New Cadet Guide for 2020-2021

Chapter 2: Getting Ready
Summer Programs and Orientation

Summer Academy Cadets
Summer Academy is offered online from July 6-Aug. 17. If you will be at Summer Academy, please let us know at corps@vt.edu.

Transfer Cadets
If you have not already completed your housing contract online, you will need to email housing@vt.edu with your full name and birthday and request a “cadet” housing contract. Until housing opens a contract for you, you will not be able to sign up for Corps housing through the StarRez portal.

If MGT 1945 is not already on your schedule, do not allow your academic department advisor to schedule you for classes that meet on Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Talk with your ROTC program about additional classes you may need to take if you have fewer than four years until graduation. Most ROTCs require a minimum of six semesters remaining to graduation from Virginia Tech to participate and commission. If you have fewer than six semesters remaining, contact your ROTC directly.

You will be completing New Cadet Week the week before school starts and will complete at least one but most likely two semesters in first-year standing in the Corps regardless of your academic level. This can be discussed at your first interview with your deputy commandant during the school year.

International Cadets
The Corps and Cranwell International Center work together to help make your transition to Virginia Tech, and the United States, a smooth experience.

Like all other new cadets, you will check-in with the Corps and move into your residence hall on the first day of New Cadet Week. We highly recommend that international students choose one of the earlier blocks for move-in, but you must plan to arrive on campus no later than 11 a.m. on New Cadet Check-In Day.

It is critical that you complete the Immigration Document Check upon arrival in the United States. You can find instructions for how to do this and a list of the documents you will need to complete the check at students.vt.edu/transition/International_Orientation/immigration_check-in.html. Failure to complete the Immigration Document Check-In e-form may result in the cancellation of your immigration record in the US Department of Homeland Security Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

We will get you to the International Student Orientation sessions for check-in, your VISA paperwork, and academic advising during New Cadet Week to help you accomplish the items you must for International Student Orientation. You will be escorted to any orientation events you need to attend by your upperclass cadets. The Cranwell International Center and New Student and Family Programs are aware of your unique situation as an international cadet.

Unable to Attend Orientation?
We expect all families to make it a priority to attend a summer orientation session, which should be easier this year with the sessions available online. Missing orientation will affect your readiness to train during New Cadet Week. However, if it is not feasible for your family, it is critical that you sign up for Make-Up Orientation when registration becomes available. We will arrange a time for you to attend critical Corps events during Make-Up Orientation. (You may have to miss the rappel tower or obstacle course events during New Cadet Week.)
New Student Orientation

Orientation is an overview of life as a Hokie. Although we can't be together on campus, we're ready to show you all Virginia Tech has to offer in a way that is at your own pace and tailored to what you need to know.

The experience includes modules with information delivered straight to your inbox and a Virtual Orientation on a date you select when you register. During each module, expect to hear from campus leaders, learn about important dates and resources, and get tips on how to live your best life as a Hokie. Parents are encouraged to attend the family programming offered during New Student Orientation date you choose, as well. Plus, don't forget to read the university's You're In, Now What? website for new students.

Signing Up for Classes
Your academic department or college will send you information about their plan for registering for classes. Don’t forget to add Corps Lab and your ROTC/Citizen-Leader Track classes and labs. Registering for classes is the primary purpose of New Student Orientation.

Hokie Passports
Your Hokie Passport is one of the most important tools you will have as a student at Virginia Tech. It will be used to access your residence hall, your room, your meal plan, the buses, your extra money for laundry (Hokie Passport Account), and to check out books or electronics from the library.

During Pre-Orientation Module 3, you will receive directions on how to submit your picture for your Hokie Passport. You will be able to pick it up once you arrive on campus. More details will be provided through the orientation module.

Parents or family members will need to provide Hokie Passport Services with their student’s FERPA passcode before any student information can be released to them.

- Find more information on FERPA at registrar.vt.edu.
- For questions about Hokie Passport Services, go to hokiepassport.vt.edu.

Corps Orientation Events

Commandant of Cadets’ Presentations
Each of the Orientation modules will include a video for you to watch from the Maj Gen Randal Fullhart, the commandant of cadets, make sure you and your family view his presentations to understand the organization of the Corps and the ROTCs and what to expect for New Cadet Week and your first year.

Commandant of Cadets’ Town Halls
Periodically throughout the summer, the Commandant of Cadets will host a Town Hall to answer questions you have. These will be announced via an email to your vt.edu email and through an announcement on the Corps New Cadet Paperwork Canvas course. The first will be held at 7 p.m. June 18 via Zoom.

Uniform Fittings
Because orientation is offered virtually this year, new cadets will be fitted for their uniforms during New Cadet Week.
**Meal Plans**

You will be able to select any one of three on-campus dining plans: Major Flex, Mega Flex, and or Premium Flex. Find your perfect meal plan at [vt.edu/campus-life/dining.html](http://vt.edu/campus-life/dining.html). Changes are accepted until the day before the dining plans start for the fall semester. Every Monday, you will use your meal plan to eat dinner with other new cadets, called Freshman Eats. Also, New Cadet Week will begin before the fall meal plan begins, so you will see an “Early Meals Fee” posted to your tuition bill for approximately $94 to cover the cost of your New Cadet Week meals.

**Room Assignments**

Room assignments will be made after orientation ends. Your room assignment will be available online. Check One Campus or StarRez.

- Unforeseen circumstances could require that assignments be changed. StarRez will reflect the most accurate room assignment.
- If the Corps has not received positive intent to enroll as a cadet by Aug. 1, you will not be allowed to enroll in the Corps for the fall semester unless approved by the commandant of cadets.
- This may also trigger the withdrawal policy and you may lose your offer to Virginia Tech.
Company Assignments

Company assignments will be emailed to your vt.edu email address the week of Aug. 3. Company and roommate assignments are random for new cadets.

Battalions, Companies, and Training Companies

The regiment is made up of three battalions. Each battalion has four companies, with Band Company divided into two sections. Each new cadet is placed into a training company within a company. This allows new cadets to be full members of the unit and ensures focused, quality training.

Delta, Hotel and India will be housed in Main and West Eggleston halls on Lower Quad. All other cadets will be housed in Pearson Hall East and West on Upper Quad.

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Sophomore Shuffle

After your first year, you will be shuffled to a new company and battalion for the following reasons:

- To give you broader exposure to different leadership styles
- To equalize the size of each company
- To give you a fresh start as an upperclass cadet
- To expand your professional network

Highty-Tighties are shuffled between Band A and Band B, giving them similar opportunities while supporting the operational mission of the band.
Required Online Programs (Before New Cadet Week)

All new students, including off-campus transfers, are required to complete online programs before the beginning of academic classes, including: AlcoholEDU; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Sexual Assault Prevention. These programs will be available online at students.vt.edu/onlineprograms.html starting Aug. 3. Programs must be accessed through the invitation email received from EVERFI to your vt.edu account titled “Required Online Programs.” Select Virginia Tech Student Login to begin.

Complete these before you arrive for New Cadet Week. There is not enough time during New Cadet Week to complete them, and if you do not take this free online training, a hold may be placed on your student account. This will prevent you from enrolling in classes until this training is complete.

Computer and Software Requirements

Computer Requirements
Each college and department has different computer requirements, which can be found at compreq.vt.edu. Students connect to the Internet in their rooms through an Ethernet cable and connect through wireless when traveling around campus. A long Ethernet cable is useful.

If you need assistance setting up your computer, contact 4Help, the university's IT personnel, at 4Help@vt.edu, 540-231-4357, or by using your VT Username to log into vt4help.service-now.com.

Software Requirements
All incoming undergraduate students are required to purchase a Microsoft Campus Agreement (CA) Software Bundle. This requirement ensures that all undergraduate students have access to the latest versions of Office and their computer’s operating system. The bundle provides you with upgrades as long as you remain an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech. The Undergraduate Software Bundle will be available for pickup in the Student Services Building during New Student Orientation. During the school year, their office is at 3240 Torgersen Hall. For more information see the Requirement FAQs at itpals.vt.edu/softwarelicensingcenter/studentsoftware.html or contact Student Software Sales at studentsoftware@vt.edu or 540-231-3969.

Students in building construction, engineering, landscape architecture, the Pamplin College of Business, and the School of Architecture and Design usually have additional software requirements. Contact your college or the Student Software Distribution Office for more information.