



# The Institute Scholarship Program

Since its founding in 1839, Virginia Military Institute has recognized and rewarded outstanding academic achievement. Today, approximately 100 cadets attend the Institute on full and partial academic scholarships awarded in recognition of their accomplishments. If you are an academically talented and intellectually curious student with a well-balanced high school record that includes leadership roles and a broad spectrum of extracurricular activities, you may be eligible to join this elite group of scholar-cadets. All Institute Scholars are automatically enrolled in the Institute Honors Program.\*

## Institute Scholars

Based on the results of an application and interview process, Institute Scholars can receive awards from \$5,000 per academic year up to and including the full cost of tuition and room and board. In some cases, the total scholarship package includes other forms of financial aid (e.g., ROTC, athletic, or other scholarship sources).

### Eligibility and Selection

To qualify, candidates must present a high school GPA of at least 3.75 and evidence of achievement in a rigorous high school academic program, demonstrated by AP/IB, dual enrollment, or other advanced coursework. Candidates who meet these criteria are encouraged to apply.

The Institute Scholarship Selection Committee reviews applications on a rolling basis and will invite selected outstanding applicants to participate in a personal interview with the committee. Due to the number and caliber of applications we receive, not all candidates who meet the minimum criteria will be invited for an interview. Selection is based on the quality of the application, including a resume and personal statement (essay), and the interview. The prospect for academic excellence within VMI's unique institutional context is paramount; financial need is not a consideration.

Awards are typically announced by 15 April each year.

### Award Renewal

This scholarship is entirely merit based and includes automatic admission to the Institute Honors Program ([www.vmi.edu/honors](http://www.vmi.edu/honors)).

Continuation of the award is linked to the Program's requirements: a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, active participation in the Honors Forum and elective program activities each semester, completion of two Honors Seminars during your cadetship, and the completion of an honors thesis during your first class year. The scholarship will cover a maximum of eight semesters at VMI and is subject to annual review based on the terms specified above.

Since Institute Scholarship awards are not derived from federal funding, the acceptance of this offer does not preclude your acceptance of other federal scholarships or loans. If you receive other types of financial assistance during your cadetship (e.g., ROTC scholarship), the amount of this award may be reduced such that your total financial assistance in any semester does not exceed the total cost of tuition and room and board.

*\*For information about VMI's Institute Honors Program, contact:*

*Colonel Rob McDonald, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, at 540-464-7212 or [mcdonaldrl@vmi.edu](mailto:mcdonaldrl@vmi.edu).*

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## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

For consideration, the following materials must be received by the VMI Admissions Office no later than February 1, 2021. It is to the scholarship candidate's advantage to complete the application process early as interviews will begin during the fall semester.

- ❖ A complete application for admission to VMI
  - ❖ A complete Scholarship Application form
  - ❖ A résumé (See question #10 on back of this page.)
  - ❖ Personal Statement (See question #11 on back of this page.)
  - ❖ An official copy of high school/college transcripts
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# Scholarship Application

1. Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First Middle Jr., etc. Nickname*
2. Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip Code*
- E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Number(s) Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_
3. Choice of Major \_\_\_\_\_
4. ROTC Choice \_\_\_\_\_
5. Extra-curricular activities or intercollegiate sports in which you plan to participate at VMI \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. State of legal residence? \_\_\_\_\_  
If Virginia, name county \_\_\_\_\_ or city \_\_\_\_\_ of legal domicile.
7. Name, class, and relationship of relatives, if any, who have attended VMI: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Name of secondary school from which you will graduate or were graduated \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Unweighted GPA \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated Weighted GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Rank and Number in Class \_\_\_\_\_  
List your senior year classes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Name(s) of any college(s) attended and dates of attendance: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*10. Supply a résumé listing major academic and extracurricular achievements, leadership experiences, activities, clubs, organizations, community service, etc.

\*11. Compose a personal essay of approximately 750 words in response to the following topic:

If we were to conduct a survey all of the teachers you have had in school, how do you think they would describe you as a student? Would their responses be consistent over the years, or would we hear differences? By the time you graduate, how do you hope your VMI professors will describe the kind of student you have been here?

This essay must be written by you, as evidence of your own abilities, without any editorial assistance from tutors, family members, or others. The use of computer spell-checkers or grammar guides is acceptable.

**\*Résumé and essay must accompany the scholarship application. Return all materials to the Office of Admissions. Questions? Please contact Lt. Col. Megan Herald at 540-464-7684 or [heraldmc@vmi.edu](mailto:heraldmc@vmi.edu).**