

2021-
2022

NEW CADET GUIDE

Chapter 4: Academic Year



CORPS OF CADETS
VIRGINIA TECH.



Required Classes

Your fall semester total of the Corps Laboratory and your ROTC/Citizen-Leader Track classes will be four to five credit hours. With three successful leadership positions in the Corps of Cadets, in addition to a few additional courses over eight semesters, you can earn a minor in leadership studies.

You will automatically be added to MGT 1945 for the fall semester. It is a two- credit laboratory and an integral part of your leader development. It meets Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. and some Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. There is a handout in the Corps canvas site with a listing of the Corps class and the ROTC classes.

You will take a Corps Lab each semester unless there is an unavoidable academic conflict. Leave room in your schedule for this course, and verify it is on your schedule when you meet with your academic advisor during orientation.

Room Phones

Standard cadet rooms do not have landlines. Resident advisor rooms do have landlines for emergency communication. Hard-wired emergency phones that connect directly to the Virginia Tech Police Department are throughout the residence halls. If you want to choose a local wireless company, most of the major carriers are available in the New River Valley.

Laundry

Cadets are responsible for their own laundry at the self-service facilities on campus. Students may use coins or their Hokie Passport accounts to pay for the machines. Plan for approximately \$3 per load to wash and dry and the washers use high efficiency (HE) laundry detergent.

Dry Cleaning

A Cleaner World offers a cadet drop-off/pick-up site on the first floor of the Military Building for uniform pieces that require dry-cleaning (wool blouse, etc.) Other dry-cleaning services are available in town.

A Cleaner World can provide uniform storage over the summer. There is no additional charge, but there is a charge for the dry cleaning of all of the uniforms prior to being returned.

Cars

First-year cadets are permitted cars at Virginia Tech, but new cadets are discouraged from bringing a car unless it is necessary to attend National Guard or Reserve duty. The on-campus resident permit allows parking only on the right side of Duck Pond Road Resident Lot (also called the Cage, about 1.25 miles from Upper Quad), and the resident section of the Stadium Lot. Parking is not permitted in the Stadium Lot at specific times, including before home football and basketball games.

New cadets will not have many opportunities to use a car before Thanksgiving. We recommend new cadets leave their cars at home for the first semester and re-evaluate bringing one to campus after Thanksgiving.

Bicycles

As a new cadet, you are discouraged from bringing a bicycle to campus. Cadets are not allowed to stow their bicycle in the residence halls. Bicycles must be secured to an outdoor bicycle rack. A bicycle would only be for recreational use, there is only one uniform in which cadets can ride a bicycle. All bicycles must be registered at police.vt.edu.

Mail

Students receiving a letter or package will receive email notice when a package is waiting for them.

During New Cadet Week

Residential mail services are not available until classes begin. However, your family will be able to mail letters to the Commandant's Office for delivery to you during New Cadet Week. Ask them to wait to send boxes of goodies or care packages until after the New Cadet Parade. You will receive your mailed packages during New Cadet Week, but unless they contain medication, you will not be allowed to open the contents until after the New Cadet Parade.

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

After New Cadet Week

After New Cadet Week, cadet mailing addresses will change to the street address of the residence halls. Mail will be delayed if it is received in the Commandant's Office and must be picked up by your chain of command to be delivered to you. It will also be delayed if "Virginia Tech" is included in the mailing address.

Cadet's Name
Pearson Hall East, Room #
260 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061-9513

Cadet's Name
Main Eggleston Hall, Room #
440 Drillfield Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24061-9519

Cadet's Name
Pearson Hall West, Room #
310 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061-9502

Packages

Visit mailservices.vt.edu/residential-mail.html for more information about residential mail delivery for fall 2021. More information will be available before school begins about the process of receiving your packages during the school year.

Internet Access

All rooms have an Ethernet port for each resident, which is included with the room price. Study lounges have Wi-Fi. Wireless access is also available widely across campus.

Passes, Leaves, and Holidays

Instruction will begin Aug. 23 and conclude Dec. 8. Cadets are able to observe the same holidays as the rest of the university.

New cadets are required to be in their residence halls or on campus studying by 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays unless they have secured pass or leave.

All cadets are required to return by 6 p.m. Sundays for Evening Call to Quarters (ECQ aka study hours). New cadets will occasionally be given pass on Friday and/or Saturday evening that expires at a time designated by their chain of command.

New cadets are authorized up to two leaves per semester. The purpose of limiting leaves and passes for new cadets is to assure the students begin good study habits.

Leave

Cadets can request authorization to travel outside of a 50-mile radius of Blacksburg by requesting leave. Leave is not restricted to any specific weekend or days of the week, but it requires additional substantiation and approval if it occurs during weekdays or during mandatory Corps events (football games, formal events, training, etc). In the event of a family or personal emergency, emergency leave can be requested through your deputy commandant once you receive your room and company assignment.

Pass

Pass is the authorization of a cadet to be away from campus during evening and night hours, while remaining within a 50-mile radius of Blacksburg. The most common type of passes used by new cadets are:

- **Family Pass:** Authorization to leave campus overnight on a weekend (back by 6 p.m. Sunday) or during evening hours on a weekday (back by 11 p.m.) to be with visiting family within 50 miles of Blacksburg. Family members are defined as parents, step-parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Exceptions for visits by siblings as the only family member require approval by the deputy commandant. Family Pass can be taken on closed weekends, once the cadet has completed his or her Corps requirements (for example, after a football game).
- **R-Pass:** Authorization to travel on the immediate vicinity of campus for religious gatherings. R-Pass that conflicts with mandatory Corps events requires approval by a deputy commandant.



Extracurricular Activities

Can I Play Sports as a Cadet?

Your first year is a transition year, but if you are able to play at the highest level at Virginia Tech (either varsity or club), you may participate your first semester. If you have been selected for a team, be sure to inform the Corps Recruiting Office and your deputy commandant as soon as possible.

Other Activities

One of the advantages of being in the Corps is the opportunity to participate in the variety of activities available on a civilian campus. If you earn a 2.5 GPA or higher your fall semester, you may add a Corps extracurricular activity for spring semester with the approval of your deputy commandant. For a list of cadet organizations and more information, visit: vtcc.vt.edu/join/organizations.html.

After your first year, you may participate in any of the hundreds of student organizations at the university with permission from your deputy commandant and with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.



Health Insurance

The student health fee, included in each year's tuition, covers the majority of services provided by Schiffert Health Center, unlimited visits, and most laboratory procedures. Some services require a minimal charge.

The university strongly recommends health insurance coverage. The student health fee does not cover emergency room visits, hospitalization, and specialist care. To save money and hassle at a critical time, please check your insurance plan and determine the in-network providers and primary care managers in our area prior to coming to school. If your parents do not cover you under a health insurance policy, the university offers student insurance at group rates: risk.controller.vt.edu/studentmedicalinsurance.html.

Schiffert Health Center

The on-campus health center provides students with care that is both preventative and curative. Services include care for acute illnesses and injuries, as well as chronic conditions.

Appointments can be made by calling 540-231-6444 or through the Online Student Health Portal. If you have an urgent need and no appointment, the center does have a triage system where you can talk with a care provider who will advise you, refer you for same-day care, or suggest a scheduled appointment.

There are multiple urgent care centers in the area, as well.

Health Education

There are many concerns that you may have during your time at Virginia Tech, including learning about various health concerns, such as sexually transmitted diseases, ways to stop smoking, or how to eat right. Virginia Tech's Health Education at Schiffert Health Center is committed to providing you with the resources necessary to gain as much knowledge about any health concern you may have.

Transitioning to Cadet Life

Transitions in life are stressful and going away to college is a major one. Remember that it is just a matter of re-establishing habits. Greeting your fellow cadets and room inspections will quickly become new habits for you. Sounding off and dragging will become second nature to you. It all serves a purpose, one that is worth learning and can change your future for the better.

We highly encourage you to give it some time to settle in before deciding to stay or go, especially during the first two weeks when life is very hectic and different from high school. The decision you make will affect a semester of your college life. Nevertheless, occasionally cadets need to resign for various reasons.

During Red Phase, the withdrawal policy below applies, and you will be required to leave Virginia Tech and return in the spring. You will start the process by talking with your cadre sergeant. If it is after Red Phase, you should start with your fire team leader.

Withdrawal Policy

It is university policy that any first-semester cadet (including off-campus transfer cadets) who wishes to leave the Corps before Thursday, Sept. 30, must also withdraw from the university for the remainder of the fall semester. He or she may return as a civilian student in the spring semester without having to reapply for admission to Virginia Tech. He or she will be required to pay the entire cadet uniform fee upon departure.