

PEAY MERIT SCHOLARS

Peay Merit Scholarships are awarded to those cadets who possess the qualities of character associated with the Institute's 14th superintendent, General J.H. Binford Peay III: Exceptional leadership, academic achievement, athletic commitment and demonstrated interest in national service. These awards, which are full academic scholarships, include tuition, room, board and fees, are designed to attract to VMI the very best young men and women from across the United States. They are intended to facilitate the training of exemplary citizens, recognizing and rewarding their excellence as they develop into the military, political, business and civic leaders of America's next generation.

Peay Merit Scholarships are offered at two points: Prior to matriculation at the Institute (to those preparatory school students whose experiences notably reflect these qualities of character), and after the 3rd and 2nd class years (to those cadet leaders who have demonstrated amply these qualities of character throughout their cadetships).

Candidates for the scholarship are evaluated on the basis of four criteria:

Academic Achievement

For matriculants, the academic criteria for consideration are identical to those of the VMI Institute Scholarship Program: a 3.7 high school GPA and a score of 1350 (combined critical reading and math) on the SAT or 31 (aggregate) on the ACT. For rising 2nd and 1st class cadets, the academic criterion is the maintenance of a 3.5 overall GPA through the point of application/nomination.

Athletic Commitment

For matriculants, evidence of athletic commitment involves consistent and meritorious participation in varsity athletics at the preparatory level. For rising 2nd and 1st class cadets, athletic commitment involves consistent participation in intercollegiate varsity or club athletics at the highest levels while at VMI.

Exceptional Leadership

For matriculants, evidence of this quality includes leadership experiences (in scholastic, athletic, service and/or other endeavors) that clearly are noteworthy and distinguishing, such as documented instances of successful leadership in the face of significant adversity or testament of truly outstanding mentorship and guidance in leadership roles. For rising 2nd and 1st class cadets, evidence of this quality involves uniquely meritorious and noteworthy leadership of cadet peers at VMI (most often by holding rank in the Corps of Cadets, but leadership excellence in other domains, such as athletic captains, also may be considered).

Commitment to National Service

For matriculants and rising 2nd class cadets alike, the foremost evidence of this quality is an unambiguous commitment to commission as an officer in the U.S. armed forces upon college graduation. Other demonstrated commitment to national service (such as service in Teach For America, AmeriCorps or in official support of local, state or national government) will also be considered.