

# VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

SINCE 1839



## A UNIQUE PHILOSOPHY

VMI offers a rigorous education that includes a broad undergraduate program with majors in engineering, science, liberal arts, and social sciences. Woven into every curriculum are leadership and character development opportunities that benefit graduates for life. VMI's program is designed to instill lifelong traits of integrity, devotion to duty, self-discipline, and self-reliance.

The sense of mission at VMI is at the foundation of the Institute's tradition and teaching. It is alive in each cadet from the youngest rat to the first captain.

Their pursuits, marked by words such as honor, character, and wisdom, may seem romantic, even archaic, but they are, in fact, timeless and are never needed more than now.

VMI is not for everyone. This is no ordinary college.

But then, who wants to be ordinary?

[vmi.edu](http://vmi.edu) [inside.vmi.edu](http://inside.vmi.edu)









# NO ORDINARY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Cadets stand on their own merit and advance as a result of perseverance, grit, and determination.

## **THE WHOLE PERSON**

VMI offers one of the most challenging experiences of any college in the United States.

It is unique in that it combines academic, physical, and mental challenges within a highly structured and often challenging environment.

VMI is for those individuals who have a vision for their future and have the courage to do the work it takes to attain their goals.

## **MILITARY LIFE**

Living in barracks is very different from civilian college housing. Cadets live in modest conditions, with multiple roommates and little storage space, quickly developing an appreciation of the basics. They wear the same uniforms and eat together in the mess hall.

## **LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS**

It means something to stand shoulder to shoulder with other cadets, facing challenges, meeting objectives, and prevailing together.

Much is shared among members of a class – the boredom of guard duty and penalty tours, intense preparation for parades and inspections, late-night study sessions, downtime in barracks. And when the celebrations come – the ceremony to receive your class ring, for instance – you'll find that the people you're celebrating with, your brother rats, are the ones closest to you, who know life as you know it, and who share your values.

## **LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER**

The demands of cadet life instill qualities of self-reliance, initiative, perseverance, integrity, and self-discipline in each cadet, qualities that allow VMI graduates to succeed at the highest levels in many professions.

What cadets learn about human relations, persistence against adversity, and personal values makes a difference to their futures.

# NO ORDINARY ACADEMICS

VMI offers broad undergraduate studies with majors in engineering, science, liberal arts, and social sciences. Within every curriculum are woven leadership studies and character development opportunities providing skills that benefit graduates for life.

## PERSONAL EDUCATION

With opportunities for undergraduate research, study abroad, honors programs, and service learning, VMI cadets have choice and variety in how to enrich and personalize their education.

VMI's cadet-to-faculty ratio is about 11 to 1. This ratio encourages close interaction between professors and cadets, nurturing intellectual curiosity and offering opportunities to excel.

## EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELDS

VMI professors are known for their expertise, teaching excellence, mentorship, scholarly engagement, commitment to service, and collaborative work with cadets.

Of full-time faculty, 97 percent hold doctoral degrees. Cadet study areas are adjacent to faculty offices, encouraging individual instruction and in-depth communication.

## GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

International programs include semesters and summers abroad, short-term travel, cultural immersion, and international internships. These experiences foster global perspectives.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Well-known dignitaries, experts, and leaders regularly come to VMI to address the Corps of Cadets, offering diverse and stimulating perspectives on a wide range of topics.

The opportunity to hear and interact with such speakers is essential to a liberal arts education and cultivates the intellectual development of cadets.

## CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS

VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics enhances the cadet experience by offering a range of opportunities for academic and character development.

Cadets participating in the center's programs discuss leadership challenges, meet authors, and interact with distinguished leaders.

*PayScale.com* ranks  
**VMI No. 11** on its list of  
**public colleges nationally**  
with the **highest earning**  
**graduates at mid career.**



## MAJORS

Applied Mathematics  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Civil Engineering  
Computer Science  
Economics & Business  
Electrical & Computer Engineering  
English  
History  
International Studies  
Mechanical Engineering  
Modern Languages  
Physics  
Psychology

## MINORS

Art History & Visual Culture  
Asian Studies  
Astronomy  
Business  
Chemistry  
Computer & Information Sciences  
Computer Engineering  
Economics  
Exercise Science  
History  
International Studies  
Leadership Studies  
Literary Studies  
Mathematics  
Military History  
Modern Languages  
National Security  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Psychology  
Rhetoric & Writing



# NO ORDINARY ACADEMICS

Since 2007, U.S. News and World Report has ranked VMI fourth in the nation among public liberal arts colleges.

## **INSTITUTE HONORS**

Established for students who achieve at high levels, the program includes honors courses, special forums on current events, and a capstone senior honors project or thesis. Graduating with Institute Honors is the highest academic achievement at VMI.

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

A robust undergraduate research program links cadets and professors in the exploration of open-ended research questions. Cadets conduct research side by side with faculty members, research which often puts their names in the author slot in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. The research culminates in a capstone experience.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Institute is an intense eight-week program in which cadets pursue their research under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

## **GRADUATE PARTNERSHIPS**

VMI has relationships with some of the best graduate and professional schools across the United States. These agreements may offer opportunities, including admissions concessions, internships, guaranteed interviews, and guaranteed admissions. Programs vary, but may include law, medicine, business, engineering, and communications.

## **INSTITUTE WRITING**

To ensure the development of strong written communication skills, the Institute Writing Program curriculum provides sequential, sustained writing instruction and support throughout cadets' academic careers at VMI.

## **INSTITUTE SCHOLARS**

Institute Scholars receive merit scholarships and are expected to maintain high academic standards while striving to attain leadership positions within the Corps of Cadets. For application and criteria information, visit [vmi.edu/honors](http://vmi.edu/honors).

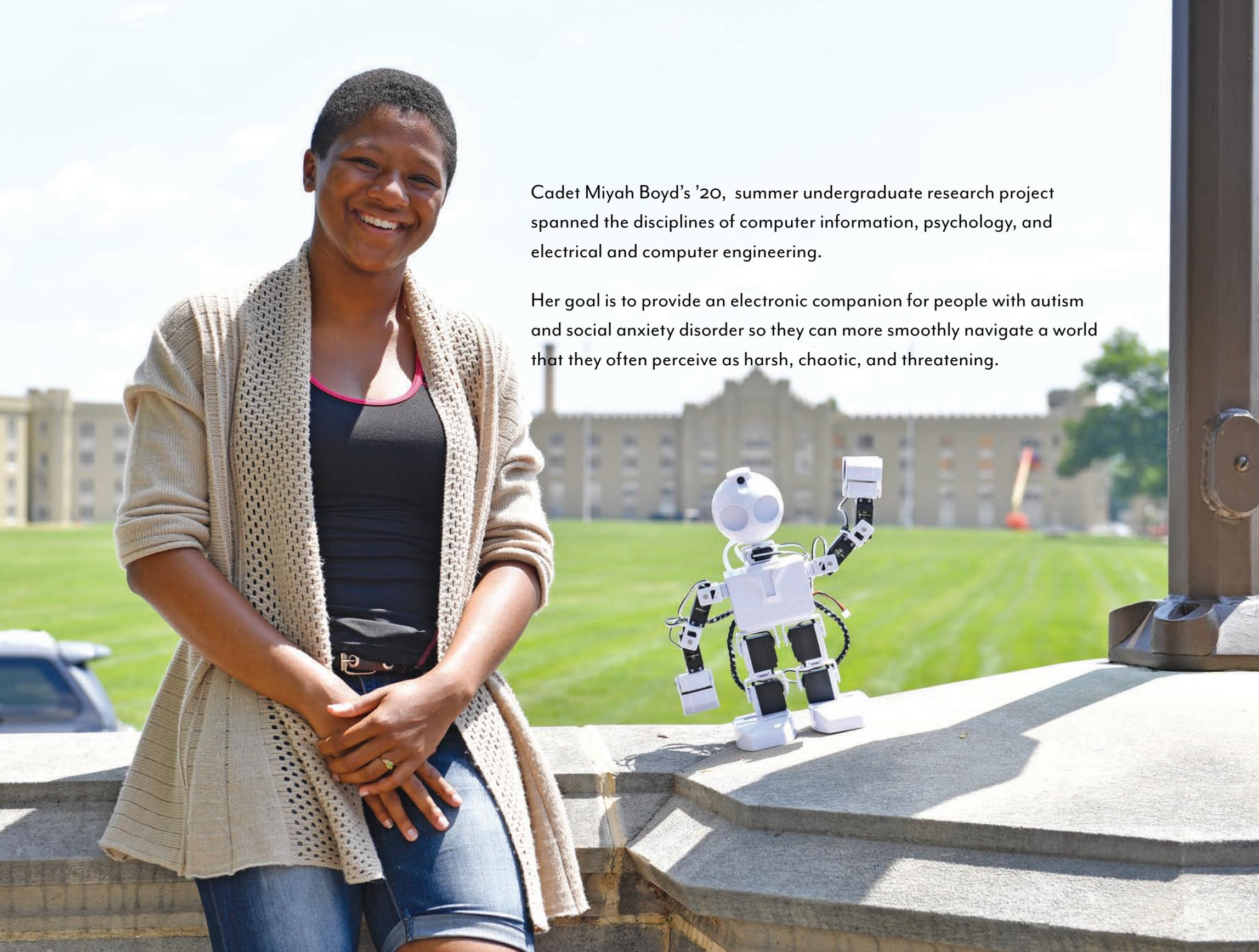
## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Services such as the Miller Academic Center, the Math Education and Resource Center, the Writing Center, Cadet Counseling, the Chaplain's Office, Disabilities Services, and Career Services work together to help each cadet reach his or her full potential.

## **ADVISING**

Upon entry into VMI, every cadet is assigned an academic adviser who, unless the cadet subsequently changes academic major, will work with the cadet until graduation. Advisers support and challenge cadets to increase their confidence and self-sufficiency over the four-year process.

During the first year, there is extensive contact between advisers and cadets to help the transition into VMI culture, assist cadets in mastering academic policies and regulations, and coordinate the demands of a complex college experience. Each year, cadets are expected to assume increased responsibility.



Cadet Miyah Boyd's '20, summer undergraduate research project spanned the disciplines of computer information, psychology, and electrical and computer engineering.

Her goal is to provide an electronic companion for people with autism and social anxiety disorder so they can more smoothly navigate a world that they often perceive as harsh, chaotic, and threatening.

# NO ORDINARY DAY IN THE LIFE

Life at the Institute is regimented, but that doesn't mean the day is ordinary.

## 7 A.M. REVEILLE

Time management is a life skill mastered at VMI. The day begins and ends to the sound of a live bugle. Cadets dress for formation, raise the U.S. and Virginia flags, then march to breakfast.

## 8 A.M. - 4 P.M. ACADEMIC DUTY

Cadets cannot be late, nor can they sleep through classes without consequence.

## LUNCH

Depending on their schedules, cadets eat at Crozet Hall with other cadets. Rats eat with other rats.

## 4:15 - 6:30 P.M. ACTIVITIES AND MILITARY DUTY

Cadets use this time for sports practice, club meetings, band and choir practice, and military activities. On most Friday afternoons and Saturday home football game days, the Corps marches in parades, which are popular visitor events.

## RETREAT

Each day VMI holds a retreat ceremony during which the U.S. and Virginia flags are lowered and the evening gun is fired.

## 7 P.M. SUPPER ROLL CALL

Cadets form up in front of barracks and march to supper to drum cadence.

## 7:45 - 11:15 P.M. STUDY TIME

Time is allotted each evening for study, and cadets are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity.

## 11:30 P.M. TAPS

The sounding of Taps signifies the end of the day.

Following Saturday morning activities, most of the Corps is free of military or academic duty for the weekend.

On Sunday, cadets may attend services at one of the local churches or the cadet chapel, enjoy some free time, or spend time with host families.





# NO ORDINARY FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

## PHYSICAL FITNESS

Mental and physical preparation should begin as soon as students accept their appointment. Students should arrive healthy, physically fit, and ready to train.

## SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM (STP)

VMI offers a voluntary program prior to matriculation that prepares incoming students. Operating in a non-military environment, students take one class, participate in physical training, live in barracks, acquaint themselves with VMI, and break in uniform shoes and boots.



## THE RAT LINE

The Rat Line allows cadets to advance through discipline, initiative, and strength of character. The rat experience begins at matriculation and ends after Breakout where cadets earn 4th Class status.

The first year system is designed to teach:

1. Unity from shared experiences
2. Excellence in all things
3. Military bearing, courtesy, and conduct
4. Self-control and humility
5. Respect for authority
6. Cleanliness, orderliness, and punctuality
7. VMI history and traditions



## A TYPICAL DAY

Rats rise prior to the rest of the Corps. In addition to classes, activities include Honor Code education, physical training, Rat Challenge, inspections, and study time.

VMI provides a full academic support program, including peer tutoring, faculty tutoring, writing support, and math support programs.

Rats meet regularly with academic advisers, and class sizes are small, encouraging one-on-one interaction with faculty.





Upper-class cadets, called cadre, will be telling you what to do every minute of every day at first. You'll look to your brother rats for support. And you'll offer your support in return.



VMI teaches responsibility by requiring it. Whether supervising other cadets rappelling cliffs, planning field training exercises, or studying military history, cadets learn the same fundamentals of leadership that guided the greatest figures in American history.

### VMI OFFERS CHOICES

Unlike U.S. service academies, VMI offers the choice to commission into the armed forces upon graduation or pursue a civilian career. VMI does require cadets to take four years of ROTC, with choice of ROTC branch for those planning to commission. Cadets not planning to commission are enrolled in Army ROTC.

Commissioning cadets may choose Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force. VMI is also one of eight U.S. Coast Guard direct-commission schools.

### SENIOR MILITARY COLLEGE RESOURCES

Because VMI is a senior military college, our ROTC program provides military training at a higher level than programs at civilian schools. VMI cadets have access to active duty bases, state-of-the-art field training equipment, and high-ranking military officials.

This training cultivates the ability to perform under pressure in military and civilian careers.

#### ARMY

VMI Army ROTC has produced more Army generals than any other ROTC program in the United States. The program trains commissioning and non-commissioning cadets.

Cadets who complete the Army ROTC program may commission as Army second lieutenants. Cadets who seek a civilian career path will benefit from the nation's top Army ROTC leadership training.

#### MARINE CORPS

Marine-option cadets in VMI Naval ROTC consistently have one of the highest graduation rates in the nation at Officer Candidates School.

Marine-option cadets who complete the Naval ROTC program may commission as Marine Corps second lieutenants.

#### NAVY

Cadets in the VMI Naval ROTC Navy-option commissioning track have many career options, including special warfare (SEAL) and the nuclear power program.

Cadets who complete the Naval ROTC program may commission as Navy ensigns.

#### AIR FORCE

The VMI Air Force ROTC pilot/combat systems officer selection rate is consistently at or near 100 percent.

Cadets who complete the Air Force ROTC program earn commissions as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force upon graduation from VMI.

NO ORDINARY  
ATHLETES



### NCAA DIVISION I

VMI fields 18 NCAA Division I teams, and about one-third of the Corps competes. Of these, about half receive athletic scholarships.

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Baseball-M        | Swimming/Diving-M/F |
| Basketball-M      | Indoor Track-M/F    |
| Cross Country-M/F | Outdoor Track-M/F   |
| Football-M        | Water Polo-F        |
| Lacrosse-M        | Wrestling-M         |
| Rifle-M/F         |                     |
| Soccer-M/F        |                     |

### CLUB AND INTRAMURAL

While specific offerings vary from year to year based on the interests of the cadets, club sports generally include boxing, rugby, soccer, ice hockey, basketball, running, volleyball, lacrosse, and paintball.

Upper-class cadets who are not on an intercollegiate or club sports team may participate in intramural sports, in which participants represent their companies in competition within the cadet regiment.



“Most of us are really good friends outside of rugby ... that personal relationship with each other, we know each other so well, we’ve been together so long—it starts to become second nature.”

— Chance Dickinson '18

*The rugby team gathers for a photo following their quarterfinals win, which moved them into the national semi-finals, before ultimately competing in the final championship.*

# NO ORDINARY CITIZEN-SOLDIERS

All cadets participate in service opportunities at some point during their cadetship.

Cadets look for opportunities to serve others and can often be found tutoring in classrooms, helping in food kitchens, serving as EMTs, helping with Special Olympics, and on, and on.



**“I knew that VMI would not be an easy place, but that was attractive for me. I liked the idea of going someplace where I would have to work for recognition and acceptance.”**

**– Tyler Creamer '20**







NO ORDINARY  
**HONOR & CHARACTER**

The heart of the VMI honor system is the Honor Code: A cadet does not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do.

#### **HONOR CODE**

The purpose of the Honor Code is to set the standard for honorable conduct. You must be ready to live by the Honor Code at all times.

#### **SINGLE SANCTION**

The VMI honor system is a single-sanction system and does not recognize degrees of honor. The sanction for any breach of honor is dismissal. Thus, when cadets sign the book on Matriculation Day, they are committing themselves to lives of honesty and integrity. If their commitment is not complete, their stay at the Institute may be short.

#### **CIVILITY**

Cadets are expected to commit to respectful living, treating everyone with dignity and fairness. Cadets must understand the impact of their behavior on others and strive to uphold the values outlined in the Code of a Cadet.

#### **TRUST**

Cadets live and learn in an environment of trust. Their daily lives and conduct are regulated by the traditions and rules of the Institute and a very simple code of honor. Cadets trust one another because their word is their bond.

VMI provides cadets the opportunity to hone the character traits of honor and integrity. They are traits that set them apart. They are traits they draw upon for the rest of their lives.

#### **CONDUCT**

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

“The most important factor of all is character, which involves integrity, unselfish and devoted purpose, a sturdiness of bearing when everything goes wrong ...”

Gen. George C. Marshall, VMI class of 1901

NO ORDINARY

# INVESTMENT IN YOUR FUTURE

Both civilian and military employers recognize the rare qualities of self-reliance, initiative, perseverance, integrity, and self-discipline instilled by VMI and often seek out cadets even before graduation.

## FINANCIAL AID

Virginia Military Institute considers its financial aid program an investment in its cadets' futures and works to provide assistance to students who, without such aid, would be unable to attend.

At VMI we make your education dollars go further; there are grants, loans, merit and need-based scholarships, ROTC and athletic scholarships, veterans benefits, and other ways financial aid can help.

## MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Academically strong students with a well-balanced high school record that includes leadership roles and a broad spectrum of extracurricular activities are eligible to apply for the Institute Scholars Program.

Full and partial scholarships are available to cover the cost of tuition and fees for up to eight semesters of full-time study at VMI. Scholarship funds are often used to supplement ROTC scholarships or other forms of financial aid in order to meet the full cost of attendance at VMI. Financial need is not a criterion for selection.

## GRADUATES ARE IN DEMAND

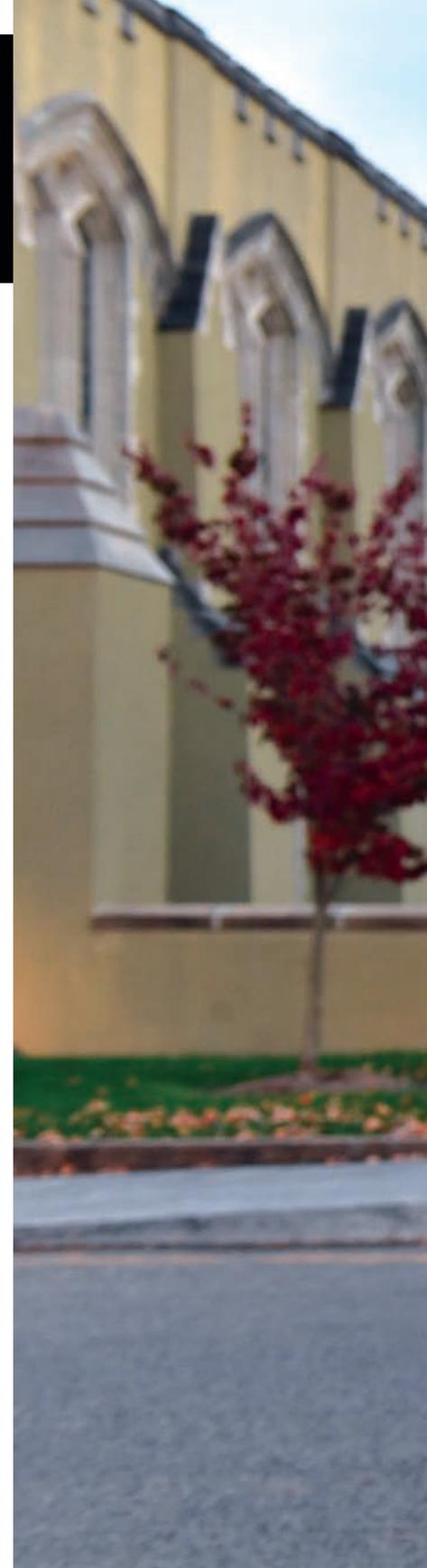
About 50 percent of graduates choose to commission into the military immediately following graduation and about 18 percent of those go on to make the military a career.

Cadets who commission from VMI routinely receive their top branch or occupational specialty selection.

Cadets who begin their careers in the civilian world step into that world with a kind of confidence that's rare.

## ALUMNI NETWORK

The brother rat bond extends beyond individual classes, creating one of the strongest alumni networks in the country. Graduates do not have to look far to find an alumnus who is willing to open doors, make introductions, or build connections.



*PayScale.com* ranks VMI No. 11  
on its list of  
**public colleges nationally with the  
highest earning graduates at mid-career**



# DON'T DO ORDINARY.

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Virginia Military Institute | Lexington, Virginia 24450

## AT A GLANCE

State-supported military college founded in 1839  
Located in Lexington, Va., on 134 Acres  
About 1,700 cadets, 61% in-state,  
Approximately 13% female, 87% male, 45 states, 7 countries  
Undergraduate, Liberal Arts  
Student to faculty: 11:1  
Middle SAT range: 1110-1270  
Scholarships and Aid: Merit and Need Based Aid  
Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force ROTC  
Single-Sanction Honor System  
NCAA Div 1 Athletics, Club, and Intramural Sports  
Mascot: Moe the Kangaroo  
Colors: Red, White, and Yellow  
Leadership opportunities: Infinite  
Alumni network: Legendary



## DEADLINES

Applications are accepted Aug. 1 - Feb. 1 of the high school senior year. Early decision applications are due by Nov. 15 (notification by Dec. 15). All materials must be received by these dates.

Applications are accepted on a space-available basis after Feb. 1. Applicants deferred from early decision and regular decision applicants will be notified on a rolling basis.

## REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should be 16 to 22 years of age and may not be married or a parent. They must be physically fit for enrollment in ROTC and graduates of accredited secondary schools. SAT or ACT and satisfactory character recommendations are required.

## ACCREDITATION

VMI is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. VMI's engineering programs are accredited by ABET, and the economics and business program by AACSB. The chemistry program is approved by ACS.

## MAJORS

Applied Mathematics  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Civil Engineering  
Computer Science  
Economics & Business  
Electrical & Computer Engineering  
English  
History  
International Studies  
Mechanical Engineering  
Modern Languages  
Physics  
Psychology

## MINORS

Art History & Visual Culture  
Asian Studies  
Astronomy  
Business  
Chemistry  
Computer & Information Sciences  
Computer Engineering  
Economics  
Exercise Science  
History  
International Studies  
Leadership Studies  
Literary Studies  
Mathematics  
Military History  
Modern Languages  
National Security  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Psychology  
Rhetoric & Writing

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 16 also addresses complaints or reports of retaliation against those who have opposed prohibited practices, those who have filed complaints or reports of prohibited practices, and those who have testified or otherwise participated in enforcement of General Order 16. Questions regarding discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or other federal law, may be referred to the VMI Inspector General and Title IX Coordinator, 212 Carroll Hall, VMI, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7072. Any cadet or prospective cadet having questions about disability services for students should contact the Director of the Center for Cadet Counseling and Disability Services, 448 Institute Hill, 2nd floor, Post Infirmary, Lexington, Va. 24450, (540) 464-7667. For employment-related disability services, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator in the VMI Human Resources Office, Lexington, VA 24450, (540) 464-7322.