

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 76)

8 January 2025

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY

1. Purpose: The purpose of this order is to outline procedures for the approval and administration of annual awards given to cadets and selected faculty at the end of the academic year. This order also addresses VMI awards given on certain occasions to persons outside of VMI.
2. Background: Each year VMI hosts in May an Institute Awards Program. Top awards are presented to selected cadets for academic, military, and athletic achievement and to selected faculty and staff members for outstanding performance in teaching, research, and service. This is a formal event, conducted with great decorum, and is attended by cadets, faculty, staff, and friends of the Institute. In addition to those awards given at this ceremony, there are other award recognition programs, primarily for cadets, which take place at the end of the academic year. These ceremonies are conducted at the department or other levels. Examples include the Commandant's Awards, individual sport team awards, and academic department awards. Finally, on occasion, some organizations at VMI may recognize selected individuals, including some who are outside the VMI community.
3. Administration: Administrative oversight of the Institute Awards Program resides with the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty. Administrative oversight of department and other awards below the Institute level rests with the heads of those individual units.
4. Institute Awards: The purpose of the annual May ceremony is to recognize those cadets and faculty/staff with awards that represent exemplary levels of achievement and service. Normally, only the top award in any given category is presented at the Institute Ceremony. The Superintendent approves the list of awards that are presented. In order to ensure that those awards remain significant and time constraints can be met, the following guidelines apply.
 - A. Awards are intended to recognize a cadet or employee for the highest level of achievement in a particular area. The purpose for an award should not be to simply recognize a specific donor, individual, alumnus/alumna, or class.
 - B. The criteria for each approved award should be distinct from other awards.
 - C. Awards that include a stipend or other monetary prize carry with them special responsibilities for the donors. It will be the responsibility of each proponent-donor to ensure that the specified award amount is provided each year. Such donors normally work with the VMI Foundation to establish and maintain the funding mechanisms. For non-monetary awards, such as plaques and statuettes, it is the responsibility of the award proponent to provide these to the Office of the Dean each year, according to a specified timeline.In the interest of balance and emphasis, as new awards are approved, VMI retains the right to direct that awards previously given at the Institute Awards ceremony be given at a department or other level.

- D. VMI retains the right not to present a particular award in a given year.
5. Procedures for Proposing New Institute Awards: In addition to the directives contained above, proponents of a new award must abide by the following procedures.
- A. All requests must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Dean. The Dean will forward the proposal to the Superintendent with a recommendation regarding approval. The Superintendent's decision is final.
- B. Each request must fully delineate the following items
- i. Criteria – Established award criteria must be clear, concise, and collectively different from other awards. The attachment to this order contains a current list of awards along with their criteria.
 - ii. Name and Purpose – Each award must be appropriately named and a detailed purpose for the award must be provided. This will be the “source” document for an award that may be given for many years. Accordingly, the purpose and history behind a particular award is important to record.
 - iii. Selection Criteria –The proposal must describe in detail a reasonable, fair process for selecting award recipients, including selection committee membership and criteria for reviewing candidates. VMI retains the right to modify a proposed selection process at any time.
 - iv. Administration – Address issues affecting continuity, including responsible parties for providing material or monetary components of the award. It will be important to provide assurance that the award can be sustained in perpetuity. Provide an immediate point of contact for the award.
6. VMI Awards outside the Institute Awards Program: Authority to approve and administer Department-level or other unit awards to cadets or employees' rests normally with the Department or program head, unless otherwise specified. It will be the responsibility of the head to ensure that all such awards are in good taste and are presented in a setting appropriate for recognition by a unit of the Virginia Military Institute.
7. Awards Given to Non-VMI Personnel: Some Institute, VMI Foundation, Board of Visitors, and other awards are given to distinguished alumni and non-alumni. Additionally, some academic and other departmental awards are given to persons external to VMI. As these awards are intended to reflect the values of VMI, they are rightly considered “VMI awards.” In all such instances, the Superintendent must be notified in advance when an award of this kind is planned. The Superintendent must approve such an award before it is bestowed.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Gary A. Bissell
Colonel, USAR (Ret.)
Interim Chief of Staff

DIST: E
OPR: Office of the Dean

Award	Responsible party	Criteria for the award
Intercollegiate Sports Awards (3 Awards Presented)	ATHLETICS	Presented for all-around excellence in intercollegiate sports
Lieutenant General Edward Mallory Almond 1915 Award	ATHLETICS	Given to a 1st Class cadet for academic, athletic, and military excellence
The Nathaniel W. Pendleton 1922 Distinguished Coaching Award	ATHLETICS/ Athletic Council Committee Chair	Established by Mr. Nathaniel W. Pendleton, Jr. '57 in memory of his father, Nathaniel Willis Pendleton 1922, this award recognizes and encourages excellence in athletic coaching at VMI
General Withers A. Burrell Marksmanship Awards (Up to 2 Awards Presented)	ATHLETICS/ COMMANDANT	Presented for skill in rifle marksmanship
Alan D'Andelot Belin Memorial Prize	COMMANDANT	Given to a 4th Class cadet who has earned the respect of his or her Brother Rats and the Corps of Cadets by performance within the rat system
Charles H. Dayhuff Jr. '31 First Captain Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to the rising First Captain in the Corps of Cadets
Charles R. Martin '55 Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a 1st Class cadet accepting a regular commission who has demonstrated excellence in military studies and outstanding leadership in the Corps of Cadets
Commander Harry Millard Mason Military Proficiency	COMMANDANT	Presented to a 1st Class cadet selected as the most military proficient
Earl L. Valentine Jr. Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a 1st Class cadet who has excelled in leadership in the Corps of Cadets
General Douglas MacArthur Cadet Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a 1st Class cadet who emulates and practices the qualities exemplified by Douglas MacArthur and has demonstrated the most soldierly performance by a senior Class cadet considering academics, athletics, and leadership
John Ryd Bush Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a 4th Class cadet deemed most worthy for valiant character & military proficiency
Francis H. Smith Award	DEAN: The Francis H. Smith Award Committee Chair	Presented to a rising 1st Class cadet who has exhibited outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular participation, leadership ability, and demonstrated potential for a professional career
Marshall Citizen-Soldier Award (Given every other year)	CHIEF OF STAFF/Marshall Foundation	Given to the cadet whose career as a cadet has most closely paralleled that of General George C. Marshall, Class of 1901

First Jackson-Hope Medal Award	DEAN: Registrar	Presented at the May Commencement Ceremony to a member of the graduating class for highest attainment in scholarship. The medal is accompanied by a cash prize, the Commander Harry Millard Mason Academic Proficiency Award
Second Jackson-Hope Medal Award	DEAN: Registrar	Presented at the May Commencement Ceremony to a member of the graduating class for second highest attainment in scholarship. The medal is accompanied by a cash prize, the Colonel Sterling Murray Heflin 1916 Academic Proficiency Award
The Society of the Cincinnati Medal Award	DEAN: Academic Board	Presented at the May Commencement Ceremony to a member of the graduating class for distinguished efficiency of service and excellence of character while at VMI. The medal is accompanied by two cash prizes, the Richard J. Marshall Award and the Sumter L. Lowry Award
The Colonel Daniel T. Ingram 1921 - Castle Heights Military Academy Award	DEAN: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	Presented to a 1st Class cadet who is planning a career as a teacher
The Dr. D. Rae Carpenter Award	DEAN: Faculty Development Committee Chair	Established to honor Dr. D. Rae Carpenter's service to the VMI Research Laboratories. The award is given to the best research proposal that is submitted to the VMI Research Committee
The Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work Science & Engineering	DEAN: The Jackson-Hope Awards Committee Chair	Established to recognize a members of the faculty for the outstanding publication in Science/Engineering
The Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work Humanities & Social Sciences	DEAN: The Jackson-Hope Awards Committee Chair	Established to recognize a member of the faculty for the outstanding publication in Humanities/Social Sciences
The Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Academic Advancement	DEAN: The Jackson-Hope Awards Committee Chair	Awarded to a member of an academic department/program/support unit whose vision and work has significantly advanced the quality, reputation, and student opportunities of VMI's academic program by creating, transforming, or enriching opportunities that enhance cadets' academic experiences
The Jackson-Hope VMIRL Matthew Fontaine Maury Prize for Excellence in Research	DEAN: The Jackson-Hope Awards Committee Chair	Presented to a single VMI faculty member whose VMI career demonstrates sustained excellence in stimulating, furthering, or performing research

The Wilbur S. Hinman Jr., 1926 Research Award: Arts & Humanities	DEAN: The Undergraduate Research Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman Jr., 1926 Research Award: Engineering	DEAN: The Undergraduate Research Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman Jr., 1926 Research Award: Natural Sciences	DEAN: The Undergraduate Research Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman Jr., 1926 Research Award: Information and Social Sciences	DEAN: The Undergraduate Research Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman Jr., 1926 Research Award: Life Sciences	DEAN: The Undergraduate Research Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
Colonel Herbert Nash Dillard '34 Award	DEAN: Academic Board	Presented to a 1st Class cadet best emulating COL Dillard's scholarship and dedication to a broad liberal arts education
Sir Moses Ezekiel Award	DEAN: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	Presented to a cadet who has contributed to the cultural life of the Institute

Class of 1964 New Market Legacy Award	DEAN - Graduating Class Faculty Advisor	Presented to a 1st Class cadet whose cadetship in the opinion of his or her Brother Rats is most reflective of the character, honor, and spirit of the 1864 New Market Corps of Cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Arts & Humanities	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Natural Sciences	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Engineering	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Life Sciences	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Information and Social Sciences	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
The Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Initiated by the Robert Earl McConnell Foundation in 1984 and supplemental funds provided by the Foundation that supports the VMI Distinguished Teaching Award, the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award is presented to a junior member of the VMI faculty in recognition of a particularly inspiring performance of his or her teaching duties

The VMI Distinguished Service Award (Up to 3 Awards Presented)	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	The VMI Distinguished Service Awards recognize and encourage excellence and dedication in service to the Virginia Military Institute. The program was endowed by the VMI Foundation, Inc., in 1980 through the VMI Campaign, with an inaugural matching gift from Robert G. Cabell, III and the Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation
The VMI Distinguished Teaching Award	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	The VMI Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes superior achievement in advancing the educational goals of VMI and for exceptional contributions to the intellectual growth of the Corps of Cadets. The program was endowed by the VMI Foundation, Inc., in 1980 through the VMI Campaign, with an inaugural matching gift from Robert G. Cabell, III and the Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation
Institute Writing Program Thesis Awards: Engineering & Science	DEAN: Institute Director of Writing	Selected by the Institute Honors Committee and presented on behalf of the Institute Writing Program to the 1st Class cadets who present the most outstanding theses in satisfaction of the requirements for Institute Honors
Institute Writing Program Thesis Awards: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	DEAN: Institute Director of Writing	Selected by the Institute Honors Committee and presented on behalf of the Institute Writing Program to the 1st Class cadets who present the most outstanding theses in satisfaction of the requirements for Institute Honors
VMI Institute Professorships (Number Varies)	DEAN: Professorship and Chairs Selection Committee Chair	Recognizes outstanding accomplishments by those members of the VMI faculty whose achievements in the classroom, in curriculum and course development, in published scholarly research, and in service to the Institute and the community set them apart from their colleagues
Jackson-Hope Chairs	DEAN: Professorship and Chairs Selection Committee Chair	The Jackson-Hope Distinguished Chairs were established in recognition of the interests of the Jackson-Hope Fund in promoting academic excellence and the needs of VMI in recruiting, developing, and retaining exceptional faculty.
Academic Excellence Chairs	DEAN: Professorship and Chairs Selection Committee Chair	The Academic Excellence Chairs recognize those Academic Administrators who have distinguished themselves by their wise stewardship and evolution of the Academic Program for which they are responsible, while remaining exceptional teachers and cadet mentors. The first such chair was awarded in 2018, with support from the Peay endowment in the VMI Foundation.
Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury Award	Dept: AM	Presented to the top 1 st Class cadet in the Applied Mathematics curriculum

Alfred H. Knowles Award	Dept: BI	Presented to a 1st Class cadet for significant accomplishments in biology studies
Civil Engineering Award	Dept: CE	Presented to the 1st Class cadet who is declared to be first in Civil Engineering for all four years
The Floyd D. Gottwald Jr. '43 Award in Chemistry	Dept: CH	Presented to the top standing 1st Class cadet in the chemistry major
The John W. and Jane M. Roberts Award	Dept: ECBU	Established in honor of John W. and Jane M. Roberts to recognize their lifelong interest in the American free enterprise system and their support for the Department of Economics and Business, this medal recognizes outstanding performance by a 1st Class cadet in the economics and business major
Stewart W. Anderson 1908 Memorial Award	Dept: ECE	Presented to the top 1st Class cadet for superior academic performance in the electrical and computer engineering curriculum
Asa S. Dearing Award	Dept: ERHS	Awarded to a 1st Class English major who has demonstrated the highest proficiency in the study of English and English Literature
Lieutenant Randolph T. Townsend Award	Dept: HI	Presented to the top-standing 1st Class cadet in the history curriculum
Thomas S. Baur '75 Award for Excellence in Exercise Science	Dept: HPW	Established in 2020 to recognize a deserving cadet within the Exercise Science minor, evidenced by academic excellence, research, and physical fitness
International Studies Award	Dept: IS	Presented to a 1st Class cadet in the international studies major who best exemplifies integrity, scholarship, and an abiding curiosity of international affairs
Superintendent William H. Milton Jr. Class of 1920 Award	Dept: ME	Presented to the top standing 1st Class cadet in mechanical engineering
Adolpho Ponzanelli Award	Dept: MLC	Presented to a 1st Class cadet for excellence in the study of modern languages and cultures
Bruce C. Gottwald Jr. '81 Award	Dept: PS	Presented to a 1st Class cadet Psychology major who has demonstrated the highest achievement in scholarship, service, and scientific inquiry.
Award for Excellence in Physics	Dept: PY	Presented to the top 1st Class cadet in the Physics curriculum
The New Market Scholar-in-Residence Award	MUSEUM	Presented for the best research topic proposal by a cadet working with interpretive staff at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park

100th Infantry Division Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress Scholarship Fund Awards: Rising 1st Class Cadets (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - A	Presented on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and military proficiency in honor of the men of the 100th Infantry Division and their commander, Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress, VMI Class of 1914
100 Infantry Division Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress Scholarship Fund Awards: Rising 2nd Class Cadets (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - A	Presented on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and military proficiency in honor of the men of the 100th Infantry Division and their commander, Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress, VMI Class of 1914
Colonel Thomas St. John Arnold Award	ROTC - A	Presented to an outstanding 1st Class private accepting an active-duty commission in the US Army
Major General Stephen Sewell Jr. '60 Award	ROTC - A	Awarded to three-or-four-year ROTC Scholarship recipient, in high standing with both VMI and the Army ROTC Dept
The Lieutenant John H. Lattin '66 Award	ROTC - A	Presented to the most militarily distinguished 1st Class cadet who is a commissioning infantry officer in the United States Army
Brigadier General Alonzo J. Walter '49B Award	ROTC - AF	Presented to the most outstanding Air Force ROTC 1st Class cadet
Chesty Puller Scholarship, First Marine Division	ROTC - N	Presented to the commissioning 1st Class Marine Option cadet who exhibits the highest qualities of leadership which exemplify the VMI Spirit and those espoused by Lieutenant General Lewis B "Chesty" Puller, Class of 1921
Chesty Puller Award, First Marine Division (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - N	Presented to the commissioning 2nd Class Marine Option who exhibits the highest qualities of leadership which exemplify the VMI Spirit and those espoused by Lieutenant General Lewis B "Chesty" Puller, Class of 1921
General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Sixth Marine Division Awards (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - N	Presented to the top two Marine 1st Class cadets in the Naval ROTC program at VMI
Lieutenant Mark R. Wilson Sr. Midshipman Award	ROTC - N	Presented to the top Navy 1st Class cadet, demonstrating excellence in leadership and academics
The Chief of Naval Operations Distinguished Midshipman Graduate Award	ROTC - N	Presented to a cadet commissioning with the Navy who has demonstrated the highest academic excellence

The Naval Submarine League: Admiral Frederick B. Warder Award	ROTC - N	Presented to recognize superior professional and academic performance by an outstanding NROTC graduate selected for submarine service
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