



CORPS OF CADETS  
VIRGINIA TECH.



# New Cadet Guide

for 2020-2021

**Chapter 3: New Cadet Week**

# Getting to Campus

## Air Travel

The nearest commercial airport is the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport (ROA) in Roanoke, Virginia, which is about 40 miles (64 km) northeast of Blacksburg. The airport offers a snack bar, newsstand, and small bookstore. Airlines servicing the airport are Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta, and United Airlines.

See Parking Services' [Alternative Transportation page](#) for several options for transportation from regional airports to campus.

If you arrive at the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, the Smart Way Bus offers a \$4 one-way/\$8 round-trip shuttle between the airport and campus. There is no bus service on Sundays. If you will be arriving via the Smart Way Bus, please email [corps@vt.edu](mailto:corps@vt.edu).

## Hotel Information

Find information as well as directions to campus and hotel information at our [Google map link](#). You will need to arrive between 7:30 and 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, and all families will complete their activities by 3:30 p.m. Hotels usually have vacancies this weekend. However, families should plan now for reservations for the following weekend for the New Cadet Parade. It's at 10 a.m. the following Saturday. You will be able to stay overnight with your family and will be due back in your residence hall no later than 6 p.m. Sunday for study hours before classes start.

# Check-In Uniform

Your prescribed attire for check-in is the following:

- Khaki pants with a brown belt
- A plain, white crewneck T-shirt (different from the V-neck T-shirts for under your uniforms)
- White athletic socks
- Tennis/running shoes
- Cloth face mask (black, brown, gray, or beige)

Make sure you wear a belt and your shirt is tucked in. Male cadets must be clean-shaven before arrival. All cadets must remove all piercings before arrival.



# Haircuts

Male new cadets should arrive with a “zero” haircut. Your barber will understand the term — it refers to the setting on the hair clipper.



Female new cadets may choose one of two options:

- Before arrival, cut your hair short enough that it will not touch the bottom of your shirt collar.
- Pin your hair up in a bun or braid so that it does not touch the bottom of your collar. All hair ties, barrettes, and accessories must match your hair color. During New Cadet Week, female upperclass cadets will show you how to arrange your hair to meet the uniform standards.

## Check-In Unloading & Move-In Plan

The arrival of an entire class in a short amount of time requires a solid plan and the cooperation of all involved. Each new cadet is limited to two guests for move-in.

### Sign Up for an Arrival Time

To best use our available unloading areas, we have designated eight half-hour blocks between 7:30 and 11 a.m. to stagger arrival times and mitigate congestion.

Sign up for a time to arrive via the link in the Canvas course. Use the access code, “VTCC2024” to access the sign up.

There will be two schedules for New Cadet Check-In. New cadets with arrival times of 7:30 to 9 a.m. are assigned to Group A for their Deputy Commandant and Commandant Briefs. New cadets with arrival times of 9:30 to 11 a.m. are assigned to Group B.

Choose only one arrival time and save it to your calendar. Each block has 55 openings. This means only 55 families will be moving into 14 floors across our four residence halls, which should provide an opportunity to physically distance your family from others moving in. Once a block is full, it is no longer available. If you discover that your roommate is set to move in at the same time as you and you would prefer to adjust your time, contact LTC Mariger at [corps@vt.edu](mailto:corps@vt.edu).

If you are unable to sign up online, please contact LTC Mariger at [corps@vt.edu](mailto:corps@vt.edu) to arrange a time to arrive.

All new cadets must arrive during New Cadet Check-In, if you must arrive after New Cadet Check-In, you will be asked to enroll in the Corps of Cadets the following fall semester instead.

## Arrive at your Designated Time

Arrive as close as possible to the beginning of your designated arrival time. We will send you a confirmation email with your arrival time printed on a parking pass to put in your vehicle's window when you check-in.

At your assigned time, be at the arrival location for your residence hall (either from Main Street onto Alumni Mall or on the Drillfield) with your parking pass displayed and face masks in place for you and your two guests. Cadre will be wearing masks as well and will check you in and direct you to an open location to unload.

Please follow all street directions. Civilian students will be moving in at the same time, and routes that look more direct on a map may be heavily congested or closed.

## Upper Quad Unloading

(A, B, C, E, F, G, K, L and Band Companies)

Companies from all three battalions will be assigned to Pearson Hall East or West. The unloading area for these buildings will be in the circle driveway in front of the Moss Arts Center, off Alumni Mall. For unloading purposes, this will be accessible only by turning off South Main Street (from either direction). Do not access Alumni Mall from the Drillfield area. Additional unloading areas will be made available along Alumni Mall, if necessary. Cadre will help direct you to an open location to unload.

## Lower Quad Unloading

(D, H, I Companies)

One company from each battalion will be assigned to Lower Quad: Main or West Eggleston Halls, on the northeast corner of the Drillfield. If you are assigned to Lower Quad, you need to approach campus from North or South Main Street, instead of using Route 460. From Main Street, turn onto Alumni Mall and follow it under Torgersen Bridge to the stop sign. Turn right and then loop to the left, then proceed down and around Drillfield Drive. Go past War Memorial Gym and park in the marked locations in front of Main and West Eggleston. You will unload on the northeast corner of Drillfield Drive or on lower Kent Street.

## Unload Quickly

It will be important that you wear your face mask while unloading and moving your new cadet into the residence hall. Unload as quickly as possible. Prior to arrival, use masking tape and a permanent marker to mark all your boxes and appliances with your first and last name, building, company, and room number. It will also help if you group your gear into piles. You should bring a tarp in case it rains during move-in and consider bringing a hand-truck/dolly marked with your family name to assist with larger items.

Cadre can assist with some of the heavier items to get them to the front door of the residence hall. However, your family is expected to do the bulk of moving your gear. It is important that you pack light and your gear is well marked prior to arrival.

After unloading and before moving gear into the building, your family will move your vehicle to a parking lot for the remainder of the day. Free university parking is available in the Perry Street Parking Garage. A university parking pass is not necessary on weekends.

## Parking for Check-In

Once all your gear is unloaded from your vehicle, you and your family will split up for New Cadet Check-In.

*New cadets:* Proceed to check-in in Torgersen Hall wearing your cloth face mask over your mouth and nose. You should have the following:

1. \$100 check made out to "Virginia Tech Foundation" for cadet activities
2. Your cellphone (for only your family to call you)
3. Your ROTC paperwork that requires the original must be verified.
4. Your valid driver's license, military ID, or passport to pick up your Hokie Passport.

You will reconnect with your family in your room once you have completed check-in, which takes about 90 minutes.

*Family:* After parking, your family should move your belongings into the residence hall and can help set up your room. They must remain masked during the entire move-in process.

## New Cadets Arriving Alone

Let the Corps recruiting staff know you will be arriving alone by emailing [corps@vt.edu](mailto:corps@vt.edu) prior to check-in day. You should follow the same unloading directions, including wearing your face mask. Let the cadre in the unloading area know that you are alone and will need assistance parking your car.

Make sure you have already purchased your parking pass for the year and placed the hangtag in the window. You will not have a chance to return to your car during New Cadet Week.

You will move your car from the unloading area to the Duck Pond Road Lot ("the Cage") with a cadet following in a Corps vehicle. The cadet will give you a ride back to Torgersen Hall to begin the check-in process.

Do not forget to bring your check for \$100 made out to the "Virginia Tech Foundation" for cadet activities, your cellphone, any needed Corps or ROTC paperwork, and your face mask.

## New Cadets Arriving by Smart Way Bus

Contact the Corps Recruiting Office at [corps@vt.edu](mailto:corps@vt.edu) as soon as you have confirmed your travel plans. You must arrive on campus between 7:30 and 11 a.m. on move-in day.



# Move-In Schedule, Group A (7:30-9 a.m. arrivals)

Time	Location	Activity
7:30-9 a.m.	Corps Resident Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Check in and proceed to Torgersen Hall wearing your face mask with \$100 check, ROTC paperwork, valid ID.</li> <li>■ Family: Move in</li> </ul>
9-10:45 a.m.	Blacksburg area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Reconnect with family; may depart with family but must return no later than 10:45 a.m.</li> <li>■ Family: All Group A families must depart the residence halls no later than 10:45 a.m. You will reconnect with your new cadet for lunch after the briefs.</li> </ul>
11-11:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Residence Hall Room</li> <li>■ Family: Commandant Brief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: In residence hall room, finish unpacking, eat a snack, if needed</li> <li>■ Family: Attend Commandant Brief. Location will be posted on signs outside the residence halls.</li> </ul>
12-12:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Residence Hall Room</li> <li>■ Family: Deputy Commandant/Senior Enlisted Advisor Briefs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: In residence hall room, finish unpacking, eat a snack, if needed</li> <li>■ Family: Deputy Commandant/Senior Enlisted Advisor Briefs. Locations will be posted on signs outside the residence halls.</li> </ul>
12:45-2:15 p.m.	Varied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Once reconnected with family, you may depart for lunch. Return no later than 2:15 p.m.</li> <li>■ Family: Reconnect with new cadet, depart for lunch, return and say goodbyes no later than 2:15 p.m.</li> </ul>
2:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Residence Hall Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Family: All Group A families depart the residence halls.</li> </ul>

# Move-In Schedule, Group B (9:30-11 a.m. arrivals)

Time	Location	Activity
9:30-11 a.m.	Corps Resident Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Check in and proceed to Torgersen Hall wearing your face mask with \$100 check, ROTC paperwork, valid ID</li> <li>■ Family: Move in</li> </ul>
11 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Blacksburg area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Once reconnected with family, you may depart for lunch. Return no later than 1:15 p.m.</li> <li>■ Family: Reconnect with new cadet, depart for lunch, return and say goodbyes no later than 1:15 p.m.</li> </ul>
1:30-2:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Residence Hall Room</li> <li>■ Family: Deputy Commandant/Senior Enlisted Advisor Briefs Briefs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: In residence hall room, finish unpacking</li> <li>■ Family: Attend Deputy Commandant Briefs. Locations will be posted on signs outside the residence halls. All Group B family must leave the residence halls.</li> </ul>
2:30-3:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Varied</li> <li>■ Family: Commandant Brief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: In residence hall room, finish unpacking, eat a snack, if needed</li> <li>■ Family: Commandant Brief. Depart for home directly from the brief</li> </ul>
3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cadet: Residence Hall Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Family: All families depart for home.</li> </ul>

# Corps Fees

There are a few additional fees for new cadets. The uniform fee recurs annually for all new cadets.

1. One-time Corps Fee: A \$100 check, payable to "Virginia Tech Foundation." Bring this check with you to New Cadet Check-In in Torgersen Hall for cadet activities. You may also bring a cashier's check if you do not have a personal checking account. The cadet's name must be listed in the note section of the check, which is particularly important if the checking account is in a different last name.

2. Uniform Fee: How the uniform fee is billed varies between ROTC cadets/midshipmen and Citizen-Leader Track cadets.

- a. Approximately \$1,100 per cadet will be billed to ROTC cadets through their student account by the Bursar's Office in the spring semester. However, a cadet who remains in the ROTC program will receive a commutation to help offset this fee. The amount of the commutation will vary by ROTC.
  - i. ROTC programs pay the commutation by direct deposit directly to the student, and the student must pay the full bill posted to the student account by the Bursar's Office.
- b. Citizen-Leader Track cadets also receive a commutation, but only the amount payable will be displayed on their tuition bills at the end of the spring semester.
- c. The full amount (approximately \$1,100) is charged to cadets who leave the Corps before the commutation is paid or before the completion of the academic year.



# Phones During New Cadet Week

You will be allowed to carry a cellphone and accept a call from your family to tell them your location and estimated return time to the residence hall until 3:30 p.m. of check-in day. After that, cellphone and smartwatch use is not allowed during New Cadet Week, but you must keep your cellphone on campus in case you need to access your student accounts (such as for international or make-up orientation). You will store your cell phone in a sealed envelope during New Cadet Week.

Cellphones and smart watches are authorized during the school year, after the New Cadet Parade.

# What Happens During New Cadet Week

The purpose of New Cadet Week is to get the newest cadet class up to speed prior to the beginning of classes. Activities build mental and physical strength. University knowledge will be covered, including a general campus tour, a library tour, briefings on university and cadet honor codes, and an introduction to some of the university's services.

Throughout New Cadet Week, your parents can follow your progress as a class through the [commandant's Facebook page](#), which will be updated daily with photos. You will not have access to electronics, including phones and watches, during this first week. You will not be allowed food in your room, other than bottled water. Ask your family to wait to send food care packages until after New Cadet Week.

Your general daily schedule will include a 5:45 a.m. wakeup, daily briefs, drill and manual of arms practice, the obstacle course and rappel tower (weather permitting), hygiene time, and bed by 10 p.m. Most of the week's focus is preparation for the New Cadet Parade on Saturday.

## Medical Readiness

In accordance with the Residential Life COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Commitments you signed with Virginia Tech Housing, all returning students, including new cadets, are asked to self-quarantine 14 days before arrival on campus.

The Commitments:

- To the best of my ability, I will engage in a 14-day quarantine before arriving.
  - *All new cadets are strongly encouraged to obtain a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test within five days of arriving on campus.*
  - *Male new cadets: Get a "zero" haircut the day before checking in. You must observe proper COVID-19 protocols to prevent the spread of the disease.*
- Consistent with the governor's directive, I will wear a face mask at all times while in my residence hall (except when in my own room, the bathroom, or eating a meal) unless I have a recognized medical condition.
- I will practice physical distancing between others and myself.
- To prevent the spread of COVID-19, I understand the importance of personal hygiene (not touching face, washing hands frequently, etc.)
- I will avoid public spaces if I have symptoms of COVID-19 and contact Virginia Tech's Schiffert Health Center by telephone at 540-231-6444, my local health care provider, or an urgent care facility.
- If directed by a medical professional, I will self-isolate for as long as deemed necessary.

All new cadets are also asked to complete a sport physical or provide a DODMERB Letter of Qualification. If you are considering joining an ROTC program and you have a medical issue, you should check with your ROTC about the likelihood that you might be medically disqualified to participate. In the past, new cadets with allergies to bee stings, a prescribed inhaler after age 12, and knee surgeries have found it difficult to qualify.

All new cadets who are contracted or who earn an ROTC scholarship, must pass two DODMERB physicals: the first when they are selected for an ROTC scholarship and the second before they commission. You can find more information about the DODMERB Qualification process at [dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil/FAQs.aspx](http://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil/FAQs.aspx).

It is not an official source, but you can check the Service Academy Forum for more information about what has been decided before at [serviceacademyforums.com/index.php](http://serviceacademyforums.com/index.php). For Naval ROTC midshipman, see the link to "Appendix A" at [http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/physical\\_requirements.html](http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/physical_requirements.html). In general, consult the Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03 disqualifying conditions list at <http://bit.ly/2GERTSU>.

# Physical Fitness

You should arrive in August in good physical condition and ready to meet the demands of physical training in the summer heat. It will be much easier to learn and enjoy meeting your buds (fellow new cadets) if you are not physically drained. You should be able to run 1.5 miles before you arrive.

## Tips for getting ready for New Cadet Week

*(Note: You should consult with a physician before starting any exercise program.)*

- Drink a lot of water and get yourself hydrated, especially in the week before you arrive on campus. As a guideline, consider drinking a quart of water a day. Don't underestimate the effects of the summer heat during New Cadet Week.
- Cut back on caffeinated drinks. You will not be allowed soda or coffee during New Cadet Week.
- Get used to going to bed by 10 p.m.
- Develop a plan to improve your physical fitness with short-term and long-term goals. Remember, you don't need to be an athlete to complete New Cadet Week, you just need to get in and stay in shape.
- Set six-week goals for improving your sit-ups, push-ups, and run and practice them daily.
- Find a friend to workout with.
- Overall, just stay positive and stick with it.

You will be on your feet and moving around most of the day. Care of your feet is critical to finishing New Cadet Week successfully.

Your first year will be demanding, both mentally and physically. This is a senior military college; come expecting a military environment. Be prepared to learn and to push yourself. However, know you will not be alone — your buds (fellow first-year cadets), cadre (junior and senior cadets assigned to train you), the Corps, and ROTC staffs are here to help you succeed. The sense of accomplishment you will feel after the New Cadet Week Parade, Red Phase, the Caldwell March, and your first year will make every moment worth it!



# New Cadet Parade

This year's New Cadet Parade will be at 10 a.m. Aug. 22 on the Drillfield. Family members may return to campus for the parade and see what new cadets have learned in one intensive week. However, physical distancing must be observed while watching the parade.

New cadets will be able to stay overnight with family members after the parade and will return to the residence halls by 6 p.m. Sunday. You will have worked hard during New Cadet Week and will welcome some time away from the residence halls, including a good meal, a chance to do laundry, and time to relax with your family. Please note: Many academic departments hold a mandatory meeting for students on Saturday afternoon or Sunday before classes start on Monday. If your family is unable to return, you can stay in your room and run errands within the Blacksburg/Christiansburg area.

New cadets can be picked up from the residence halls after the New Cadet Parade ends and all rifles have been turned in. Your family will not be allowed into the residence halls during this process, but you will be able to meet them outside once your cadre dismisses you. While you are on family pass with your families and buds, the upperclass cadets will move into the residence halls.

You are released to your family on family pass, which means you must stay within 50 miles of Blacksburg and return by 6 p.m. Sunday. You may wear casual clothes while in a hotel but must depart and return in Hokie Bag (khaki trousers and issued maroon polo) and must wear Hokie Bag when out in public.

# Returning to Campus

Study hours start at 6 p.m. Sunday. You should eat dinner before returning, because you will not have an opportunity to eat after 6 p.m. Sunday. Say your goodbyes outside and move your laundry and any other items to your room on your own or with help from your buds. You will need to render proper greetings (not sound off) to upperclass cadets outside of the residence halls.

4Help will be available Sunday to assist with computer-set up, and you can also ask your cadre to help you with any issues with connecting to the internet/ethernet. Be sure to download Zoom to your cellphone prior to arrival, so you can access 4Helps breakout room for assistance with connecting to the internet or setting up your computer. Classes begin on Monday.