



VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

PARENT OVERVIEW



"Based on the benefits of the experience, I would go back through VMI
a thousand times because the value is immeasurable." - Andre Thornton '98



It means something.

A small, nationally ranked college committed to leadership development in a military environment, VMI hones the values of honor, discipline, selflessness, commitment, duty, self-reliance, and service. These attributes are in high demand and develop as a result of academic and physical challenge.

The men and women of VMI are free to choose military or civilian careers.

VMI cadets are exposed to diversity of thought in a complex and changing world and are encouraged to pursue their individual dreams. They are prepared for the future and anything it may bring. VMI diplomas carry with them a reputation for academic excellence and leadership proficiency.

Investment. Return.

UNIQUE CULTURE

Investment: The military system and Spartan environment characterize and distinguish life at VMI. Social and cultural identity do not inhibit, but rather enhance personal development within the VMI system.

Return: Many cadets point to the absence of typical college distractions and the presence of personal accountability as factors in their success.

CADET LIFE

Investment: In barracks, cadets find their footing as equals. Cadets live together, eat together, train together, and attend class together.

Return: Graduates understand and appreciate the value of living with people of diverse interests and backgrounds, and incorporate that perspective into their daily lives.

ALUMNI NETWORK

Investment: There is a closeness at VMI that is rare in American colleges and, because of their shared experience, graduates join a tightly knit network of men and women committed to supporting each other.

Return: 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.

CHALLENGE

Investment: By combining academic, physical, and mental challenges within a highly structured environment, VMI offers one of the most challenging college experiences in the United States.

Return: The challenges encourage cadets to reach beyond perceived boundaries, test limits, and develop qualities that include perseverance, grit, and dependability.

What cadets learn about human relations, persistence against adversity, and personal values makes an essential difference to their futures. These experiences are as important to their development as thinking human beings and moral, courageous, compassionate leaders as their academic work is to their intellectual growth.

FINANCIAL

Investment: Unlike other colleges, VMI's tuition and fees cover almost everything except books and class supplies. This includes room and board, meals, uniforms, laundry, and many other services, such as haircuts.

Return: *U.S. News and World Report* ranks VMI number 4 nationally among public colleges and universities.



INSIDEVMI

Georgetown University Study ranks VMI Number 1 for
Return on Investment among liberal arts colleges nationwide

A Process.

ROTC & ATHLETICS

Cadets are required to participate in one of the three ROTC programs throughout their cadetships: Army, Naval, or Air Force/Space Force. Roughly 50 percent of graduates choose to commission upon graduation, though it is not required.

In addition to ROTC, all cadets participate in athletic and physical education every year of their cadetships. A lifelong commitment to physical health is instilled in each cadet.

HONOR & INTEGRITY

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 on, and on.

UNIQUE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Students enter VMI known as rats, earning cadet status after extensive training. Rats learn to work together as a military unit to reach their goal of becoming recognized as cadets.

The rat experience begins with nine days of intensive physical and military training designed to encourage self-reliance, strength of character, and initiative. The process is dedicated to challenging rats to reach their full potential in all areas.

Each rat is assigned a mentor, usually from the 1st Class. The 1st Class cadet assists the rat in navigating the waters of VMI, providing counsel and encouragement. Often, this mentorship forms a bond that continues long after graduation.



Learn.

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Small classes mean personal attention from professors who know each cadet by name. Class sizes are based on a student-to-faculty ratio of 10:1.

DEDICATED FACULTY

All faculty prepare and teach each course. At VMI, 100 percent of full-time faculty in degree-granting departments hold a Ph.D. or terminal degree in their discipline. Many cadet study areas are adjacent to faculty offices, encouraging individual instruction and in-depth communication.

SUPPORT RESOURCES

There are a variety of support services designed to help cadets reach their full potential. Academic programs and services work one-on-one with cadets to improve a specific area of study or overall learning techniques.



ENRICHMENT

VMI's commitment to encourage each cadet to reach his or her full potential is evident in the extensive honors and undergraduate research programs. Cadets become involved in rigorous academic exploration that often leads them to exceed their personal expectations.

Institute Honors: For students who achieve at high levels, the program includes honors courses (with enrollment limited to 12), 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: VMI's undergraduate research program links cadets and professors in open-ended research. The Summer Undergraduate Research Institute is an intense eight-week program in which cadets who earn scholarships can continue their research under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Study Abroad: International programs at VMI include semesters and summers abroad, short-term travel, cultural immersion programs, and international internships.



Lead.

LEADERSHIP

VMI places a high value on individual responsibility. VMI has shaped leaders and individuals whose daily lives reflect the integrity, fairness, and appreciation for the value of work that is instilled here. The element of leadership is alive in each cadet, from the youngest rat to the first captain.



MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAREER OPTIONS

By the October following graduation, more than 90 percent of graduates will have met their goals regarding employment, commissioning into the armed services, or graduate/professional school admission.

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. 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.





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