



VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

PARENT GUIDE

“Honestly, I’m very satisfied with the way I’ve grown and progressed through this system and the things that it’s done for me. I’m 100% glad I came to VMI.” – Joe Egbo '23





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 within their class. 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 food and housing, uniforms, laundry, haircuts, etc.). More importantly, the VMI system is a financial investment in your future. A cadetship teaches the importance of self-development and perseverance.

Return: 99% of graduates are employed or in graduate school within 6 months of graduating. Money magazine ranks VMI 4.5 out of 5 stars – Best Colleges in America list for 2023.

Georgetown University Study ranks VMI No. 1 for

Return on Investment among public liberal arts colleges nationwide

A Process.

ROTC & ATHLETICS

The choice to commission into the U.S. armed services is up to the cadet. Roughly 50% of graduates do commission upon graduation. Even if a cadet chooses not to commission, he or she is required to participate in ROTC leadership training throughout their time at VMI. Cadets on commissioning track can choose from Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force. Those interested in pursuing a commission as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard also have the option of participating in VMI's Coast Guard AUP (Auxiliary University Program) in addition to their ROTC training.

In addition to ROTC, all cadets participate in athletic and physical education every year of their cadetship. 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 1st Class cadet mentor. 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 9:1.

DEDICATED FACULTY

All faculty prepare and teach each course. At VMI, 100% 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

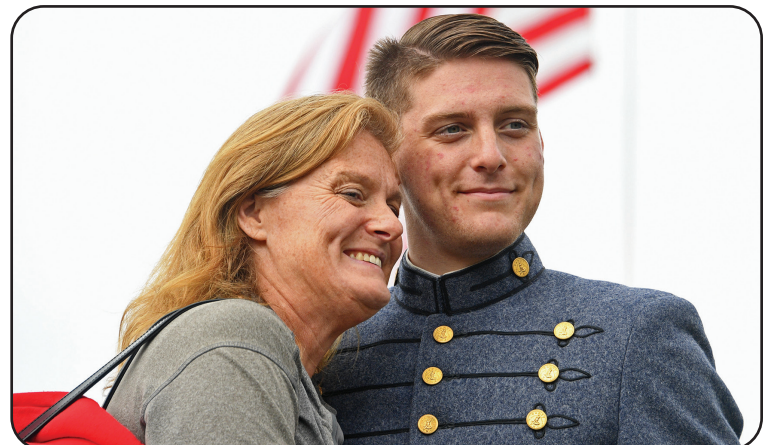
VMI places a high value on individual responsibility. VMI has shaped leaders and individuals whose daily lives reflect the integrity, fairness, and appreciation for the value of work that is instilled here. The element of leadership is alive in each cadet, from the youngest rat to the first captain.



MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAREER OPTIONS

By the October following graduation, more than 90% 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.





VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE - LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA - VMI.EDU

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, 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.

