

ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS AND REGULATIONS OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

Approved 27 April 2026

ESTABLISHMENT

Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1839, the Virginia Military Institute is a four- year, state-supported college whose student body is organized as a military corps under the command of the Superintendent and constituted as the guard of the Institute. Within Virginia's state-supported, higher education system of fifteen senior institutions and twenty-four two-year colleges, VMI was the second institution of higher education the Commonwealth created after the University of Virginia. As a wholly undergraduate military college, VMI meets society's need for educated citizens and leaders and contributes significantly to the diversity of the Commonwealth's system of state-supported and independent institutions of higher education. The Institute's mission statement amplifies VMI's special statutory role.

The Virginia Military Institute (VMI) operates under the authority of the Code of Virginia 1950, Chapter 10 as amended (Sections 23-92 through 23-113). The code classified VMI as an educational institution and declared it to be a public body constituted as a governmental instrumentality for the dissemination of education.

MISSION

The Virginia Military Institute believes that the measure of a college lies in the quality and performance of its graduates and their contributions to society.

Therefore, it is the mission of the Virginia Military Institute 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, the Virginia Military Institute shall provide to qualified young men and women undergraduate education of highest quality -- embracing engineering, science, and the arts -- conducted in, and facilitated by, the unique VMI system of military discipline.

VISION

To be the premier small college in the Nation, unequalled in producing educated and honorable citizen-leaders, with an international reputation for academic excellence supported by a unique commitment to character development, self-discipline and physical challenge, conducted in a military environment.

GOVERNANCE

The authorities of VMI are derived directly or indirectly from Code of Virginia 1950, Chapter 10 (as amended) and are vested in and exercised by a Board of Visitors, at all times subject to the control of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the discharge of its duties, the Board of Visitors produces a Charter, By-Laws, and an Operating Manual which reflect Commonwealth of Virginia policies and regulations promulgated by the Governor and the General Assembly. The Board of Visitors is the policy-setting body for VMI and is charged with appointing a superintendent of the Institute with such duties as may be prescribed by the Board. A quorum of the Board for the transaction of any business is set forth by the Code of Virginia. The VMI Board of Visitors Manual outlines and references relevant legislation, statutory provisions, By-Laws, and Institute planning methodologies. Regular reports on the Board's activities and decisions are published by the Board and its Committees.

ACCREDITATION

Institutional Accreditation - The Virginia Military Institute is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Virginia Military Institute may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

Program Accreditation - The Economics and Business program is accredited by the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. All three of VMI's engineering programs, Mechanical, Electrical and Computer, and Civil and Environmental, are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc. The Chemistry program is approved by the American Chemical Society.

ORGANIZATION

Through the authority delegated by the Bylaws of the Board of Visitors, the Superintendent updates the Institute's organizational framework as necessary. The

organizational structure is widely distributed throughout the Institute by memorandum. The Human Resource office is responsible for updating the organizational chart which is located on the VMI website.

INSTITUTE PERSONNEL, OPERATIONS, REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES

The day-to-day operations of the Institute are the responsibility of the Superintendent, faculty, and staff who are guided in their endeavors by an organizational structure and system of policies and procedures described in the sections and paragraphs that follow.

SUPERINTENDENT - The Superintendent is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute and shall have executive responsibility for the Institute. In the Superintendent's absence from post, the Deputy Superintendent for Academics & Dean of the Faculty is the second ranking officer of the Institute. The Board of Visitors establishes the Institute Vision and Mission, which guides the Institute's operations as executed by the Superintendent.

INSTITUTE EXECUTIVES - The following executive positions report directly to the Superintendent:

- Deputy Superintendent for Academics & Dean of the Faculty*
- Deputy Superintendent for Finance & Support*
- Chief of Staff*
- Commandant of Cadets*
- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics*
- Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Planning
- Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Enrollment Management*
- Chief Information Officer

Note: * Denotes Senior Executive

The following special Staff officers also report to the Superintendent:

- Executive Officer to the Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Visitors
- Chief Diversity Officer
- Director, Center for Leadership & Ethics
- Director, Communications and Marketing
- Inspector General / Title IX Coordinator
- Institute Chaplain
- Superintendent's Representative to the Honor Court
- Institute and Corps Sergeant Major

POLICY APPROVAL

INSTITUTE PLANNING COMMITTEE (IPC) - Chaired by the Institute Chief of Staff and reporting directly to the Superintendent, the IPC is the major policy committee

of the Institute responsible for ensuring continuity and integrity in planning and operations. It is also responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Institute's strategic plans. It comprises the senior officials who report directly to the Superintendent, select special staff officers, and other individuals at the Chief of Staff's discretion. The IPC receives briefings on topics important to the operations of the Institute and disseminates information to operational units, as appropriate. The IPC reviews all Institute-wide policies and submits a recommendation to the Superintendent for approval, with the exception that academic policies recommended by the Academic Board must be approved by the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty and the Superintendent. The Faculty Handbook and Administrative Faculty Handbook must also be approved by the Board of Visitors.

The Policy Group of the IPC, chaired by the Institute Chief of Staff, comprises the two Deputy Superintendents, Commandant, Chief Information Officer, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the two Assistant Superintendents, reviews budgetary and fiscal matters, to include oversight of the annual budget, institutional effectiveness and strategic planning processes.

INSTITUTE COMMITTEES - There are standing committees at VMI which report either directly to the Superintendent or one of his executives. These committees have responsibility for planning, accountability, or oversight for all major areas of the Institute and deal directly with policy and procedural issues. The committees make recommendations through the appropriate executive or through the IPC. Each year a complete listing of all committees and their membership is published in a VMI-numbered memorandum.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES – A detailed organizational framework of the Institute below the executive level, including responsibilities and authorities of designated key positions, is outlined in detail in “Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute: Part I.”

Specific guidance including Organization and Administration of the Institute, Academic Program Mission and Vision, Academic Program Organization and Governance, Responsibilities of Faculty Members, Personnel and Business Policies, Administrative Policies and Practices is outlined in the "Faculty Handbook." Additional information is provided in the "Handbook for Administrative and Professional Faculty," and the "Classified Employee Handbook."

"The Virginia Militia: Customs and Courtesies, Wearing the Uniform" provides guidance for uniformed faculty and staff in the proper wearing of the uniform, as well as guidance on a broad array of military customs and courtesies.

Guidance and instruction in the proper conduct of protocol and etiquette activities are outlined in the "VMI Protocol Guide." This guide also provides information to familiarize faculty, staff and employees with military courtesies, social customs, rank, and insignia.

CADETS - General guidance for new cadet indoctrination into the VMI training methodology, procedures and requirements is provided in the "VMI Handbook for New Cadets." This handbook is published annually for incoming new cadets to ensure they report to the Institute with the proper equipment, mental and physical attitude ready to tackle the rigors of the Institute.

The general outline and structure of the Office of the Commandant is outlined in "Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute: Part I."

Guidance and instructions for the internal organization, administration and military instruction of the Corps of Cadets are outlined in "Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute: Part II."

Detailed guidance concerning cadet requirements, accountability, appearance, standards of conduct, and privileges is outlined in "Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute: Part III: VMI Blue Book."

Commandant's Leadership Initiative Documents are contained in:

- The "Red" Book - General Operation of the Corps of Cadets
- The "White" Book - Roles/Tasks of Cadet Government Organizations
- The "Yellow" Book - 4th Class Training
- The "Green" Book - Cadet Life Operations
- VMI LEADER Publications
 - LEADER 1 – VMI Corps Command and Staff
 - LEADER 2 – Guidebook for Cadet Sergeants
 - LEADER 3 – Guidebook for Corporals
 - LEADER 4 – VMI Corps General Committee
 - LEADER 5 – VMI Corps NCAA & Club Sport Team Captains

Policies and procedures concerning the Honor System are contained in the "Honor Court Standard Operating Procedures Manual" which includes sections on elements of proof, jury selection, trial procedures, and honor process procedures. The "Honor System" poster, which receives Institute-wide posting and distribution, outlines the honor code, the Honor Court, reporting procedures, general policies, and court procedures. The Honor Court is administered by the cadets elected to the VMI Honor Court who are supervised by the Superintendent's representatives to the Honor Court.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

The Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty is responsible for publishing detailed guidance concerning all aspects of the Institute's academic program. Detailed guidance is contained in "Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute: Part IV: Academic Regulations". This includes information on academic advising, delinquency,

probation, recognition and honors, admissions requirements, majors, class attendance, examinations and grading, honors and graduation requirements, internships, special events, summer sessions, transcripts, transfer credit, withdrawals, and work for grade policies. Additional information concerning summer programs is outlined in the "VMI Summer Session Catalog". Detailed information concerning all aspects of VMI course offerings and academic requirements is provided annually in the "VMI Catalog".

ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

The Director of Intercollegiate Athletics is responsible for publishing detailed guidance concerning all aspects of athletic matters in "Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute: Part V: Athletic Regulations." This includes information on NCAA and athletic conference requirements, athletic department goals, the VMI Athletic Council, eligibility and suspension, authorized team strengths, competitions and seasons, accountability, special responsibilities and athletic awards. Additional guidance is provided in the "Athletic Department Staff Manual" and the "Cadet Athlete Handbook."

FINANCIAL/CAPITAL REGULATIONS

The Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Support is responsible for publishing detailed information concerning annual financial planning and budget execution that is outlined annually in the "VMI Operating Budget." Guidance on budget execution procedures is provided in the "VMI Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual." The following additional financial planning documents are germane:

- The long-term plan for admissions and financial aid is detailed in the "Six-Year Plan."
- The six-year Capital Improvement Plan is detailed in the "Post Facilities Master Plan" which is updated annually.
- Guidance concerning administration of the Jackson-Hope Funds is outlined annually in a report to the Board of Overseers, Jackson-Hope Fund.

Annual reports on the financial health of the Institute are prepared by independent auditors and provided in the "Report on Audit for the Year Ended."

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Detailed strategic plans are outlined in the "VMI Strategic Plan" and the "VMI Information Technology Strategic Plan," and the "VMI Athletics Operations Plan."

GENERAL ORDERS, SPECIAL ORDERS, & MEMORANDA

Each Academic Year numerous additional policies, guidance, and schedules are published by the Office of the Chief of Staff through a comprehensive set of [general orders](#), special orders, and memoranda transmitted to the faculty, staff, and employees of the Institute. The

documents are reviewed annually as a matter of policy to ensure adequacy and relevancy. The handbooks and other documents referenced in the regulations are available from the Office of the Chief of Staff. A representative, but not all-inclusive, sample of these policy documents, i.e., general orders, and memoranda include:

- Operating Rules of the Institute
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Emergency Management Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Violence Prevention Committee and Threat Assessment Team
- Marriage and Parenthood Policy
- Alcohol and Controlled Substance Policy
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy
- Code of Ethics
- Records Management Policy
- Nondiscrimination Policy
- Acceptable Use of VMI Information Systems
- Housing Policy and Regulations
- Hiring Procedures for Administrative & Professional Faculty

CALENDARS & REPORTS

The VMI Calendar Committee is comprised of representatives from all agencies at VMI, including the Alumni Agencies. The Committee is responsible to the Superintendent for the scheduling of major Institute events. It schedules events using the current Academic Year (August - July) and an additional three-year calendar outlook.

Annual scheduling information is provided in the "VMI Institute Calendar," with updates, changes, additions and deletions provided through Institute-wide memoranda. [Critical Dates](#) for each Academic Year are available on the VMI website. The "glossy" calendar is published annually in August and is used by both internal and external groups and agencies to plan and manage major events at VMI. The most current VMI calendar is available on the VMI website and contains the most current calendar information for the Institute.

Reports on Institute events and activities are provided eight times a year through "The VMI Institute Report", which is widely distributed throughout the Institute, and the VMI Alumni Agencies. The "Institute Report" is also available online.

The VMI Strategic Plan is summarized for outside presentation as "Forging 21st Century Leaders: Strategic Plan 2024-2034." The Institute's Office of Institutional Effectiveness publishes the [Virginia Military Institute Fact Book](#) annually. Cadet publications include "Cadence", a literary magazine published annually and+- the VMI yearbook called "The Bomb."