

# This is The Virginia Military Institute

The Virginia Military Institute is the nation's oldest state-supported military college, founded in 1839 in Lexington, Virginia, located at the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley. VMI offers qualified young men and women a demanding combination of academic study and rigorous military training that exists nowhere else, and grants B.A. and B.S. degrees in fourteen disciplines within the general fields of engineering, science, and liberal arts. The Institute's emphasis on qualities of honor, integrity, and responsibility contributes to its unique educational philosophy. Professional leadership training is provided to all cadets through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs, maintained at VMI by the Department of Defense. Cadets are encouraged to pursue commissions in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps.



In every field of endeavor, whether it is leadership in business, industry, public service, education, the professions, or careers in the military, success comes early to a high number of VMI graduates. In an independent survey of college graduates seeking employment, armed forces commission, or admission to graduate or professional school following graduation, 95 percent of VMI graduates met their goal by the following October.

VMI's academic breadth is diverse, and curricula for the selected major begins the first year. About 30 percent of cadets major in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering, about half the Corps majors in liberal arts fields, and the two most popular majors are economics/business and history.

For six consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges," has named VMI as the No. 1 public-supported liberal arts college in the nation, and ranked its engineering program in the top one-third of "Best Undergraduate" accredited programs at schools offering only bachelor's and master's degrees. In separate rankings for engineering specialties, VMI's civil engineering program ranks ninth. VMI has been repeatedly included in the Peterson's "Competitive Colleges," guide, a highly respected book that includes information on "top colleges for top students." In addition, Princeton Review has named VMI to its "Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges" list.

All VMI faculty members teach in the classroom, and 98 percent hold doctoral or terminal degrees in their disciplines. The cadet to faculty ratio is 11:1, permitting a close, "mentor" relationship between a cadet and instructor, and faculty research is frequently conducted in partnership with cadets. ROTC instructors are experienced military officers, and make an outstanding contribution to cadet leadership training.

VMI's demanding academic program reflects established needs and emerging trends of an ever-changing, global society. A robust undergraduate research initiative extends through summer, affording cadets and faculty financial incentives and continuous support for a wide range of investigative projects.



The Institute's international programs include faculty and student exchanges with more than a dozen international academies and universities, seven foreign internships, and numerous study-abroad programs each semester and during the summer. The Institute Honors Program offers highly motivated and high-achieving cadets the opportunity to enrich their academic experience, including through competition for prestigious external scholarships. The Institute Writing Program seeks to equip cadets for both academic success and participation in the full range of rhetorical occasions they will encounter in their lives as citizens and professionals.