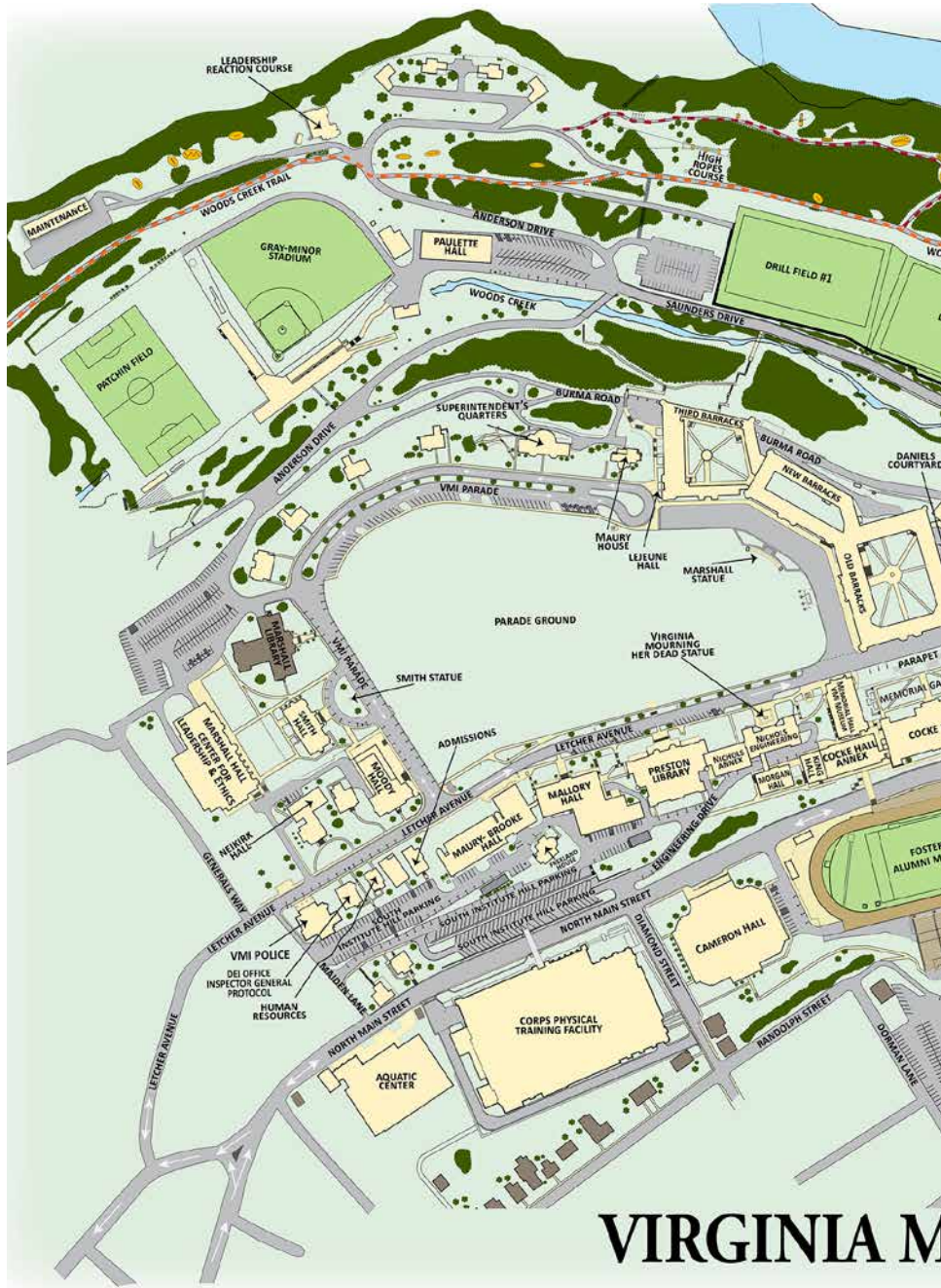


New Cadet Handbook

2023-24





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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!





Rat Mass of 24+3.

Congratulations on your appointment to the Virginia Military Institute. Deciding to attend VMI is a testament to your character and willingness to be of service to others. Your commitment is a momentous signifier that you have chosen a path that will indisputably separate you from your peers. Take pride in that.

Understand this, VMI will challenge you from the moment you matriculate. You will undergo a transformative journey that will be harder, yet more rewarding, than anything you have experienced thus far. The Rat Line will test your mental, physical, and emotional endurance, driving you past all your perceived limitations. To succeed, you must rely on your brother rats to overcome any adversity and hardship you encounter throughout your cadetship. Do this, and you will forge bonds that will truly last a lifetime.

Once you sign the matriculation book, you and your classmates will enter barracks together for the first time with a blank slate. Therefore, you will be judged only by your effort and actions thereafter. The training that you will receive does not discriminate. VMI will provide you with the necessary resources to be successful. But success will be your choice. From this day forward, success is your responsibility and can be defined only by you.

At VMI, you are bound by nothing. When the expectations and pressures feel unbearable, take comfort in knowing that for 184 years cadets have surmounted the systems through which you are about to navigate. It is these hardships which we embrace, navigate, and overcome that give our diploma its value.

If it were easy, everyone would do it.

Your individual transformation will prepare you for success not only at VMI but in life. Once your journey as a VMI cadet is complete, you will discover that you have joined the sacred brotherhood of the Institute which is famed for producing the best leaders and citizen soldiers this country has ever experienced. All who hold the title of being a VMI cadet do so with great pride—because it was earned with remarkable efforts.

Always remember the reasons why you chose VMI. Stay grounded in your purpose. I expect nothing less than your absolute best and look forward to your arrival.

Very Respectfully,
Cadet First Captain Mark L. Shelton II '24
Regimental Commander



VMI—An Overview

The Mission of Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Military Institute, founded in 1839 and now in its 184th 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.

Vision 2039

www.vmi.edu/vision2039

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

Academic Program

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

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

Civil engineering, a subject rarely taught in colleges and universities before 1839, was the cornerstone program at VMI's founding. The first industrial chemistry course in the South was offered at VMI, and in 1868, modern courses in physics and meteorology were developed. Today the

Institute's engineering program remains nationally recognized. 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 approximately 98% 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.

Pre-Matriculation

Packing











While bringing a trunk to VMI is allowed, they're highly discouraged due to limited storage space. Each cadet is allowed one piece of luggage. The dimensions of a large suitcase are between 28 and 32 inches long and approximately 19 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Smaller luggage pieces/stored belongings must fit inside the large piece of luggage because there 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


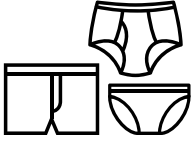








name. If you are driving to VMI, consider bringing some of your items in a cardboard box that can be recycled or a plastic bin that can go back home after you are dropped off at VMI.




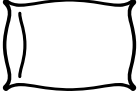



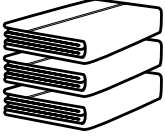

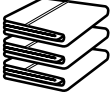
Use the following list to pack for VMI. Most items should be brought from home, but some items may be purchased at the VMI Bookstore (540-464-7637 or www.bkstr.com/vmistore). The bookstore accepts all major credit cards. The number of clothing items recommended is the minimum based on having to change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

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










Mandatory and Optional Items

Clothing—MANDATORY			
	1	Each	<p>Black 1.5-liter (50 oz.) hydration system, i.e. Camelbak, Blackhawk, or equivalent—very important to have before matriculation</p> 
	1	Each	<p>Watch, black, athletic style recommended. <i>Rats cannot wear smart watches during the Rat Line.</i></p> 
	2	Pair	<p>Running shoes, predominantly white or black</p> 
	1	Pair	<p>Please see "Boots" on page 10 or visit www.vmi.edu/auxservices for information regarding purchasing approved military-style boots, breaking them in, and other details.</p> 
	1	Each	<p>Mouth guard (for boxing class)</p> 









 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	
 14	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 pair civilian clothes and shoes	
 1	Each	Plain white wash cloth (minimum)	

 5	Each	Plain white bath-size towels (minimum)	
 1	Each	White pillow	
 1	Each	Blanket (comforter), dark solid color, twin XL size	
 3	Each	Twin XL white flat sheets (no elastic)	
 3	Each	White pillow cases	

Personal Hygiene—MANDATORY

























 1	Each	Toothbrush
 1	Each	Toothpaste
 1	Kit	Razor and Shaving Cream (non-electric)
 1	Each	Sunscreen, tube or bottle
 1	Bottle	Shampoo/conditioner
 1	Bar	Soap
 2	Pair	Eyeglasses, if needed
 1	Each	Body/foot powder
 1	Each	Deodorant

School Supplies

 1	Each	Academic Planner
 1	Each	Laptop Computer or iPad
		Black fabric brief case style computer bag (not a backpack)
		Pens/Pencils
		Notebooks
		Binders
		Calculator
		Highlighters

		Flash drive
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Miscellaneous—Highly Recommended

	1	Set	Dusting supplies	
	1	Each	Broom	
	1	Each	Dustpan	
	1	Each	Brasso or equivalent	
	1	Each	Metal polish—Mothers or equivalent	
	1	Each	Shoe polish: black —Kiwi or equivalent	
	1	Each	Boot brush	
	1	Each	White cotton rag	
	1	Each	Lint roller	
	1	Each	Floss	
	1	Each	Lip balm	
	1	Each	Lotion	

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Set	Shirt stays	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Each	Shower caddy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Each	Lockbox—can be purchased from 3 rd Class Finance Committee on Matriculation Day	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Each	Desired personal hygiene products not listed	

Prohibited Items

Weapons of any type

Appliances including microwave ovens, hot pots, heating elements, etc.

Plants and pets

Flammable materials including candles, fireworks, incense, etc.

TVs or any other type of entertainment media

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, email or can text



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, 0730–1530. The Military Store sells Belleville C390 boots and offers a comprehensive fitting service. Cadets attending STP will be afforded the opportunity to utilize this service, if desired.

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.

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 2024+3

I commend you on your acceptance to the Virginia Military Institute and I am impressed by your decision to attend. This appointment is not to be taken lightly.

You aren't entering the prettiest or flashiest military college, but make no mistake, this is the hardest military college in the United States. Because of this, I urge and caution you: do not forget that you made this decision, nor forget the weight of it.

You must prepare for it. You must prepare yourself to face the great challenges of the Rat Line, mentally, physically, emotionally. But in this preparation never once think that you are ready, no one can prepare themselves fully for what you are about to have the privilege of experiencing.

Physically, be no stranger to your pair of running shoes, the pull-up bar nearby, and pushing your body to its limits. Mentally, begin now rigidly managing your time, filling your time with things that keep you on your feet. If you fail to do this, you are simply setting yourself up for failure academically, and ensuring more difficulty in the Rat Line. When it comes down to how far you can run, how much mental hardship you can endure, how much you can push yourself past the part where you want to quit, how far you can keep going, there's purity and virtue in that which dissolves the complacency and laziness of ordinary life. Emotionally, begin now practicing humility and introspection. You are coming to a place where you are just another nametag, your virtues are unknown, and people will treat you as such. But, simultaneously your vices are unknown, you have the chance to reinvent yourself in the way you treat others and in the way you think about yourself. You must be familiar to the practice of putting your peers above yourself, giving until it hurts. Your peers—or brother rats—will be your only source of consolation.

I urge you, do not squander your time before matriculation. Prepare yourself and arrive here with a sense of humility. I have prepared the best team of cadre imaginable to challenge you on your path to becoming a VMI cadet. The clock is ticking for you to enter into a great and noble lineage of men

and women who have upheld the Institute's standards, and in return the Institute gifted them with hardship, which they molded into virtue. Honor them and gain the title of a VMI cadet through trial and hardship. Prepare yourself for this great honor and this enduring tradition. With this in mind, you will not fail.

When you say the words of the New Cadet Oath on the day of your matriculation you are pledging to follow a system which you will gain incredible amounts from. In order for you to gain anything, first everything must be taken. Nothing is promised. You will endure hardships that none of your peers will ever understand. Let this make you confident, but not prideful.

In this suffering and hardship, you must find joy. You must let the great equalizer that is the Rat Line instill within you a sense of humility which is above reproach. Otherwise you will live out your days here with anger and regret. You won't be comfortable here, nor will you be comfortable in your adult life. This is why VMI is so rigorous. It doesn't just make high school girls and boys and men and women; it makes those men and women into virtuous, just, and steadfast leaders.

The following was said to me on the day of my matriculation, as a member of the rat mass of 2021+3, and now I say the same to you in hopes that it provides the same amount of consolation and motivation it did me:

"You are to fight this day against your vices. Let not your heart fail, nor your spirit faint. Yield not on any account, neither for fear, pride, nor any other cause. Fight valiantly then! And be not reluctant to suffer. For it is this toilsome resistance to your complacent inclinations, this painful struggle against your entitled habits, which shall gain you the victory, and win for you the title of VMI Cadet, and for your brother rats the title of a VMI Class."

Signed,
Cadet Captain Paul Ignatius Murray '24
Regimental Executive Officer

Matriculation

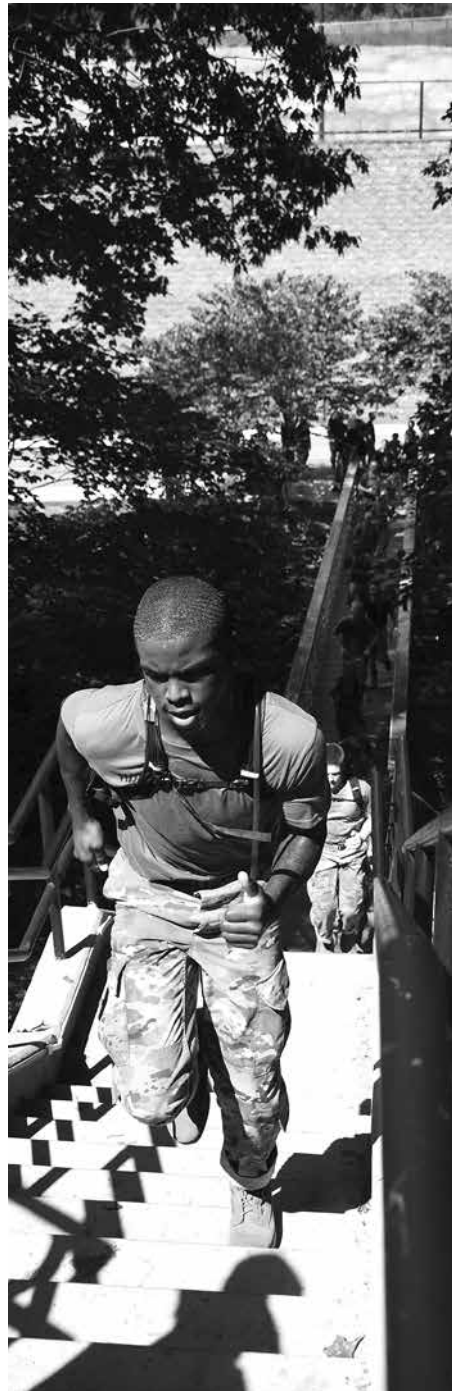
Matriculation Overview

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 2024 plus 3. You will not earn the status of 4th Class cadet, Class of 2027, until after Breakout.

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

Uniform Issue

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



The Rat Line and Life as a Rat

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

The Dyke System

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

with a new cadet for a possible dyke relationship. This contact may be based on common background, sports team, or shared hometown with the new cadet, or it may be facilitated by a member of the faculty, staff, or 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 2024+3,

You are about to embark on a journey that few have the privilege to experience. The Virginia Military Institute is unlike any other. The system which you will endure will test and teach you in many ways. In a few short months, you will be transformed from rats to citizen-soldiers, the same citizen soldiers of which our society is in desperate need. It is VMI's mission to produce educated and honorable men and women to fill this need. Your education here goes beyond the classroom, encompassing intellectual, emotional, and physical development, as well as a distinct growth in character.

We as cadets live by a strict and enduring VMI Honor Code which states: **a cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do.** This adage, which you will know by heart, has been preserved from one generation to the next. The Code is the foundation of the Institute and is the unbreakable bond that binds all those who have walked through the gates of VMI.

When you sign the matriculation book, you commit to a life of honor and a devotion to the preservation of the Code. You will forget your old ways and live by the Code. A Cadet's word is their bond, and from this moment forward, you bear the same responsibility as any member of the Corps to maintain the Code's high standards. Your commitment to the Honor Code

transcends the charter on your barracks wall. It is not just another item to memorize from your Rat Bible; it is a way of life. There will be times throughout your cadetship where the convenience of personal gain may tempt you to compromise your honor. In those moments you must be steadfast in your commitment to the Code. It is during those times, when no one is watching, that you must choose the hard right over the easy wrong. The Honor System is the cornerstone of life at VMI. Without your adherence to the system, the Code becomes meaningless.

As a cadet, the Honor Code should serve as your guiding light in every facet of your life. Your honor does not fade upon your graduation from the Institute. The Code should serve as a moral compass that stays with you throughout your life. Pursue the ideal. As you embark on your cadetship, remember that the legacy of our Code, upheld by VMI's past generations, now falls on your shoulders. Take pride in it, hold reverence for it, and remember: Honor is a lifestyle.

Very Respectfully,
Warner T. Collier '24
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 2024+3.

It is a great privilege for me to be writing to you, offering words of 'wisdom' as you prepare to enter Virginia Military Institute.

In deciding to attend the Institute, you have chosen a path that is anything but common. While many of your peers from high school will be living lives of indulgence in their collegiate experiences, you have chosen to attend a place that will forge your character through adversity. I am very proud of you for making that exceptional decision.

In your excitement and anxiety that are surely mounting before matriculation, I want you to remember two things: First, you are not alone. Hundreds of young men and women from across the nation are in your shoes. Soon you will join them in Lexington and will inevitably forge bonds with these brother rats that, I can assure you, will be unbreakable.

In your remaining time before Matriculation Day, please continue to enjoy the company of friends and family. Make great memories that you can remember and enjoy during your time at VMI. At the same time, please continue to train physically for the challenges ahead. It will be crucial to your success in the first days and weeks at VMI.

On matriculation day, you can expect to be efficiently introduced to the VMI System. Your first few days and weeks in the ranks of the VMI Corps of cadets will be an emotionally and physically demanding time.

Through the hardship, remember that the 1st Class, the Class of 2024, will be supporting and encouraging you through it all. Rely heavily on your dyke (your 1st Class mentor) and utilize them as a resource as much as possible. My brother rats and I will work tirelessly to make sure that your experience at VMI is meaningful and successful.

Over the past 184 years, the men and women who have successfully completed their time at VMI have embraced the unique traditions of the honor, class, and regimental systems. They used it to shape their character and nature. Now, we are excited for you to have the opportunity to do the same.

See you in August, and Rah Virginia Mil!

With Gratitude,
John Cole Cathcart '24
General Committee President



Cadet Government

VMI has several governing committees run by cadets under the supervision of the assistant commandant for cadet government. These committees handle the issues of the Corps and enforce regulations of the Institute.

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

The Officer of the Guard Association (OGA) maintains order and harmony within the Corps. This is the main organization through which the Corps polices its own, dealing with offenses from the most trivial to the most important. This organization, among other things, is charged with enforcing VMI's anti-hazing policies. The mission of these cadets is to receive reports of incidents of misconduct

within the Corps, to investigate these matters when appropriate, and to protect the privacy of the individuals involved insofar as it is possible. Additionally, the OGA is in charge of monitoring the rat/dyke system and is comprised of 1st Class privates.

The Cadet Equity Association (CEA) promotes the Superintendent's Statement on Equity at VMI, and monitors a post-wide climate of respect and equitable treatment for cadets. The mission of the CEA is to educate the Corps on VMI's Title IX policy. CEA cadets receive training in matters and procedures related to issues that may involve gender, racial, religious, sexual orientation, ethnic discrimination, and otherwise qualified persons with disabilities.

Physical Fitness

Cadets have to take the fitness test every semester. It is gender-normed and consists of push-ups, sit-ups, and a run. It is highly encouraged that rats begin to get themselves into shape as soon as possible.



VMI is notorious for ample stairs and never-ending hills. This is particularly important to keep in mind while preparing for the Rat Line. Following is a basic workout outline. Make sure to modify it to your ability.

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

Cadets are also required to take seven semesters of 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 and/or conduct record. A

cadet's GC class is the class with which he/she matriculated unless the cadet has left and returned to VMI. Only 1st Class cadets with full class privileges are authorized to register, maintain, and operate a motor vehicle in Rockbridge County. New cadets are authorized 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 approved by the commandant's office or officer-in-charge and recommended by the chaplain. A time limit of 72 hours is stipulated for this furlough, but may be extended with the commandant's approval. Special 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 he/she has a medical condition requiring an absence from duties at VMI. Medical permits are submitted through the Institute physician to the commandant. Other permits must be submitted by the cadet. Parents should not be involved in the permit process.

Women's Health at VMI

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

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

What extra items might women need to bring to VMI?

- » Pads, tampons, or other hygiene products
- » Sports bras
- » Any prescriptions or over-the-counter medications you use regularly
- » Hair clips, hair ties, and bobby pins that match natural hair color (rubber bands not permitted)

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

During that time, all 4th stoop bathrooms will be stocked with pads and tampons for

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

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

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



Expectations for Cadet Conduct

General

Cadets are expected to conduct themselves as men and women of character at all times. Exemplary conduct both at and away from the Institute reflects credit on the cadet, the Corps, and the Institute.

A cadet is always considered to be of good conduct and honorable under all circumstances, unless proven otherwise by the cadet's own actions.

Conduct unbecoming of a cadet is any behavior which compromises, or can

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

Alcohol

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

Civility

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

Dating Among Cadets

Dating within the Corps is acceptable among the three upper classes as long as it is in accordance with policy. Typical cadet friendships based on shared backgrounds, academic or extracurricular interests, or organizational associations do not constitute dating. Cadets are not allowed to

date within their own chain of command. New cadets may not date another member of the Corps during their entire first year at VMI.

Dangerous and Destructive Behavior

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

Drug Testing Program, Controlled Substances, and Drug Paraphernalia

www.vmi.edu/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 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

Virginia Military Institute is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based on any protected status, against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities, or based on any other status protected by law. In pursuit of this goal, any question of impermissible discrimination on these bases will be addressed with efficiency and energy and in accordance with 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.

ID Card Proper Use and Accountability

- » This ID should be carried at all times. Report lost cards to Auxiliary Services. **Replacement charge is \$25.00**
- » 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.

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 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 is difficult, but the conduct of cadre is absolutely professional, and hazing is prohibited under Virginia law. Rats cannot choose to be hazed. Section 18.2-56 of the Virginia Code states: “Hazing is unlawful; civil and criminal liability; duty of school, etc., officials” is as follows: “It shall be unlawful to haze, or otherwise mistreat so as to cause bodily injury, any student at any school, college, or university. Any person found guilty thereof shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person receiving bodily injury by hazing or mistreatment shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants. The president or other presiding official of any school, college, or university, receiving appropriations from the State treasury

shall, upon satisfactory proof of the guilt of any student hazing or mistreating another student, sanction and discipline such student in accordance with the institution's policies and procedures. The institution's policies and procedures shall provide for expulsions or other appropriate discipline based on the facts and circumstances of each case. The president or other presiding official of any school, college or university receiving appropriations from the state treasury shall report hazing which causes bodily injury to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which such school, college or university is, who shall take such action as he deems appropriate."

Marriage and Parenthood

All VMI cadets must live in barracks and participate in a demanding and rigorous military program that does not permit attention to the duties implied by marriage or parenthood. Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Board of Visitors, any cadet who marries or becomes a parent is expected to resign from the Corps. Absent voluntary resignation, should the Institute, in its reasonable judgment, conclude that a cadet is married or the parent of a child, such 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 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 or academic probation.

Punitive Restrictions

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

The Blue Book

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



Support Services and Information

Barber Shop

www.vmi.edu/auxservices

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

Campus Security

www.vmi.edu/police

540-463-9177

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

The personal safety of cadets and the security of the community are of vital concern to Virginia Military Institute. A copy of the Institute’s annual security report is available upon request. This report includes statistics for the most recent three-year period concerning reported crimes that occurred on post, in certain off-post buildings, on property owned or controlled by VMI, and on the public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from 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.

Commandant’s Office

540-464-7962

Overseeing cadet life in barracks is the responsibility of the commandant and his staff. There are at least two experienced

individuals on duty within the barracks 24 hours per day. Their most important responsibility is to ensure the health and well-being of cadets. The officer in charge can be contacted at 540-464-7962. In addition, 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

www.vmi.edu/counseling
540-464-7667

The Center for Cadet Counseling (CCC) offers services that help develop awareness, knowledge and skills necessary for cadets to make healthy choices, meet future challenges and lead meaningful

lives. Services include educational programming, individual assessment, and counseling, psychiatric services, crisis intervention and consultation. Counseling services are confidential and conducted by licensed mental health professionals.

Post Infirmary

www.vmi.edu/infirmary
540-464-7218

The VMI Infirmary is located on post behind Crozet Hall in the Post Hospital building and offers 24-hour nursing care during the school year. The infirmary 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 Infirmary 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.

Information Technology Department

www.vmi.edu/it

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

Wireless Network Connectivity

www.vmi.edu/wireless

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

Inspector General 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 that is free from harassment and discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, genetic information, against otherwise qualified persons with

disabilities, or based on any other status protected by law. For information on reporting a crime, or to learn more about the resources available to victims, please visit www.vmi.edu/TitleIX.

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 seven days a week, from 0830–2300, Monday–Saturday; 1100–2300 on Sunday. An assortment of food, from salads to pizza, is available. Sales are for cash, check, or major credit card. Orders can also be taken for special event items (birthday cakes, exam packs, etc.).

SNAP Accounts

www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi

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/benefit/snap.cgi.

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

VMI operates three historic sites: the VMI Museum, the Jackson House Museum, and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. Founded in 1845,

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

Preston Library

www.vmi.edu/library

540-464-7129

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

A significant renovation of Preston Library was completed in spring 2021. The library's collections include books and journals in print and electronic formats, non-print items such as DVDs, and databases covering a wide range of academic fields. Preston Library is also a selective depository of U.S. government publications. Patrons interested in doing primary source research involving rare books and photographs, along with

Institute historical records and growing digital archives, can find those materials in the VMI Archives in Preston Library.

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

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

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

Religious Support

540-464-7390

VMI has two chaplains to help ensure and facilitate religious support: The Institute chaplain is Col. John P. Casper '04, D.Min. and associate chaplain to the Corps of Cadets is Capt. Eli Facemire '19, M.Div.

The primary mission of the VMI chaplain's office 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 Chaplain's Office 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 chaplain's office also provides opportunities for mission trips, conferences, and retreats for various faith groups throughout the academic year. Above all, the chaplain's office works to accommodate the religious needs of all cadets and provides pastoral care and mentoring, regardless of religious affiliation.

Contact Chaplain Casper or Mrs. Mary Cannon, office administrator, with any questions.

Telephones

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

Uniform Laundry, Cleaning, Pressing, Alterations and Repairs

www.vmi.edu/auxservices

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

VMI Bookstore

www.bkstr.com/vmistore

540-464-7637

The VMI Bookstore, located in Lejeune Hall, sells textbooks, authorized supplies, and toiletry items. For the convenience of cadets, the bookstore also carries stationary, greeting cards, post cards, imprinted 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 at a later time.





Rat Mass of 2024+3.

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Virginia Military Institute. You have chosen to attend the hardest military school in the nation, a decision for which you should be commended. At VMI you will find yourself uniquely challenged, and at times you will be pushed to your mental, physical, and emotional limits. Sometimes you will feel as though you are pushed beyond them—but you will also find that often those barriers only exist inside your own head.

Of the many challenges you will face here, the largest will almost certainly be the many limitations on your time. Despite the unique and sometimes conflicting demands, never forget that the primary purpose of your attendance at VMI is to gain a college degree. The transition from high school academics to college academics is difficult to begin with, and can be even more challenging here. You will learn to rely on your brother rats for many things, but your academic journey is one that you must take as an individual. You must find it within yourself to go the extra mile even at times when you think you can go no further.

You will certainly be challenged, but just as certainly, you will never lack support. My staff is a group of highly successful individuals who have mastered the arduous educational system that VMI presents. We will always be available and will do everything within our power to help you succeed. Academic success at VMI is attainable, and the rewards are great. But know now that it will not be given to you; you must earn it. One of the greatest academic resources available to you will be your S2 company representative, as well as the many resources provided by the Miller Academic Center. If you find yourself struggling, never hesitate to ask for help.

Your academic journey will be difficult. Your acceptance to VMI indicates that you are capable of success. It is now up to you to act upon that ability. When all is said and done, it is the one who embraces the challenges set before him or her without hesitation or fear of failure—not the one who timidly holds back—that will be remembered.

Very respectfully,
Virginia G. Townsend '24
S2 Captain 2023–24



Academics and Related Support

S2 Staff Description

The S2 staff serves as 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.
- » Seek help as soon as you feel you're struggling—even if only a little bit. It's better to get help as soon as something is unclear so that you don't fall behind even more.

- » Place your academics first. It's easy to get so caught up in the Rat Line that you put your homework off. You don't get kicked out for unshined shoes, but you can easily get kicked out for bad grades.
- » Familiarize yourself with the Academic Handbook to find out more about academic policies, departmental information, program requirements, and opportunities by reading through the course catalog on the website **www.vmi.edu/majors**.
- » Start off strong. At VMI, you are starting fresh and developing/maintaining a strong work ethic will be important for succeeding later in life.
- » New cadets need to be aware that they have a lot of academic resources they can use, and we are here to help. (Writing Center, group study Sessions, Miller Academic Center, and especially the tutor system).

Academic Advising

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

The academic advising program is a pivotal element of the broader program of academic support services provided by Virginia Military Institute and is a major force in ensuring a successful progression

through the VMI program. Cadets are encouraged to take full advantage of the Institute's commitment to the academic advising process.

Financial Aid

www.vmi.edu/financialaid

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

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

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

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

The completion of these two forms determines the level of need-based aid for

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

Special Academic Programs

Office of Disabilities Services

www.vmi.edu/ds

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



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

Institute Honors Program

www.vmi.edu/honors

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

Office of Global Education

www.vmi.edu/oge

Broadening global perspectives and increasing cultural awareness is an inherent component of VMI's mission of educating citizen-soldiers. The Office of Global Education (OGE) offers a complete portfolio of study abroad opportunities designed to prepare young men and women for successful service in an increasingly global community. VMI's study abroad opportunities include programs at both civilian and military institutions around the globe. Because cadets are not permitted to study abroad during their first two semesters at VMI, the summer following the rat year presents cadets with their first chance to take advantage of this

remarkable opportunity. Cadets may study abroad one semester during their cadetship and as many summers as they like. Faculty-led summer programs occur during the same time frame as the VMI summer sessions and are intended not to conflict with regular duties during the year, such as ROTC training, intercollegiate athletics, or other responsibilities within the Corps.

Open Math Lab (OML)

www.vmi.edu/oml

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

Miller Academic Center Academic Success Programs

www.vmi.edu/mac

The Miller Academic Center (MAC) helps cadets transition to college academics and college life. Cadets can learn how to effectively manage their time through the use of the VMI College Success Planner. Group Study Sessions (GSS) are available for a number of core courses including science, math, history, and foreign languages. The GSS meetings are a weekly opportunity for new cadets to discuss coursework and strategies with successful upper-class cadets. Academic Saturday workshops provide new cadets with valuable information on effective study skills and strategies to optimize their time.

Staff will also meet with individual cadets to discuss concerns or questions about academic success at VMI. New cadets are encouraged to learn more about the MAC programs and services designed with them in mind by visiting www.vmi.edu/mac.

Writing Center

www.vmi.edu/iwp

The Writing Center complements and extends the writing instruction cadets receive in the classroom by providing help with a full range of activities to improve their writing, at any level and in any discipline. Professional tutors work with cadets in one-on-one conferences on every aspect of the writing process, from planning a paper to polishing a final draft. For further information, contact Col. Christina R. McDonald, Institute director of writing, or visit the Institute Writing Program's website.

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 6 semesters in residence at VMI to graduate, with a 75% rule requiring that at least 75% of all credits a cadet graduates with were earned at VMI. In regard to AP credit and college credit transfer, VMI requires students to earn 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; Wetmore Fund for supplies for cadet academic year research; and awards to encourage and acknowledge faculty who engage cadets in undergraduate research experiences. For more information, contact Col. Scott Frein or visit VCUR's website.

ROTC

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. These weekend Field Training Exercises (FTXs) provide experience specific to the service the cadet has selected. If a cadet is interested in earning a commission, scholarship and non-scholarship commissioning programs are available in each of the four service branches.

New cadets are required to select a ROTC branch during the summer scheduling process. In attempting to determine which ROTC branch they should enroll, new

cadets can contact representatives of each branch through their departmental emails. Each ROTC department will be available at matriculation to answer additional questions. In order to enroll in the Air Force/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. Thomas Atkinson (Army) 540-464-7680, armyrotc@vmi.edu; Retired Chief Yeoman Rick Schemehorn (Navy) 540-464-7277, nrotc@vmi.edu; Ms. Diane Fishburn (Air Force) 540-464-5354, afrotc@vmi.edu.



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.
- 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:** First class (senior); second class (junior); third class (sophomore); fourth class (freshmen); rats become fourth class cadets after the Rat Line ends (following Breakout).
- CLE:** Center for Leadership and Ethics
- CMD:** Completion of Military Duty. This is when the cadet is finished with all required responsibilities for the day.
- Coatee:** Woolen jacket with tails and many buttons; part of full-dress uniform.
- Commandant:** Senior administrative officer responsible for the supervision and training of the Corps.
- Concourse:** Underground level of barracks.
- Confinement:** A restriction to room, barracks, or post; results from being boned for a rules violation.
- CCQ:** Close Call to Quarters. This is when cadets 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.
- CQRB:** Call to Quarters, Release in Barracks. This is announced 15 minutes before Taps.
- CTT:** Commandant's Training Time used for training and inspections.

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

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

DRC: Dinner Roll Call

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furlough: Vacation scheduled or approved by VMI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Market: A town located in southern Shenandoah County, Virginia where

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

- North Post:** Location of the military leadership field training grounds
- OC:** Officer-in-Charge, an Institute official; represents the Commandant and monitors guard team performance after hours.
- OD/OG:** Officer of the Day/Officer of the Guard; the two ranking members of the guard team (usually first class cadets).
- OGA:** Officer of the Guard Association (first class privates); helps create and maintain an environment that facilitates communications, harmony, and discipline in the Corps.
- Old Barracks Main Arch:** Main entrance to Old Barracks; contains entrance to Commandant's office.
- Optional BRC:** Authorization to miss Breakfast Roll Call.
- Orderly:** A cadet from each room who is responsible for the cleanliness of the room. Will receive all bones for an out of order room.
- Parade Ground:** Open field in front of barracks used for parades, physical training, and tailgates during football season.
- Parapet:** Wall along the south side of barracks overlooking Memorial Gardens and Cocke Hall; has a famous inscription which rats must memorize.
- Penalty Tours:** A punishment consisting of an hour's worth of supervised marching while carrying a rifle.
- Permits:** Typed documents approved by the appropriate authority to address situations needing special attention and/or to grant approval for exceptions to

policies. Permits must be submitted no later than four days prior to the effective date. The Commandant approves certain Standing Permits at the start of each academic year for special purposes such as dine with family. Cadets must acquire the appropriate signatures prior to submitting permits. This includes professor signatures for class absences, coach approval for intercollegiate absences, the doctor's signature for urgent medical appointments or furloughs, adviser signatures for club activities, and Career Services approval for interviews.

- PTT:** Physical Training Time with a cadet's ROTC affiliation or, if a non-commissioning second or first class cadet, with their VMI company.
- PX:** Post Exchange; where cadets get food and can eat with families
- QMD:** Quartermaster Department; issues uniforms.
- Ranker:** Any cadet who holds an official position in the regimental system.
- Rat:** Term applied to all new cadets during their first year at VMI; precedes being a fourth class cadet, which comes after Breakout from the Rat Line.
- Rat Bible:** A small book of facts about VMI's history and certain information specific to the current year; must be in a rat's possession at all times; rats are responsible to know and recite the contents of this book.
- Rat Challenge:** A physical program that includes obstacle courses; promotes teamwork and leadership; rats participate during the fall semester.
- Rat Line:** The whole experience of being a rat; also the specific path in barracks which rats must use in going from one place to another.
- Ring Figure:** The weekend events at which second class cadets receive their class rings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Spirit: VMI's "fight song;" also doubles as the Alma Mater.

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

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

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

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

Superintendent: The president of VMI, Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VMI Telephone Quick Reference List

Must dial the 540 area code

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

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 and Environmental Engineering
.....540-464-7331

Computer and Information Science	540-464-7858
Economics and Business	540-464-7234
Electrical and Computer Engineering	540-464-7236
English and Fine Arts	540-464-7240
History	540-464-7338
International Studies and Political Science	540-464-7676
Mechanical Engineering	540-464-7308
Modern Languages and Cultures	540-464-7241
Human Performance and Wellness	540-464-7317
Physics and Astronomy	540-464-7225
Psychology/Philosophy	540-464-7194
Registrar	540-464-7213
Summer Session Office	540-464-7319

Cadet Support

Athletic Academic Advising	540-464-7722
The Bomb (VMI yearbook)	540-464-7325
Cadet Counseling	540-464-7667
Career Services (0800-1630 M-F)	540-464-7560
Financial Aid	540-464-7208
Information Technology/Barracks Help Desk (0700-1300, 1400-1600 M-F)	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
Chaplain's Office	540-464-7390
Chief Diversity Officer	540-464-7789
Commandant's Office	540-464-7313

Communications and Marketing	540-464-7207
Comptroller's Office	540-464-7270
Dean of the Faculty	540-464-7136
Deputy Commandant's Office	540-464-7314
Officer-in-Charge (nightly)	540-464-7293
Student Accounting	540-464-7217
Superintendent's Office	540-464-7311
Treasurer's Office	540-464-7215

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 Office	540-464-7221
Athletic Ticket Office	540-464-7266
Auxiliary Services	540-464-7096
Bookstore (0800-1630 M-F, 1000-1600 Sat., closed Sun.)	540-464-7637
Keydet Club	540-464-7328
Military Store	540-464-7303
Physical Plant Customer Service	540-464-7357
Sports Information Office	540-464-7515
Visitor Center	540-464-7306
VMI Foundation	540-464-7287
VMI Museum (0900-1700 daily)	540-464-7334
VMI Theatre	540-464-7389

VMI Health Center

Cadet Counseling	540-464-7667
Post Infirmary	540-464-7218

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



MILITARY INSTITUTE

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[VMINews.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/vminews)



[youtube.com/VMIWeb](https://www.youtube.com/vmiweb)

The Virginia Military Institute is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, genetic information, against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities, or based on any other status protected by law. In pursuit of this goal, any question of impermissible discrimination on these bases will be addressed with efficiency and energy and in accordance with VMI General Order 16. General Order 90 addresses complaints or reports of retaliation against those who have opposed practices prohibited by General Order 16, those who have filed complaints or reports of prohibited practices, and those who have testified or otherwise participated in enforcement of General Order 16. Questions regarding discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or other federal law, may be referred to the VMI Inspector General and Title IX Coordinator, 303 Letcher Avenue, VMI, Lexington, VA 24450, 540-464-7072. Any cadet or prospective cadet having questions about disability services for students should contact the Director of the Center for Cadet Counseling and Disability Services, 448 Institute Hill, 2nd floor, Post Infirmary, Lexington, VA 24450, 540-464-7667. For employment-related disability services, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator in the VMI Human Resources Office, Lexington, VA 24450, 540-464-7322.