



General J.H. Binford Peay III 1962  
Endowment for Academic Excellence

*Pursuit of Preeminent Scholarship  
and Academic Achievement*

## Institute Overview

August 2021

### AT A GLANCE

The VMI college experience is unique  
in that it combines academic, physical, and mental challenges  
within a highly structured 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.

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*VMI could not achieve its unique objective  
to graduate honorable leaders of character  
without the support of those who have come to know  
the benefits of a VMI education.*

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# ABOUT VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

**Founded:** VMI was founded in 1839 in Lexington, Virginia, as the first state supported military college in the nation.

**Student Body:** About 1,698 cadets; 63% in-state; approximately 13% female, 87% male; 45 states and territories in addition to the District of Columbia; 7 foreign countries

**Middle SAT Range:** 1110-1270

**Tuition and Fees:** \$30,032 in-state / \$58,686 out-of-state

**Scholarships and Aid:** Both merit and need-based aid is available. More than 91% of the Corps receives some type of financial aid.

## FY21 OPERATING BUDGET

Operating Budget: \$95.4 million

\$19 million state general funds

\$53 million cadet tuition/fees/sales

\$23.2 million private funds/local funds

## ROTC

Cadets are required to participate in one of the three (Army, Navy/Marines, or Air Force) ROTC programs during their cadetship. Roughly 50% of graduates choose to commission upon graduation, though it is not required.

## HONOR AND SERVICE

VMI cadets are men and women of honor and integrity who can always be trusted. They live by a simple code, the VMI Honor Code, which states that “A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do.”

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

## INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

NCAA Division I (FCS in football); participates primarily in the Southern Conference. 18 teams: 11 men's and seven women's. Twenty-eight percent of the Corps of Cadets participates in NCAA athletics.

## ACADEMICS

VMI's education includes a broad, four-year curriculum with programs in engineering, science, liberal arts, and social sciences. VMI also offers an array of enrichment opportunities, including study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, and the Institute Honors Program.

**Faculty:** 97% of full-time teaching faculty members have a Ph.D. or terminal degree in their field; approximately 10.5:1 cadet-to-faculty ratio.

### Majors

Applied Mathematics

Biology

Chemistry

Civil Engineering

Computer Science

Economics and Business

Electrical and Computer Engineering

English

History

International Studies

Mechanical Engineering

Modern Languages and Cultures

Physics

Psychology

## MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAREERS

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.

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

**Civilian:** Cadets who begin their careers in the civilian world step in with a kind of confidence that is rare.



Georgetown University Study ranks VMI  
**No. 1 for Return on Investment**  
among liberal arts colleges nationwide.

*Looking from the outside in on the VMI experience,  
visitors quickly realize this is not a normal college.  
It is not meant to be.*

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For cadets who choose a college experience steeped in personal discipline  
and a daily expectation of honor and personal integrity,  
it is an extraordinary journey of self-discovery.

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## IT MEANS SOMETHING TO GO TO VMI.

It means something to push yourself further than you thought you could go, both academically and physically. It means something to have the confidence to face challenges wherever you are.

The mission of VMI is this ideal of noble emulation that cadets will strive to be like the very leaders who have come before them:

- George C. Marshall, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient,
- Jonathan Daniels, who died protecting a Black woman during the civil rights movement,
- More than 230 military flag officers—more than any senior military college in the nation,
- Thousands of captains of industry, finance, science, and innovation,
- Advisors to the nation's highest office,
- 11 Rhodes Scholars,
- Seven Medal of Honor recipients,
- A Pulitzer Prize recipient, and
- A Supreme Court Justice.

## VMI IS NATIONALLY RANKED

As one of the smallest colleges in the state, VMI is consistently recognized nationally and among colleges in the Commonwealth.

- Ranked in the top four public liberal arts college in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for 17 years, behind only the nation's federal service academies.
- Money Magazine ranked VMI as No. 3 college in the state of Virginia,
  - No. 16 among public universities in the nation,
  - No. 26 among colleges and universities nationwide.

- Washington Monthly recently listed VMI as the top-ranking public liberal arts college in Virginia
- Forbes (2019)
  - America's Top Colleges: No. 205
  - Top Public Colleges: No. 63
  - Top Liberal Arts Colleges And Universities: No. 73
  - Top Colleges in the South: No. 40
  - America's Best Value Colleges: No. 133(Forbes did not produce college rankings in 2020)
- Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education Ranking (2020)
  - National Colleges And Universities: No. 151, among top 20% (out of 797)
  - Top 100 Public Universities in the U.S.: No. 37
- Money Magazine Best Colleges (2020)
  - Best Small College Nationally: No. 3
  - Best Public Schools in the U.S.: No. 16
  - Best colleges in the U.S.: No. 26
- Best Value Schools (2020)
  - Colleges Most Likely to Land You an Enjoyable Career: No. 2 (behind Stanford University)
- Payscale (2020)
  - Return On Investment Among All Colleges And Universities
  - Nationally: No. 51 (No. 95 for out-of-state)
  - Best Value Colleges in Virginia: No. 2 (behind University of Virginia)
  - Best Value Public Colleges: No. 28 (No. 46 for out-of-state)
  - Best Value Colleges for Engineering Careers: No. 186 for in-state.



U.S. News & World Report has ranked VMI  
**Among the Nation's Top Four**  
undergraduate public liberal arts colleges since 2001.



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**100%**

*VMI meets 100% of need-based financial aid requirements for all Virginia cadets, and aims to meet needs for out-of-state cadets*

**No. 1**

*No. 1—VMI's early career graduate salary is the best of colleges in Virginia (tied with W&L) (Source: America's Top Public Colleges, Forbes 2019)*

**99%**

*Ninety-nine percent of graduates are employed or attending graduate school within five months of graduation (Source: VMI Office of Career Services)*

**No. 2**

*VMI was named No. 2 of colleges "Most likely to land you an enjoyable career" [Source: Best Value Schools (2020)]*

**WSJ**

*In 2020, the Wall Street Journal put VMI in the top 20% of National Colleges and Universities, at No. 151 of 797*

**11**

*Eleven VMI alumni are Rhodes Scholars—a total number more than either Virginia Tech or the College of William and Mary (Source: The Rhodes Trust)*

## GRADUATION RATES

Despite its rigorous academic program and demanding military training, VMI consistently maintains one of the top four-year graduation rates among Virginia public four-year institutions, as detailed below:

- 2016-2017 Entering Cohort (Class of 2020): 64.6% (5th out of 15 for Commonwealth public schools)
- 2015-2016 Entering Cohort (Class of 2019): 63.4% (6th out of 15 for Commonwealth public schools)
- 2014-2015 Entering Cohort (Class of 2018): 75.9% (3rd out of 15 for Commonwealth public schools)

For more information on VMI's  
successful cadets and alumni, visit  
[www.vmialumni.org/the-peay-endowment/institute-overview](http://www.vmialumni.org/the-peay-endowment/institute-overview)

