The Basics

About Our Program

Virginia Tech cadets are training to become global, ethical leaders. The Corps is committed to their academic and leadership development success.

Virginia Tech is one of the nation’s six senior military colleges and one of only two that offers a corps of cadets within a larger, public university. (The other is Texas A&M.)

Virginia Tech’s ROTC programs are separate from the Corps.

- ROTC programs are federal and part of their respective military services.
- The Corps is part of the state university.

Questions related to the ROTC programs, medical issues, and commissioning should be directed to members of those staffs.

University policy states that a student enrolled in ROTC must also be in the Corps, but a cadet can be in the Corps without joining ROTC.

We offer two tracks, and cadets can shift between tracks if their career goals or circumstances change.

- The Military-Leader Track prepares cadets to commission into one of the services.
- The Citizen-Leader Track allows cadets to apply their Corps experiences directly to careers in the private and public sectors.

Corps Organization

The deputy commandants work directly for the commandant of cadets and are responsible for the day-to-day supervision of each of the three cadet battalions.

As a family member, your most direct point of contact with the commandant’s staff is your cadet’s deputy commandant. Email is the preferred method of contact.

The deputy commandant is an advisor, mentor, counselor, supervisor, and disciplinarian. As a university official, they are bound by the federal privacy act (FERPA) and university policies regarding student confidentiality. They cannot divulge grades or health information without the cadet’s consent. They cannot compel a cadet to go to class. However, they will work with you and your cadet to balance university, Corps, and family demands.
The Corps’ leadership development program is made up of three components: academics, leadership experiences, and well-being.

ACADEMICS

Cadets have dedicated study time in the residence halls called Evening Call-to-Quarters (ECQ).
- 7 to 11 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays

Noise is kept to a minimum in the residence halls, and academics are the priority during these periods. A cadet duty officer is responsible for enforcing quiet hours. Cadets may sign out during ECQ to study in other locations or meet with study groups, tutors, etc.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Virginia Tech offers free resources to help all students transition from high school to college academics and to continue to improve throughout their college careers.
- The Student Success Center provides holistic support to undergraduates through a network of programs and services.
- The Writing Center in Newman Library helps with writing and reading assignments.
- Career and Professional Development helps students explore career options, find experience and jobs, and plan for graduate or professional school.

New cadets also benefit from the insight and inspiration of their company S-5 (academic) staff. These successful cadets exemplify the habits and mindset that lead to academic success.

THE CORPS LEADERSHIP MINOR

Cadets may choose to pursue the Corps minor in leadership studies. New cadets will have a Corps lab during the fall semester that is dedicated to learning more about how to declare the Corps leadership minor.

The minor is supervised by the Rice Center and consists of:
- Corps, ROTC, or Citizen-Leader Track courses
- Two business or ethics courses
- At least three approved leadership roles in the Corps or ROTC

HONORS COLLEGE

The Corps works closely with the Virginia Tech Honors College to help cadets work toward honors diplomas, scholarships, and other certifications. Any cadet with a GPA of 3.6 or higher is eligible to apply, and many of the activities in the Corps can be used to fulfill Honors College requirements.
LEADERSHIP

Cadet leadership training is made up of four stages. They will learn to lead at a peer level, in small groups, in large groups, and, finally, in leading other leaders. The Corps rotates cadet leadership roles every semester, so starting their sophomore year, cadets will have at least six opportunities to hold leadership positions.

First-year cadets learn peer leadership and followership. They are challenged with different training events.

Second-year cadets are shuffled to a new company and challenged with responsibility for other cadets. They may become a fire team leader, responsible for mentoring two to four other cadets and helping them with uniform and room inspections, academic performance, and more.

Third-year cadets are assigned to larger-group leadership role, such as squad leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, or sergeant major. They have leaders above them in the chain of command, and peers and other cadets below them that they are responsible for. Third-year cadets practice holding those they lead accountable while learning to lead up the chain of command.

Fourth-year cadets are assigned an officer-type role with the goal of being responsible for 30 or more cadets, including other leaders. They practice delegation and managing resources, all while still learning to inspire trust up and down the chain of command. These roles will most accurately reflect leadership roles they will step into in their military or civilian careers.

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

Cadets can take part in all of the study abroad opportunities offered at Virginia Tech.

The Corps administers two study abroad opportunities: the Corps’ Global Scholars Program and the Olmsted Foundation Undergraduate Scholars program. ROTC cadets can take advantage of ROTC-specific programs, as well.

Global Scholars Program

Focused on trench warfare in World War I and on the Allied invasion of Europe during World War II, the Global Scholars
Program includes a three-credit hour seminar during the spring semester followed by a weeklong trip to Europe in May funded almost entirely by alumni donations. The program’s goal is applied history — using the lessons of World War I and World War II to inspire wider discussions about current world leadership and national security challenges.

Olmsted Foundation Undergraduate Scholars
The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation gives active-duty military officers, along with cadets and midshipmen at the senior military colleges, a better understanding of foreign cultures. Since 2005, the Corps has received more than $175,000 in grants that has given 70 cadets the opportunity to travel, most recently through the International Cultural Immersion Program in Panama City, Panama.

CULP
Each year, hundreds of Army ROTC cadets travel the globe through the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program (CULP). They spend up to three weeks immersed in foreign cultures, including host nation military-to-military exchange, humanitarian service, and education on the country's culture and history.

Project GO
Project Global Officer (Project GO) is a Department of Defense initiative aimed at improving the language skills, regional expertise, and intercultural communication ability of future military officers. The programs focus on the languages and countries of the Middle East, Asia, Central Asia, Africa, and South America.

GUEST SPEAKERS
Each semester, the Corps brings in notable speakers on topics of leadership and ethics, as well as Medal of Honor recipients, as part of the Cutchins Leadership Lecture Series.

Among them this fall, author Evan H. Offstein will speak about his book “Stand Your Ground: Building Honorable Leaders the West Point Way.” All cadets are encouraged to read the book in preparation.

At Gunfighter Panels in the fall and spring, Corps alumni from all walks of life talk about their experiences after graduation and explain how lessons learned as a cadet affect their careers today.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Emerging Leader Scholarships (ELS) are only offered to cadets. Recipients must, by the beginning of the junior year and each following semester, meet Corps physical fitness standards and must have attained at least a cumulative 2.5 grade-point average to continue the scholarship. The ELS may be suspended or lost as a result of disciplinary action, and a departure prior to the end of the semester will result in the entire semester’s amount being revoked.

Commandant’s Scholarships
Once cadets complete their first year in the Corps, they are also eligible to compete for Commandant’s Scholarships. These awards range from $1,000 to $3,000 annually. All cadets are eligible for a Commandant’s Scholarship, but Citizen-Leader Track cadets or cadets without an ROTC scholarship or ELS are generally given preference.

FAFSA
If your cadet is receiving a scholarship, you must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually, even if no other form of financial aid is being received. Start the submission process by Jan. 15 of each year to ensure the federal government can process and deliver your form to the Virginia Tech Bursar’s Office by the March 1 deadline. Details are at fafsa.ed.gov or finaid.vt.edu.
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Helping cadets establish physical fitness as a lifelong habit is a goal of the Corps of Cadets. All cadets participate in a physical fitness routine.

The ROTC programs have their own physical fitness standards that all participating cadets must meet to continue in their programs. Cadets will have more than one opportunity to pass their physical fitness tests during their first semester. Consistent physical fitness test failures can result in loss of an ROTC scholarship or disenrollment from the ROTC program.

Citizen-Leader Track cadets will be expected to meet physical fitness standards by their junior year.

TRAINING FACILITIES
The Corps has an obstacle course and rappel tower on campus, as well an indoor and outdoor workout area on Upper Quad.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION
The Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, by appointment, provides one-on-one sessions with an upper level nutrition student for free. A counselor can assess cadets’ current habits and help them reach their nutrition and health goals.

SCHIFFERT HEALTH CENTER
Schiffert Health Center is Virginia Tech’s on-campus health care center. The student health fee, included in each year’s tuition, covers the majority of its services—unlimited visits and most laboratory procedures.

COOK COUNSELING CENTER
Cook Counseling Center provides mental health services to all students. It offers short-term individual, couples, and group counseling for any concerns students might have, such as stress, depression, anxiety, academic motivation, and relationship problems.

As parents of Virginia Tech students, please feel free to contact Cook Counseling Center if you have any concerns about your student, want the center to be aware of something concerning your student, or have questions about its services and how to access them. In addition, as parents of cadets, it is also appropriate to reach out to your cadet’s deputy commandant or senior enlisted advisor if you want the Corps to be aware of something concerning your cadet.

However, confidentiality in the counseling relationship is protected in the state of Virginia, and this prevents the counseling staff from discussing your student’s counseling in any way without written permission from your student. Counselors cannot confirm in any way if your student has been seen at the center.

In all situations, counselors are not able to initiate contact with students. Students must contact Cook Counseling Center for services.
THE WHOLE PERSON

The Corps of Cadets is part of Virginia Tech Student Affairs, which facilitates experiences and offers resources students need to graduate as successful, educated, and reflective individuals.

ASPIRATIONS

Student Affairs’ philosophy is grounded in the Aspirations for Student Learning. Embracing them helps students find and define themselves through intentional reflection on all they are learning, both in and out of the classroom.

- Commit to unwavering curiosity: Virginia Tech students will be inspired to lead lives of curiosity, embracing a lifelong commitment to intellectual development.
- Pursue self-understanding and integrity: Virginia Tech students will form a set of affirmative values and develop the self-understanding to integrate these values into their decision-making.
- Practice civility: Virginia Tech students will understand and commit to civility as a way of life in their interactions with others.
- Prepare for a life of courageous leadership: Virginia Tech students will be courageous leaders who serve as change agents and make the world more humane and just.
- Embrace Ut Prosim as a way of life: Virginia Tech students will enrich their lives through service to others.

STRENGTHS

At Virginia Tech, students are encouraged to focus on their gifts and talents, developing them into true strengths. Research shows that people are much more engaged in their work when they utilize their strengths.

Student Affairs offers for free CliftonStrengths®, an assessment tool that provides students with the knowledge and vocabulary to describe their talents and the areas in which they excel.

Students who know their strengths are able to explore and engage the Aspirations for Student Learning at a more personal level. Through this exploration, students can be intentional in investing in their talents, expanding their curiosity, and putting their strengths to use.

INCLUSIVE VT

Virginia Tech is a dynamic and inclusive community that consists of students, scholars, faculty, staff, visitors, and neighbors from a wide variety of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. We recognize and value the diversity that is present within the Hokie Nation. We practice the Principles of Community as we appreciate differences and embrace the complexities of living in a multicultural, global society.

To members of the Virginia Tech community from across the United States and from countries throughout the world, know that we welcome your ideas and perspectives. We believe the collaboration of cultures brings forth greater creativity, innovation, understanding, and learning for everyone. Every student deserves to thrive, and a sense of belonging and wellbeing are crucial for academic, personal, and social success.

We are dedicated to affirming our community members, creating connections for them, and assuring an ongoing commitment to their development.
The Corps maintains standards implemented for the benefit, education, and safety of every cadet. Support from the cadet’s family is key in each of the following areas.

**HONOR SYSTEM**
Cadets are taught the cadet Honor Code from the moment they arrive on campus. Violations will go before the Cadet Honor Court to determine the appropriate sanctions. Each family should encourage their cadets to avoid possible honor violations and to live honorably each day.

**POLICY ON HAZING**
Hazing is a criminal offense in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The university’s policy on hazing is clearly stated in the Hokie Handbook, and the Corps adheres strictly to that policy. Hazing is the antithesis of positive leadership, and it will not be tolerated in the Corps. Cadets must understand that activities purported to be “traditions” by older alumni may be considered hazing and will be treated as such. Alleged violations of the university’s hazing policy will be reported to the Virginia Tech Police Department or the Student Conduct office. Deputy commandants will notify the appropriate ROTC unit of any suspected hazing violations.

**MUTUAL RESPECT AND SAFETY**
Cadets are expected to display proper behavior and respect for others at all times. Harassment and assaults of any kind are not tolerated and may involve criminal sanctions. For information on Corps policies, read the Cadet Regulations at vtcc.vt.edu/resources1.html. Information on Virginia Tech student policies is at studentconduct.vt.edu or hokiehandbook.vt.edu.

**ALCOHOL POLICY**
The abuse of alcohol and possession of false identification are the single largest causes of disciplinary sanctions at Virginia Tech. The university’s policy regarding alcohol is very clearly stated in the Hokie Handbook. The Corps policy parallels university policy but provides for more immediate and severe sanctions. There is no more critical issue for which you can provide support to the commandant’s staff than the prevention of alcohol abuse. We feel it is extremely important that you understand the consequences for your cadet should he or she violate this policy.

Underage consumption is not tolerated. Irresponsible consumption by an of-age cadet is not tolerated. Possession of a false identification card by any cadet is not tolerated and is considered an Honor Code violation. Every cadet is required to report a violation of the Corps alcohol policy, and all alcohol related incidents within the Corps will be adjudicated. In all cases involving false identification, the incident will also be referred to the Cadet Honor Committee.

For a first offense, the sanction a cadet may receive could be a year of military probation and the loss of the ELS for a minimum of one semester. A second offense at any time in the cadet’s career could result in a one-year suspension from the Corps. A third offense could result in dismissal from the Corps. Any cadet found to have assisted an underage cadet in acquiring alcohol could be dismissed from the Corps. Any sanctions delivered by the Corps will also be accompanied by the appropriate university sanction.

In any incident involving alcohol abuse, the commandant’s staff will inform the respective ROTC unit. Even a first offense can have an adverse effect on the cadet’s standing in an ROTC program and could result in a formal evaluation of the cadet’s suitability for commissioning. Any offense resulting in suspension from the Corps makes the cadet ineligible for participation in ROTC and will result in the loss of all ROTC scholarship monies for the duration of the suspension.

**SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF CORPS POLICIES**
Any sanctions awarded by the Corps for violations of its policies will also be accompanied by appropriate university sanctions. All potential hazing violations will be adjudicated by a Deputy Commandant’s Disciplinary Hearing. Sanctions
for hazing violations will be closely coordinated with the Student Conduct office. If determined guilty of hazing, a cadet will be awarded sanctions that may include suspension or dismissal from the Corps. These sanctions will be in addition to any university sanctions or sanctions the Commonwealth of Virginia may impose.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

Once the school year has begun, and after having been briefed on these policies, all cadets will sign an Acknowledgment of Understanding of the alcohol, hazing policies, and sexual harassment/assault policies and regulations, which will be maintained in their individual 201 File.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

It is university policy that any first-semester cadet (first-year or off-campus transfer cadet) who wishes to leave the Corps before the last day to drop a class without penalty (Sept. 30, 2018) must also withdraw from the university for the remainder of fall semester. They may return as a civilian student beginning spring semester without having to re-apply for admission to Virginia Tech. They will be required to pay the entire cadet uniform fee upon departure.

Normally, cadets are expected to resign from the Corps and change to civilian status at the end of an academic semester. However, upper-class cadets and second semester first-year cadets may request a change to civilian status at any time, subject to the restrictions outlined in the regulations. If the cadet desires to remain on campus and if the housing office will not release an upper-class cadet or second semester, first-year cadet from the housing contract, or if no bed is available in a civilian residence hall, the cadet may continue to live in the cadet barracks until a bed is available. While in this status, he/she remains a member of the Corps. All Corps regulations must be adhered to.
HOW YOUR CADET IS GRANTED LEAVE

Cadet pass is granted subject to the performance of the Corps. Each year group is authorized a specific amount of pass/leave, and allowances may vary according to Regimental Academics Policy or other restrictions. Cadets wishing to take leave must request permission in writing from their chain of command. If your cadet needs leave, remind him or her to make the appropriate request in advance.

CLOSED WEEKENDS

The Corps plays a traditional and visible role in several university activities. These activities are mandatory events for the commandant’s staff and every cadet. On weekends identified as “closed,” overnight leave from campus will not normally be approved and passes will not start until after the scheduled event. Exceptions may be given for major family events (e.g. reunions, weddings, funerals), family emergencies, medical appointments, or academic commitments. Normally, the deputy commandant will verify the family event with the family before authorizing a cadet to miss a function.

HOLIDAYS

First-year cadets observe all university holidays. Occasionally a home football game over Fall Break may preclude cadets from leaving campus for a three-day weekend, but they will still be able to observe the Friday of Fall Break.

REGULAR LEAVE

In addition to university holidays, first-year cadets are authorized up to two regular leave requests each semester. Regular leave allows a cadet to depart beyond a 50-mile radius of campus during open weekends. In all cases, regular leaves are reviewed and approved by the deputy commandant.

REGULAR PASS

First-year cadets will sometimes be given pass, usually on Friday evenings. Pass authorizes a cadet to travel within a 50-mile radius of campus and expires at midnight. Regular pass is issued and approved by your cadet’s chain of command.

FAMILY PASS

When immediate family members are visiting the Blacksburg area, first-year cadets may request to stay overnight in the hotel room with their family members on a Friday or Saturday. Family pass will not normally excuse first-year cadets from weekend training activities and mandatory Corps functions on closed weekends, but family passes may begin after all Corps-related functions have been completed. Deputy commandants review and approve family pass requests.

TRAVEL PLANS AFTER FINALS

All students are expected to depart within 24 hours after their last final exam. All students can see their final exam schedule at the end of their course descriptions in Canvas or in their class schedule.

PARKING INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Visitors should obtain a parking pass from the Virginia Tech Visitor Center if you need to park on campus before 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., visitors can park in most of the parking areas, except those reserved for service vehicles. Details are at parking.vt.edu.
THINGS TO KNOW

- Virginia Tech News daily email: vtnews.vt.edu
- Hokie Family eNews: family.dsa.vt.edu
- Financial Aid’s monthly newsletter, FlashMail: finaid.vt.edu
- Important housing dates: housing.vt.edu/contracts/events.html
- Virginia Tech event calendar: calendar.vt.edu

PARENTS CLUBS

Cadets have a significantly different college experience from most students, which can be a challenge for family members to understand and know how to provide support. Our Parents Clubs are regionally based groups of parents who support each other with everything from understanding cadet terms to scheduling carpools home on holidays.

Information and contacts are at vtcc.vt.edu/parentsclubs.

KEY EVENTS

Parades and Formal Retreats

The Corps has four formal retreats and parades scheduled this year. Formal retreats are held on Upper Quad as the regiment brings down the flag in the evening. Formal retreats typically begin at 4:45 p.m. and last about 15 minutes.

Parades are held on the Drillfield. They usually last about an hour. Families can bring their own seating, if desired. Be vigilant about parking only in authorized areas. The New Cadet Parade at 10 a.m. Aug. 18 is an important milestone in your new cadet’s experience, and attendance is highly encouraged for all new cadet families.

Caldwell March

The Caldwell March is an important marker in the three phases of training for first-year cadets. The Corps has adopted the 26-mile trek followed by Addison Caldwell, the first student to enroll at Virginia Tech, as its capstone event. Cadets march the first 13 miles in the fall to complete the first phase of new cadet training and the second 13 miles in the spring to end new cadet training. After each march, the first-year cadets are given “unity pass” to spend time bonding with their buds (other first year cadets in their company), recognizing the accomplishment they could not have achieved alone. Parents should not feel obligated to attend these events. The cadets will be happy celebrating with their buds.

Home Football Games

Cadets are required to attend all home football games. They do not need tickets, and will enter the stadium during a march-on with the regiment. Parents do need to buy a ticket to attend. Cadets must sit in Corps seating in the South End Zone for the duration of the game. Visitors may not sit with the cadets until a specified time, space permitting.

Football Tickets for Parents

Once the school year begins, cadets will have the opportunity to purchase a limited number of tickets in the South End Zone for each game for their parents. Tickets are sold at face value and on a first-come, first-served basis when available. Other options include Virginia Tech’s ticket exchange (hokiesports.com), Tech Sideline’s ticket exchange (techsideline.com), any other ticket reseller, or sellers outside the gate.

The football schedule and game day parking information is available at hokiesports.com. Game times are not typically announced until two weeks prior to the scheduled date.
Fall Semester
New Cadets Move In ..........................Aug. 11
New Cadet Parade ..............................Aug. 18
Classes Begin .................................Aug. 20
Labor Day .......................................Sept. 3
Regimental Inspection* ....................Sept. 8
Football vs. William & Mary* ..........Sept. 8
Corps Reunion Formal Retreat ..........Sept. 14
Football vs. East Carolina* ............Sept. 15
D-Day Memorial Trip* ......................Sept. 22
Caldwell March I* .............................Sept. 29
Football vs. Notre Dame* ...............Oct. 6
Fall Family Weekend ........................Oct. 12-14
Fall Break .....................................Oct. 19

Football vs. Georgia Tech* ..........Oct. 25
Class of 1968 Pass in Review ..........Nov. 2
Football vs. Boston College* ..........Nov. 3
Virginia Veterans Parade* .............Nov. 10
Veterans Day ..................................Nov. 12
Thanksgiving Break .........................Nov. 17-25
Football vs. Miami ..........................Nov. 17
Football vs. Virginia .......................Nov. 23
Classes End ..................................Dec. 5
Finals ..........................................Dec. 7-13
Graduation & Commissioning ..........Dec. 14

Spring Semester
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday .........Jan. 21

Classes Begin .................................Jan. 22
Military Ball* .................................Feb. 23
Spring Break .................................March 9-17
Ring Dance* ..................................March 29
Jaffe Eager Squad* .........................March 30
Platoon Tactical Challenge* .............April 6
Spring Family Weekend ....................April 12-14
Spring Game ..................................April 13
Caldwell March II* .........................April 20
Military Awards Ceremony ...............April 25
Change of Command* ......................May 4
Classes End ..................................May 8
Finals ..........................................May 10-15
Graduation & Commissioning ..........May 17

* Closed weekends: Cadets are required to attend all mandatory events until dismissed by their cadre.
Please note: The ROTC programs may have events planned on weekends when the Corps has nothing scheduled.

Access the Corps Calendar on Google: https://goo.gl/qrZLcR  ■  Access the Corps Calendar on iCal: https://goo.gl/zwf9hQ

CONTACTS

All phone numbers use the 540 area code
Deputy Commandants & Senior Enlisted Advisors
CAPT Peter Phillips, 1st Battalion ............231-8597, peterphillips@vt.edu
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Mr. Jason Oberoi, VPI Battalion ..............231-8620, jtoberoi@vt.edu

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ROTC Offices
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Naval, LT Jeff Matthews ......................231-7883, usnavy@vt.edu
Air Force, Lt Col Carrie Cox ..................231-6404, usaf@vt.edu

CADET MAIL

During New Cadet Week
New Cadet First M. Last
X Battalion X Company
Room # Residence Hall
141 Lane Hall (0213)
280 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

During the Academic Year
Cadet’s Name
Pearson Hall, Room #
260 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061-9513

VTCC 2022 for Cadets
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VTCC 2022 for Families
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Commandant
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