit to this fact and wish to become the future of this great nation.

I represent the class system at VMI, the cadet government, which handles everything inside and outside of barracks, including the traditions, standards, and conduct of the Corps of Cadets. Cadet government is the cornerstone, behind our

honor system, of what it means to be a cadet and to lead from the front in matters of the Corps. I am the president of your dykes' class, VMI Class of 2027, and therefore, I am your Rat Mass 27+3 president until a future date is commenced.

I invite you all to buy into this system that has created so many leaders before you, which has changed the very world you inhabit. The Institute welcomes you, and we have prepared for your coming.

Signed,
Matthew D. Assouad
President
VMI Class of 2027



VMI—An Overview

The Mission of Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Military Institute, founded in 1839 and now in its 187th 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, who acts as commander-in-chief.

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.

Forging 21st Century Leaders

www.vmi.edu/forgingleaders

VMI's strategic plan, "Forging 21st Century Leaders," is a ten-year plan, culminating from two years of collaboration among cadets, faculty, staff, board members, and alumni, focused on the resources and infrastructure necessary to mold future generations of VMI graduates. The five initiatives of the plan are: Prepare Exceptional Leaders, Strengthen Academic Excellence, Foster Esprit de Corps, Recruit Top Cadets and Boost Success, and Deliver 21st Century Infrastructure.

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% of full-time faculty hold either a doctorate or a terminal degree in their field. Nearly 1,600 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. In fact, in recent rankings, U.S. News & World Report rated 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. More than 100 cadets are involved in VMI's international programs annually. 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, and the military. One reason the Institute is held in such high regard is that more than 97% of each class has full-time employment or has entered graduate school within five months of graduation. Between 50-60% of graduates commission, and about 18% of VMI graduates make the armed forces a career.

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, Walter H. Taylor, Class of 1857, 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 and diving, 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 boxing, 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.

VMI Corps of Cadets

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 cadet uniforms daily. Cadets' lives and conduct are regulated by the traditions and rules of the Institute and the Honor Code.





Rat Mass of 2027+3.

Congratulations on your appointment and desire to attend Virginia Military Institute. Your decision to join this prestigious institution is one that you will come to find as your greatest decision. You are entering into a brotherhood that has withstood the test of time. This brotherhood is what you will learn to cherish and love. It is a brotherhood that you will be able to rely on at any given time. However, in order to be fully accepted by this brotherhood, you must be willing to sacrifice who you are now for what you may become. Have faith in our systems and we will build you into a version of yourself you thought unimaginable. Development occurs only at the recognition and elimination of your faults.

Matriculation Day will signify an immensely important day within your life. It will demonstrate to all those around you of your commitment to the decision that you have made. Do not take this decision lightly. Enter the walls of barracks fully prepared to let go of who you once were. Immerse yourself

fully in the Institute and its culture and in turn, you will be shaped into honor-driven individuals who will step forward as examples of what men and women ought to be.

Do not enter this time of your life with the expectation of reward without enduring personal sacrifice. This sacrifice will cost you comfort but will instill discipline that endures long after your time at VMI. Remain steadfast in your commitment to attending VMI for it will greatly benefit you as an individual and change the trajectory of your life. I'll leave you with this: Praesis Ut Prosis, be first, so that you may be of service. Your cadetship will teach you both followership and leadership, but above all, you must embrace a spirit of servitude to everyone around you.

Sincerely,
Gabriel M. Du Plessis
Regimental Chief of Staff



Pre-Matriculation

Packing












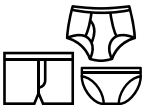
Each cadet is allowed one piece of luggage. The dimensions of a large suitcase are 32 inches long and approximately 19 inches wide and, when stacked, no taller than 16 inches deep. Smaller luggage pieces/stored belongings must fit inside the large piece of luggage because there is limited space in the trunk rooms located in the concourse area of the barracks. It is recommended that 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 **vmi.bncollege.com**). 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, shirt stays, mouth guards, and academic bags at the VMI Bookstore on Matriculation Day.













Mandatory and Optional Items

Clothing—MANDATORY			
 1	Each	Black 1.5-liter (50 oz.) hydration system, i.e. Camelbak, Blackhawk, or equivalent—very important to have before matriculation	
 1	Each	Watch, black, athletic style recommended. Rats cannot wear smart watches during the Rat Line.	
 2	Pair	Running shoes, predominantly white or black	
 1	Pair	Please see “Boots” on page 10 or visit www.vmi.edu/whattobring for information regarding purchasing approved military-style boots, breaking them in, and other details.	
 7	Pair	Compression shorts (reduces chafing), black	
 14	Pair	Underwear, must be white (males: boxers OR boxer briefs OR briefs); females do not need male underwear	










Clothing—MANDATORY

	1	Each	Mouth guard (for boxing class)	
	2	Each	Permanent black markers for laundry—Sharpie or equivalent	
	15	Each	Crew neck t-shirts, must be white (v-neck or tank top style not authorized)	
	7-10	Each	Females—Sports bras (minimum), must be white, high-impact recommended	
	14	Pair	Plain white, ankle or crew length athletic socks with no visible logos	
	10	Pair	Long (over the calf) black boot/hiking socks to be worn with combat boots	
	14	Pair	Plain black dress socks to be worn with low quarter shoes	
	1	Pair	Shower shoes (rubber thong sandals)	
	1	Each	Swimsuit, conservative one piece or traditional swim trunks, navy or black	
	1	Set	One set civilian clothes and shoes	
	3	Each	Plain white wash cloth (minimum)	
	1	Each	Blanket (comforter), dark solid color, twin XL size	
	5	Each	Plain white bath-size towels (minimum)	
	1	Each	White pillow	
	3	Each	Twin XL white flat sheets (no elastic)	
	3	Each	White pillow cases	









Personal Hygiene—MANDATORY

	1	Each	Body/foot powder
	2	Each	Deodorant
	2	Pair	Eyeglasses, if needed
	1	Set	Hair clips, hair ties, and bobby pins that match natural hair color (rubber bands not permitted)*
	1	Set	Pads, tampons, or other hygiene products*
	1	Kit	Razor (non-electric) with a minimum of nine replacement blades and shaving cream
	1	Bottle	Shampoo/conditioner
	2	Bar	Soap
	1	Each	Sunscreen, tube or bottle
	1	Each	Lip balm
	2	Each	Toothbrush
	1	Each	Toothpaste

School Supplies
















	1	Each	Academic Planner
	1	Each	Laptop computer or iPad (laptop computer or monitor cannot be bigger than 32 inches measured diagonally)
			Black fabric brief case style computer bag (not a backpack)
			Pens/pencils
			Notebooks
			Binders
			Calculator
			Highlighters
			Flash drive

Miscellaneous—Highly Recommended









	1	Each	Metal polish—Mothers or equivalent	
	1	Each	Brasso or equivalent	
	1	Each	Shoe polish: black—Kiwi or equivalent and white cotton rag	
	1	Each	Boot brush	

* if needed







Miscellaneous—Highly Recommended

	1	Set	Dusting supplies	
	1	Each	Lint roller	
	1	Each	12 inch or smaller desk fan	
	1	Each	Lotion	
	1	Each	Floss	
	1	Set	Shirt stays	
	1	Each	Shower caddy	
	1	Each	Lockbox—can be purchased from 3 rd Class Finance Committee on Matriculation Day	
	1	Each	Desired personal hygiene products not listed	
	1	Each	Any personal prescriptions or over-the-counter medications you use regularly	

Prohibited Items

	Weapons of any type
	Appliances including microwave ovens, hot pots, heating elements, etc.
	Desk fans larger than 12 inches
	Plants and pets
	Flammable materials including candles, fireworks, incense, etc.
	TVs or any other type of entertainment media
	Computer monitor larger than 32 inches measured diagonally
	Alcohol, illegal drugs or associated paraphernalia

Prohibited Items Until After Breakout

	Electric razors
	DVDs, CDs, computer games
	iPods or similar devices, MP3 players, and computer speakers
	Clothing with emblems/logos, to include socks, underwear, t-shirts, linens, and towels
	Transition lens in eyeglasses
	Smart watches that can access social media or email, or can text

Please contact admissions if there are financial limitations to getting any of these supplies.

Boots

New cadets are required to arrive with one pair of properly fitting boots selected from the list of authorized boots below.

Boots may be purchased from a variety of sources, including online/brick & mortar retailers or the VMI Military Store, located in Richardson Hall and open Monday–Friday, 0730–1100 and 1200–1530. Call the Military Store for a fitting appointment at 540-464-7303. The Military Store sells Belleville Unisex C390 boots and offers a comprehensive fitting service. Cadets attending STP will be afforded the opportunity to utilize this service, if desired. Payment for boots purchased through the Military Store will be due within one week of fitting and is not covered by scholarships.

New cadets arriving with unauthorized boots, to include those with USMC markings or zippers, will be directed to the Military Store to purchase the correct style during Matriculation Week.

We encourage breaking in the boots prior to arrival to prevent blisters.

Sizing/Fit

Proper fit is critical to preventing injury and maximizing training time during Matriculation Week and beyond. Videos on proper fit and wear of combat boots can be found here: www.vmi.edu/whattobring.

Specific sizing recommendations:

- » Boots marked as unisex are listed in men's sizes
- » Belleville recommends men order unisex boots 1-1½ sizes smaller than their normal shoe size and women order unisex boots 3-3½ sizes smaller than their normal shoe size
- » Belleville recommends women order female-specific boots 2 sizes smaller than their normal shoe size

- » Women are not required to purchase female-specific boots
- » New cadets with shoe sizes that fall outside the range of the sizes listed below should contact the Military Store for assistance, at 540-464-7303 or auxservices@vmi.edu.

Authorized Boots

Belleville C390:

Hot Weather Combat—*Standard issue boot in a wide range of sizes*

- » Unisex Sizes: 2-16
- » Widths: Narrow, Regular, Wide, Extra Wide

Belleville FC390 (Women's)

- » Women's Sizes: 4-10
- » Widths: Regular, Wide

TR by Belleville Khyber II TR550

Multi Terrain—*All-terrain, light-weight boot*

- » Unisex Sizes: 4-15
- » Widths: Regular, Wide

Belleville C320:

One Xero Ultra-Light Assault—*Ultra-light (20 oz per boot)*

- » Unisex Sizes: 4-14
- » Widths: Regular, Wide

Belleville FC320 (Women's)

- » Women's Sizes: 4-10
- » Widths: Regular, Wide

Belleville Sabre C333

Hot Weather Hybrid—*Light-weight, comfort-focused boot*

- » Unisex Sizes 4-14
- » Widths: Regular, Wide





Rats of 2027 + 3,

You have been accepted to Virginia Military Institute. That acceptance is not an achievement in itself, but an opportunity to be tested in an environment that does not accommodate weakness. VMI is designed to apply pressure, demand consistency, and hold you accountable to a standard that will not adjust to meet you.

You chose to come here. Remember that when the days become long, the pace does not slow, and the difficulty begins to compound. The Rat Line is not something you simply complete; it is a sustained period of hardship meant to strip away comfort, remove excuses, and force adaptation. You will be tired, you will make mistakes, and you will be expected to continue regardless. Physical preparation is necessary, but it will not be enough on its own. You should arrive in strong condition, familiar with pushing past your limits. Even so, you will be pushed further. More important will be your mental discipline, your ability to manage your time, maintain attention to detail, and perform without hesitation. Weakness in these areas will be exposed quickly and consistently.

You will begin here on equal footing with everyone else. No one is concerned with who you were before you arrived.

Accept that early and focus on how you carry yourself now. The individuals beside you will endure the same conditions, and over time, you will rely on one another. That shared hardship will define your experience and shape your ability to succeed. Do not waste the time you have before matriculation. Prepare yourself physically and begin developing discipline in how you manage your time and responsibilities. At the same time, understand that no one arrives fully ready. Your ability to adapt once you are placed under pressure will matter far more.

When you take the New Cadet Oath, understand what you are committing to. This system gives nothing freely. What you gain will be earned through difficulty, consistency, and accountability.

If you take one thing from this letter, remember not everyone gets the opportunity that soon you will have. Figure out your 'why' for pursuing VMI and you will make it.

Signed,
River Smith '27
Regimental Executive Officer



Matriculation

Matriculation 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 2027 + 3. You will not earn the status of 4th Class cadet, Class of 2030, 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 cadets will bring permanent laundry markers and are given time to mark all washable items they bring with them.



Belts	
1	Black leather (VMI)
1	Red PT
3	White parade
	White parade with grommet
3	
Brass	
1	Brass breast plate
1	Brass buckle (VMI)
1	Brass cap device
2	Brass cuff links
1	Brass waist plate
Caps	
1	Dress
1	Rain cap cover with visor
1	Watch
Coats/jackets	
1	Blouse—gray wool
1	Coatee—gray wool
1	Jacket—black duty
1	Overcoat—gray wool
1	Raincoat
1	Travel suit jacket
Glove	
1	Black leather
2	Black PT
5	White cotton
Name Tags	
2	Black
2	White
OCP	
1	Belt
1	Cap
2	Coat
1	Fleece
2	Pant
1	Parka
3	Patch (class designator)
2	Patch (COA)
4	Patch (name tape)
2	Patch (reversed flag)
3	Patch (VMI tape)

6	T-shirt
Shako	
1	Shako (complete)
1	Shako shield
2	Shako buttons
1	Shako pom pon
Shirts	
3	Black long sleeve
6	Gray athletic short sleeve
2	Gray athletic long sleeve
2	Sweat shirt
1	Red polo
4	White short sleeve
Shoes	
2	Black
1	Pump*
Skirts*	
1	Long white polyester
	Short white coatee polyester
1	Short white polyester
Socks	
1	Black boot sock
1	Black crew dress sock
Trousers	
2	Gray wool (RR)
2	Travel suit pant
3	White cotton (HR)
4	White poly/cotton (RR)
Miscellaneous	
2	Bed strap
6	Black athletic shorts
4	Box—storage
3	Collar
4	Cuff
1	ID card
2	Laundry bag
1	Cloth epaulet
1	Suspender*
1	Tie
1	Tie tab

* when appropriate

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 continuing purpose of the Rat Line is to teach self-discipline, precision, humility, obeying orders, self-awareness, and self-control. 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 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 2230 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 2027+3,

Congratulations on your appointment to Virginia Military Institute. Your decision to apply to and attend the Institute speaks volumes about your character. Throughout your journey, you will learn that at VMI, everything is earned, not given—and with that comes many hardships during your cadetship. Your willingness to embrace difficult situations will mold you into a better version of yourself. Take pride in your decision to attend this institute and the challenges that come with it.

VMI will provide you with many opportunities to develop your leadership capabilities. The courses, events, and experiences provided by faculty and staff will allow every cadet who walks through the gates of the Institute the opportunity to grow and improve. However, the decision to follow through on these opportunities is your own. Take advantage of them and mold yourself into the best version of who you can be.

These leadership qualities are built over time, but one thing that will be instilled within each of you from the moment you sign the Matriculation Book is **Honor**. **Honor** is the most sacred trait of any cadet, graduate, or leader produced by VMI. The Honor Code simply states: **“A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do.”** Since 1839, this code has been the foundation that has made VMI what it was, what it is, and what it will be in the future. It is a constant that does not waver.

Your **Honor** is more than what is written on the charter hung in every room, more than the words in your Rat Bible, and more than the words you will recite during your time at this Institute. VMI’s **Honor System** is a single-sanction system. This

means that if you violate the **Honor Code** once and are found guilty of an **Honor** violation, your cadetship will immediately be terminated. This system is in place to forge honorable cadets, governed by a mutual understanding of integrity and respect. This is not a system to fear; it is a system to embrace fully and respect. It has given every VMI graduate and leader the integrity needed to be successful after leaving the Institute.

Your **Honor** represents you and your character—how you treat those around you and how you carry yourself. From the moment you sign the Matriculation Book, you commit yourself to a life of honesty and integrity. This standard will require you to be conscious of your actions at all times. It will not come without challenge or temptation. Do not give in.

Others will not be there to look over your shoulder to ensure you are doing the right thing. Choose the hard right over the easy wrong. Choose courage over comfort. Choose **Honor** over personal gain. This is your responsibility. Find the meaning of the **Honor Code** and start living it now. Your **Honor** will come only from you and your actions.

I trust that you are capable of upholding this standard. When you walk through the arches for the first time and the gates close behind you, you arrive with a blank slate. Make that slate into something you are proud of.

I wish you the best of luck.

Very Respectfully,
Aiden J. Psczulkoski
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 14 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.



The Class System

At VMI, the class system is the peer-to-peer leadership structure, promoting a brother and sisterhood of cadets who progress through the VMI system together. 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 5th 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 administers the military component and structure of the Corps of Cadets promoting a sense of belonging, pride, and commitment. The regimental system should not be confused with ROTC. 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; other cadet officers and noncommissioned officers make 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 have appeared at the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, the 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/clubs

Opportunities for cadet engagement and volunteerism include the Cadet Equity Association, Promaji Club, International Club, VMI Theatre, and Building BRIDGES.



Rat Mass of 2027 + 3.

I extend my formal congratulations on your appointment to Virginia Military Institute. In choosing this institution, you have committed yourself to the "path less traveled." For 187 years, VMI has forged the nation's premier "citizen-soldier," transforming civilians into leaders of character. VMI remains unsurpassed; the rigorous standards enforced, combined with the multifaceted challenges of cadet life, are precisely what distinguish this institute from any other. Within these trials, you will find unparalleled opportunities to grow, succeed, and ultimately lead. By committing yourself to VMI, you will join the ranks of a historic lineage to include, but not limited to, Medal of Honor recipients, governors, and secretaries of state. Soon, it will be your turn to become the author of your own narrative within these sovereign walls. Always remember: if the task were easy, it would not be worth doing.

While many of you arrive seeking to lead, you must first master the art of being a follower. Your journey officially commences on Matriculation Day, but the caliber of your preparation will determine your trajectory here. This requires an immense effort to prepare mentally, spiritually, and physically. Fitness is the baseline of the military lifestyle. I expect you to exceed our physical standards with distinction before you step foot on post. If you have not yet begun a routine focused on running and calisthenics, you are already behind. Furthermore, academic proficiency is nonnegotiable. Many cadetships are cut short not by physical strain, but by a failure to master time management and achieve academic demands. In moments of self-doubt, you will learn that while you cannot control the

adversity you face, you have command over your response to it.

Upon matriculation, you will enter the barracks as a Rat Mass. First, you must understand that you are never alone. Each of you comes from diverse backgrounds and have achieved varied feats, but those distinctions vanish when you enter barracks. Through shared suffering, you will forge bonds with former strangers that will endure a lifetime. While my class will serve as your dykes, mentoring and guiding you through your first year, it is your brother rats who will ultimately carry you to the finish line. They are the ones who will understand your daily hardships and stand ready to lift you up, regardless of the circumstances.

The path less traveled is intentionally difficult. How you navigate this adversity defines the legacy you leave within these sacred walls. Those who fully invest in the VMI system will find themselves fundamentally transformed, emerging more confident, morally grounded, and prepared to lead with the discipline of a "Citizen-Soldier." As Gen. George C. Marshall, VMI Class of 1901, stated: "It is not enough to fight. It is the spirit which we bring to the fight that decides the issue. It is morale that wins the victory."

I wish you strength in the trials to come.

Per aspera ad victoriam,
Cadet 1st Captain Kimlong H. Nguyen '27
Regimental Commander



Cadet Government

VMI has several governing committees run by cadets under the supervision of the assistant commandant for cadet government. These committees make up the Institute's unique and distinctive "Class System." Cadet government works to better VMI cadet life both inside and outside of barracks, as well as to ensure that cadets have a significant influence in the direction and governance of the Corps.

The General Committee (GC) makes up the cadet leadership of the class system and upholds the standards, reputation, 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 is comprised of 11 elected class officers, including class presidents, vice presidents, historians, and secretaries.

The Officer of the Guard Association (OGA) protects and informs cadets while upholding and enforcing the conduct of 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 enforces VMI's anti-hazing policies, promotes proper conduct among cadre

in the Rat Line, and oversees the dyke system. A core function of these cadets is to receive reports of incidents within the Corps, to investigate these matters when appropriate, recommend penalties for infractions, and to protect the privacy of the individuals involved as able.

The Cadet Equity Association (CEA) promotes a Corps-wide climate of respect and equitable treatment for cadets as outlined in General Order 13. The CEA partners with the Inspector General's office to educate the Corps on topics including Title IX and sexual misconduct, healthy alcohol use, mental health, and bystander intervention. In addition, the CEA promotes initiatives to support the health and well-being of the Corps.

Physical Fitness

Cadets have to take a fitness test every semester. Cadets take either a military service fitness assessment or the VMI fitness test consisting of push-ups, sit-ups, and a run. Incoming cadets are encouraged to complete the 10-week optional physical training program provided by the admissions office. VMI is notorious for ample stairs and never-ending hills. This



is particularly important to keep in mind while preparing for the Rat Line.

Cadets are also required to take seven semesters of human performance and wellness classes. They are also involved with several programs that encourage physical fitness. Physical Training Time (PTT) is administered by the respective ROTC departments. 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. In the spring, 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, conduct, and fitness record. A cadet's GC class is the class with which they 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 two weekends 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 coordinated through the chaplain. A time limit of 72 hours is stipulated for this furlough, but may be extended with the commandant's approval. Special leave is granted by permit. A cadet must have full class privileges and a cumulative 2.0 GPA to take advantage of special leave. 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 they have a medical condition requiring an absence from duties at VMI. Medical permits must be signed by infirmary staff and are submitted to the commandant by the cadet. Routine medical appointments should be made during furloughs. Other permits must be submitted by the cadet. Parents should not be involved in the permit process.

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.

Accountability of ID Card and Proper Use

- » This ID should be carried at all times. Report lost cards to Auxiliary Services. **Replacement charge is \$10.**
- » Lending this card to anyone or failure to present it when requested is a violation of Institute regulations and subjects holder to disciplinary action.
- » This card must be surrendered to the commandant's office upon withdrawal, suspension, or dismissal from the Institute.

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 in all areas of life, including in person and online. Cadets at the Institute should strive to uphold the values outlined in the Code of a Cadet, which include treating others with dignity and fairness and encouraging others to do the same. All cadets must understand the impact of their behavior and the consequences of their actions.

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 the Rat Line, but may date within 4th Class year after breakout.

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/GO53

VMI General Order 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 cadets 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 it over to the commandant for appropriate disciplinary action. A positive finding of a prohibited substance's presence shall be treated as confirmation of possession and use of the prohibited substance in violation of VMI policy and will result in dismissal.

General Order 16 Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation Policy

www.vmi.edu/GO16

VMI 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 General Order 16, which includes VMI's

Discrimination Grievance Procedures (Appendix A of General Order 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 versus male/masculine or a failure to conform to those gender stereotypes.

Inclusive Excellence Training

VMI is dedicated to the highest standards of leadership and personal development. It is imperative that cadets are equipped with the competencies that will allow them to be successful in any environment they enter. As a member of a global and diverse society, effectively navigating the varying and sometimes polarizing beliefs we encounter is an essential leadership skill. In support of this development, VMI

uses annual Inclusive Excellence training to foster conversations and stimulate discussion about complex social issues.

Inclusive Excellence is a framework developed by the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) as a guide when incorporating diversity, equity, and educational quality. Inclusive Excellence features four tenets:

1. Achieving educational attainment in an inclusive, accepting setting.
2. Learning the skills, information, and mindsets cadets need to impact a diverse society.
3. Building a climate in classrooms and on post that supports all cadets.
4. Fostering learning opportunities that accept diversity is a benefit to problem-solving.

Cadet Inclusive Excellence training takes place on Friday mornings at 0800. Cadet facilitators lead their peers through different exercises that allow a forum for open dialogue and mutual understanding.

Bystander Intervention Training

VMI adopted the “Step UP! Bystander Intervention program.” 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% stated a problem could have been avoided with intervention and up to 85% 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 are 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 a 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 or fitness 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 special report’s date. 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 to the entire Corps. Amnesty does not affect demerits or any probationary status, i.e., conduct, fitness, or academic probation.

Punitive Restrictions

Restrictions placed on a cadet affect their 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 fitness 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

Barber Shop

www.vmi.edu/auxservices

Each rat receives a “rat haircut” during Matriculation Week at the Institute’s own barber shop, located in barracks. New cadets are required to get a haircut every other week during the Rat Line. New cadets should not get a regulation haircut before matriculating.

Women are authorized to have their hair secured in a bun. While in the class uniform or better, the bun may not go below the collar of the cadet’s shirt and may not extend more than 3 ½ inches from the scalp. The bun may not extend any wider than the head from the front view. When hair is worn in a ponytail with fatigues or physical training uniforms, the hair may not fall below the bottom of the shoulder blades. Because of the physical exertion of the Rat Line, rats are not authorized to have wigs or weaves with a closure or frontal. This is to ensure that the scalp can be fully accessed and cleared of debris. Partial weaves or sew-ins are authorized. Braids, locs, and twists are authorized if they conform to VMI regulations.

Male rats will receive the standard rat haircut and are not authorized to wear braids, cornrows, twists, or locs. Cadets must always be clean-shaven.

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 VMI. 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 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 post.

Office of Career Services

www.vmi.edu/career-services

Throughout cadetship and beyond, the Office of Career Services helps translate the VMI experience into professional preparation. Resources and services are provided to support cadets’ career planning, professional development, and preparation for employment or graduate education. Services include résumé and cover letter reviews, professionalism workshops, interview preparation, job and internship searching, and guidance on graduate programs and application materials. Through digital platforms and professional connections, Career Services provides access to high-value and paid work-based learning opportunities such as internships, short-term jobs, and job shadowing. There is also coordination with VMI Alumni Association to facilitate networking with alumni for career exploration, mentoring, and employment

outcomes. The office maintains a clothing closet supplying business attire for interviews and professional engagements, and offers a private conference room for interviews. Career Services brings employers and recruiters from a wide range of industries to post throughout the year and coordinates networking opportunities, including career and internship fairs each semester as well as weekly events and other in-person and virtual engagements.

Commandant's Office

540-464-7962

Overseeing cadet life in barracks is the responsibility of the commandant and their staff. Experienced individuals are on duty within barracks 24 hours a 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, 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/emergencymanagement

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.

Health Services

Center for Cadet Counseling (CCC)

www.vmi.edu/counseling

540-464-7667

The 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 Infirmiry

www.vmi.edu/infirmiry

540-464-7218

The VMI Infirmiry is located on post behind Crozet Hall in the Cadet Health Center and offers 24-hour nursing care during the school year. The infirmiry staffs a physician and nurse practitioner who offer full primary care services in a confidential setting while you are at VMI. Most of the services in the Infirmiry are free to include a limited pharmacy on-site with free or exceptionally low-cost medications for cadets. The physician and nurse practitioner are available Monday–Friday from 0700–1600 for appointments and urgent visits and Saturday morning for sick call (0700). 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.

While all cadets are enrolled in the Cadet Accident Insurance, this only covers accidents resulting from VMI sanctioned activities. It is strongly recommended that any cadet not covered by their parents' health insurance purchase a personal health insurance policy.

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

Women's Health Note

During Matriculation Week, 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.

Information Technology (IT)

www.vmi.edu/it

The Department of Information Technology (IT) 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. Incoming cadets receive an assigned email and login. With this, they can access more details by logging in at www.vmi.edu/itportal.

IT Help Desk Locations

There are two IT help desks located at VMI. One is in the Barracks Study Room with office hours of Monday–Friday 0730–1600, closing for lunch and the other is in 315 Nichols Engineering Building with office hours of Monday–Friday 0700–1600.

Wireless Network Connectivity

www.vmi.edu/wireless

VMI provides wireless network access in 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. Instructions for gaining access to the wireless network can all be found on the IT department's page on the MyVMI portal.

Inspector General (IG) and Title IX

www.vmi.edu/TitleIX

VMI understands the responsibility of taking appropriate action toward eliminating sexual misconduct of any kind and is dedicated to promoting and fostering a safe environment for all cadets, staff, and faculty. This means an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community, and free from harassment and discrimination based on any status protected by law. Report harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct at www.vmi.edu/reportnow. For additional information on reporting, resources available to victims, or the role of the IG/Title IX Coordinator, please visit www.vmi.edu/TitleIX.

Dining Services

Parkhurst Dining has provided food service at VMI since December 2017 and serves between 18,000 and 20,000 meals per week in Crozet Hall. Dining service operations run daily from 0700–2000, anytime cadets are on post. Nutrition is

important in supporting the extremely active lifestyle of cadets, so larger portions are provided than your average institution of higher education, which follows USDA-recommended portion sizes. It's not just quantity that is important, but quality as well. Parkhurst prides itself on using fresh ingredients to create meals that are both healthy and delicious. In addition, Parkhurst provides variety through multiple bar concepts to support all cadets' food choices. Nutrition information is provided by Parkhurst.

Parkhurst Allergen Information

Parkhurst wants all guests to feel confident that their special dietary needs are met with easy access to nutritional information. Dietitians play a significant role in ensuring menu items comply with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, and are committed to improving the nation's health. Whether you've made a lifestyle choice or have specific dietary needs, it shouldn't stop you from enjoying the food. A variety of food options are offered for special diets, including guests with food allergies. The allergy program provides accurate labeling of food products, prepared by a culinary team that is knowledgeable about food allergies and sensitivities. Please reach out to notify the department of your needs.

Lejeune Hall

The food court (also called "The X" or "PX") is located in Lejeune Hall and is adjacent to Third Barracks. It is open from 0830–2230, Monday–Saturday; 1100–2230 on Sunday. An assortment of food, from salads to Southwest cuisine to Starbucks specialty drinks, are available. Cash, check, or major credit cards are accepted. Orders can also be taken for special event items (birthday cakes, exam packs, etc.).

SNAP Accounts

www.dss.virginia.gov/relief/food-assistance/snap

Cadets may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which allows individuals use a SNAP account to buy eligible food items from authorized retailers. More information, including the application process, can be found at **www.dss.virginia.gov/relief/food-assistance/snap**.

Mailroom

The mailroom provides comprehensive mail services to 1,500 cadets and 800 faculty and staff in 80 departments. Mailroom personnel make post-wide mail runs, as well as three trips to the Lexington Post Office daily. The mailroom is also in daily coordination with FedEx, UPS, and DHL. The mailroom's accountability system sends automatic e-mail notifications to cadets upon receipt of mail and packages. The team processes an average of 1,500 pieces of incoming mail and 700 pieces of outgoing mail per week, keeping cadets connected to family and friends, and supporting the Institute in its operations and collaboration with external partners.

Cards, Letters, and Packages

Cadet (*followed by name*)
510 Burma Road (*VMI Box Number*)
Virginia Military Institute
P.O. Box 1839
Lexington, Va. 24450-1839

Formatting

- » "Virginia Military Institute" is a required part of the address.
- » "P.O. Box 1839" is a required part of the address.
- » "-1839" is a required part of the zip code.

Please do not address cadet packages to any academic or athletic buildings—they will not be delivered and will be returned by the Lexington Post Office.

Military Store

www.vmi.edu/auxservices
540-464-7303

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.

Museum System

www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives
540-464-7334

VMI operates three historic sites: the VMI Museum, the Jackson House Museum, and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War (VMCW). 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 May 15, 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. The VMI Museum, the Jackson House and the VMCW are open daily, 0900–1700. Parents and current cadets receive free admission at all three sites.

Preston Library (PL)

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

Preston Library provides library materials and services of the highest quality; teaches skills needed for academic inquiry and lifelong learning; supports faculty and undergraduate research; provides access to and promotes the use of Institute historical materials; and offers library services to the community at large. 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. 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. Cadets may check out books, videos, and other materials for their research and study needs. PL also offers free interlibrary loan service, which provides access to materials not owned by the library. Personalized research consultations are available by appointment or 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 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 PL and its resources, services, staff, and facilities is available at [**www.vmi.edu/library**](http://www.vmi.edu/library).

Religious Support

540-464-7390

VMI has two chaplains to help ensure and facilitate religious support: Col. John P. Casper '04, chaplain, and Capt. Eli Facemire '19, associate chaplain.

The primary mission of the Office of the Chaplain is to support and accommodate the religious convictions of all cadets regardless of their faith. Many cadets participate in faith communities in and around the Lexington area, and the Office of the Chaplain serves as point of contact to facilitate these relationships. Part of the affiliation with local faith communities includes "adopt-a-rat" programs, which are organized through the individual churches and fellowships. An on-post non-denominational chapel service is held each Sunday evening during the academic year, and various faith-based fellowships and meetings take place each week. The Office of the Chaplain also provides opportunities for mission trips, conferences, and retreats for various faith groups throughout the course of the academic year. Above all, the Office of the Chaplain works to accommodate the religious needs of all cadets and provides pastoral care and mentoring, regardless of religious affiliation.

Please contact Mrs. Mary Cannon, office administrator, with any questions.

Telephones

New cadets may not have a cell phone in their possession. They may 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/daughter's dyke if they want to reach their cadet quickly. In the event of an 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

www.vmi.edu/auxservices

Laundry service is provided. Cadets drop off their laundry to be cleaned and pressed. New cadets will bring permanent laundry markers to mark their laundry number, assigned to them on Matriculation Day, on all of their non-issued clothing. 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 alterations and repairs due to fair wear and tear. Laundry products are designed with a focus on efficiency and safety, incorporating minimal dyes and fragrances to ensure a balanced and effective cleaning process. The concentrates/products contain less than 1% of dyes and fragrances, emphasizing our commitment to providing solutions that are both effective and environmentally conscious.

The products used are formulated to deliver exceptional cleaning performance while being mindful of potential sensitivities related to dyes and fragrances.

VMI Bookstore

vmi.bncollege.com

540-464-7637

The VMI Bookstore, located in Lejeune Hall, sells textbooks, authorized supplies, and toiletry items. The bookstore also carries stationery, greeting cards, postcards, sportswear, grooming supplies, and souvenirs. 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 later.



Rat Mass of 2027+3.

Congratulations on your acceptance to VMI. I applaud your decision to attend a school that does not do ordinary and hope that you will lean into this opportunity with everything you have. I want you to know that the journey you have chosen to embark on will not be an easy one. Throughout your time at VMI, you will be expected to balance athletics, military aspirations, and most importantly, academics. This will be a demanding task, but with the correct focus, opportunities will come effortlessly.

The most important thing to remember about VMI is that it is a place of higher learning. Above all else, VMI is a unique academic institution, one where you must earn your diploma. The transition from high school to college academics will be challenging, but know that there are numerous resources to help you succeed. You will have instructors and dykes who desire to make you a leader, inside and outside of the classroom. My staff has mastered the VMI academic system and can provide you with endless help and resources so that you can graduate and be whatever you resolve to be. Some of these resources include peer tutoring, time management workshops, scheduling assistance, and much more. The largest issue we face is that some cadets are too scared to ask for help or wait until the last minute to seek out resources.

I implore you, do not be that person. The greatest advice I received before matriculation was from an alumnus who told me that VMI is about "academic endurance." Do not let one bad grade keep you down, or you'll never reach your full potential. Instead, try your best at everything that you do academically and connect with your professors. You are the reason they choose to teach here rather than anywhere else in the nation.

The last piece of advice I will give you is that VMI is a brand-new start. You will have no reputation, no bad grades, no positions, nothing. Use this to your advantage to be the person you want to see yourself become. Build your academic foundation for the years to come and allow the VMI system to mold your character. Hold on to every experience you have here at the Institute and allow it to change your perspective on life.

Enjoy your time at Virginia Military Institute and know that I am looking forward to seeing what you will achieve.

Very Respectfully,
Aleck J. Tiller '27
S2 Captain



Academics and Related Support

S2 Staff Description

The S2 staff serves as cadet academic advisors to the Corps of Cadets, and representatives of the Corps to the VMI faculty. Each company is assigned an S2 academic representative who monitors the company's academic performance and helps struggling cadets in need of academic help. The S2 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 S2 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.
- » Do not study in barracks (you're assigned room). Find a study spot in Preston Library or an academic building.

- » 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).
- » Attend open math lab and course group sessions at the beginning of the term instead of waiting.

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 VMI 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. It is recommended to try to meet with your advisor monthly in the first semester.

Financial Aid

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.

In order to be considered for need-based financial aid (grants, scholarships, loans) students are required to complete the FAFSA (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 the FAFSA 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.

Special Academic Programs

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.

Office of Global Education (Global Ed)

www.vmi.edu/oge

Engaging with different perspectives and increasing cultural awareness is a critical component of VMI's mission of educating citizen-soldiers. Global Ed helps accomplish this mission in three primary ways. First, Global Ed offers a portfolio of opportunities designed to prepare young leaders for successful service in an increasingly global environment through study, research, and internships abroad. VMI encourages cadets to advocate for American democracy and free enterprise through international engagement. VMI's study abroad opportunities include programs at both civilian and military institutions around the globe. Cadets are eligible to study abroad beginning the summer after their 4th Class year, and the Global Ed team stands ready to assist with passport and visa applications. Second, Global Ed supports all international cadets through the immigration process, cultural adaptation to VMI, and in maintaining their immigration status within the U.S. This includes support for international cadets pursuing a degree at VMI, as well as semester exchange cadets. Like in the real world, VMI cadets will be challenged to interact with the international perspectives these cadets bring to Barracks and the classroom. Many international cadets have gone on to be top military or civilian leaders in their home country. Third, Global Ed advises for several competitive international scholarships, fellowships, and awards. Internal and external scholarship opportunities exist to support study abroad—especially for the study of critical languages. Some

of these awards are for cadets' tenures at VMI (e.g., Boren, Gilman, Critical Language Scholarship,) while others offer opportunities post-VMI (e.g., Fulbright). Several of these awards offer fully funded international experiences designed to develop cadets' deep understandings of culture and to prepare them for careers in the U.S. federal government.

Miller Academic Center (MAC)

www.vmi.edu/mac

The Miller Academic Center (MAC) helps cadets transition to college academics and college life. Peer tutoring and group study sessions (GSS) are available for a number of core courses including science, history, and foreign languages. The GSS meetings are a weekly opportunity for new cadets to discuss coursework and strategies with successful upper-class cadets and, in some sessions, faculty members. Workshops are offered throughout the year that focus on transitioning to life at VMI, note-taking strategies, time management, and other academic skills. Academic Saturdays 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.

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.

Office of Disabilities Services (DS)

www.vmi.edu/ds

Disabilities Services in the MAC 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. DS 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 the MAC as early as possible to allow adequate time for review of documentation, allow for a thorough assessment of academic needs, and familiarize new cadets with administrative procedures.

Writing Center

www.vmi.edu/writingcenter

The Writing Center complements and extends the writing instruction cadets receive in the classroom by providing help with a full range of activities to improve their writing, 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. To sign up for Writing Center appointments visit **www.vmi.mywconline.com**.

For further information about the Institute Writing Program, visit **www.vmi.edu/iwp**.

Transfer Credit

www.vmi.edu/transfercredit

VMI has stringent rules in regards to transfer credit approval. It should be known that VMI requires cadets to have at least six 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 regard to AP credit, VMI requires a 3 or better to transfer in college credit. College level transfer credit requires a C or better in order for the credit to transfer.

VMI Center for Undergraduate Research

www.vmi.edu/vcur

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; and Wetmore Fund for supplies for cadet academic year research. For more information, contact the Center for Undergraduate Research, 615 Preston Library, or visit VCUR's website.

ROTC

www.vmi.edu/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. FTX, or field training exercises, 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/Space 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. VMI also has a Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program that allows cadets interested in seeking a Coast Guard commission to serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary during their time at VMI. Participation in the Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program does not satisfy the ROTC requirements for graduation.

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. John Doran (Army) 540-464-7680, armyrotc@vmi.edu; Ms. Lori Ballard (Navy) 540-464-7982, nrotc@vmi.edu; Ms. Diane Fishburn (Air Force and Space Force) 540-464-7354, afrotc@vmi.edu.



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.
- ACPro:** Academic probation
- The Arsenal:** A cadet activity center located on the ground floor of Crozet Hall. It features a billiards table, two large-screen TV's with gaming consoles, and food services.
- 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 handmade 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:** 1st Class (senior); 2nd Class (junior); 3rd Class (sophomore); 4th Class (freshman); rats become 4th 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 44 buttons; part of full-dress uniform.
- Commandant:** Responsible for the military training, appearance, daily operations, synchronization, discipline and conduct of the Corps of Cadets.
- Concourse:** Underground level of barracks.
- Confinement:** A restriction to room, barracks, or post; results from being boned for a rules violation.
- ConPro:** Conduct probation
- CCQ:** Close Call to Quarters. This is when cadets must be in their rooms if 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.
- QORB:** 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.
- 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 1st 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.
- FitPro:** Fitness probation
- 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.

OCMNI: Officer-in-charge of midnight inspection

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

OD/OG: Officer of the Day/Officer of the Guard; the two ranking members of the guard team (usually 1st Class cadets).

OGA: Officer of the Guard Association (1st 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.

Optional SRC: Authorization to miss Supper 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 50 minutes 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, advisor signatures for club activities, and Career Services approval for interviews.

PTT: Physical Training Time with a cadet's ROTC affiliation or, if a non-commissioning second or 1st Class cadet, with their assigned VMI company.

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

QMD: Quartermaster Department; 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 4th 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 2nd Class cadets receive their class rings.

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

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 4th 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 or fifth stoop.

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

Superintendent: The president of VMI.

Supernume: Supernumerary; an additional 3rd 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.

Uncle Dykes: The 1st 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

Must dial the 540 area code

Please refer to the website for hours.

VMI Visitor Center (Use this number to contact cadets) 540-464-7306

Academic Information

Academic Advising.....540-464-7741

Applied Mathematics 540-464-7335
Biology..... 540-464-7247
Chemistry..... 540-464-7244
Civil & Environmental Engineering
.....540-464-7331
Computer & Information Sciences
..... 540-464-7858
Economics & Business..... 540-464-7234

Electrical & Computer Engineering	540-464-7236
English, Rhetoric, & Humanistic Studies	540-464-7240
History	540-464-7338
International Studies & Political Science	540-464-7676
Mechanical Engineering	540-464-7308
Modern Languages and Cultures	540-464-7241
Human Performance & Wellness	540-464-7554
Physics and Astronomy	540-464-7225
Psychology/Philosophy	540-464-7194
Registrar	540-464-7213
Summer Session Office	540-464-7459

Cadet Support

Athletic Academic Advising	540-464-7722
The Bomb (VMI yearbook)	540-464-7325
Cadet Counseling	540-464-7667
Career Services	540-464-7560
Financial Aid	540-464-7208
Information Technology/Barracks Help Desk	540-464-7341
Inspector General/Title IX Coordinator	540-464-7072
Office of Global Education	540-464-7421
Learning and Disabilities Services (Miller Academic Center)	540-464-7661
Post Infirmary	540-464-7218
Post Police	540-464-7017
Postal Services	540-464-7745
Preston Library	540-464-7129
Writing Center	540-464-7045

Administrative Offices

Business Office	540-464-7321
Cadet Accounting	540-464-7217
Chaplain's Office	540-464-7390
Chief Diversity Officer	540-464-7789
Commandant's Office	540-464-7313
Communications and Marketing	540-464-7207
Dean of the Faculty	540-464-7136
Deputy Commandant's Office	540-464-7314

Officer-in-charge (nightly)	540-464-7293
Superintendent's Office	540-464-7311

ROTC Programs

U.S. Air Force/Space Force	540-464-7354
U.S. Army	540-464-7680
U.S. Navy/Marine Corps	540-464-7275

General Information

Admissions Office	540-464-7211
Alumni Agencies	540-464-7328
Athletic Ticket Office	540-464-7266
Auxiliary Services	540-464-7096
Bookstore	540-464-7637
Military Store	540-464-7303
Physical Plant Customer Service	540-464-7357
Sports Information Office	540-464-7515
Visitor Center	540-464-7306
VMI Museum	540-464-7334
VMI Theatre	540-464-7389

For numbers not listed, please contact the VMI Visitor Center 540-464-7306.



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