

Frequently Asked Questions about the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

To pursue a commission through AFROTC, students must be enrolled in the Corps of Cadets

How is Virginia Tech different from other schools with ROTC programs?

Tech is one of two senior military colleges located within a major state university. Texas A&M is the other! All cadets live a structured, military lifestyle where they benefit from progressive leadership training. Living in the Corps isn't for everyone, but those who stay value the camaraderie & pride of wearing the uniform and being part of a disciplined military organization. Unlike military academies, cadets can participate in a variety of dynamic, civilian organizations as part of their college experience! Virginia Tech and the Corps offer the best of both worlds!

The VTCC and AFROTC programs are managed separately and have their own chain-of-command, but events/activities complement one another to give student leaders maximum opportunities to learn and grow. ROTC at Virginia Tech has the same academic requirements as other colleges, but four years of practical experience living in a diverse and "joint-focused" environment ensure most cadets earn a leadership minor upon graduation.

A few other details about the Corps lifestyle:

- Cadets live in 1 of 3 cadet dorms near Shultz & Lane Halls in an area known as "Upper Quad."
- All dorms are co-ed. Cadets are *not* segregated by branch of service.
- All cadets must attend early morning physical training (PT) several times a week. PT schedule depends on military affiliation, but all begin at/around 0530.
- Cadets attend morning formation together. Once dismissed, they have all day to do their own thing.
- Freshmen have 2 mandatory evening meals a week: once with all freshmen, once with their company.

Am I obligated to serve in the military by joining the Corps and/or ROTC?

Cadets are not required to serve the military by being a member of the Corps, but 80% of cadets enrolled in the Corps/ROTC will commission after graduation. A percentage of "corps only" cadets cannot become officers due to medical disqualification, but they stay for outstanding career and scholarship opportunities. All cadets have equal opportunity for leadership & travel benefits through the Corps and ROTC programs. If an ROTC scholarship cadet loses interest in the military, he/she can voluntarily leave the program without penalty at the end of freshman year. After accepting payments for more than a year, recoupment or enlisted service may be required. This is determined on a case-by-case basis since every circumstance is different.

How many cadets are enrolled in the Corps?

Approximately 700-725. Recent enrollment for each ROTC is as follows: 160 cadets in the AF program, approx 180-200 in both the Army and Navy programs (latter includes 40-45 in the Marine Corps option), and another hundred or so classified as "Corps Only".

How many females are in the Corps?

Females comprise about 14-18% of the VTCC and have held every leadership position in the Corps to include the top position of regimental commander. The VTCC was one of the first military college to admit women to its program, even before the federal service academies.

When do cadets wear uniforms?

Freshmen cadets wear the uniform from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays. If the Corps has a mandatory weekend event, such as a football game, a uniform is required. Weekend uniform wear depends on the Corps and ROTC event calendar, which varies from semester to semester. All cadets attend classes in the Corps uniform of the day.

Who pays for uniforms?

Uniforms are rented on an annual basis from the university. The Department of Defense will reimburse ROTC cadets most/all uniform fees, as long as cadet stays enrolled for more than 60 days. The University pay uniform fees for "Corps Only" cadets if they remain for entire year. Plan to pay initial uniform costs when they are issued in August.

Can I play sports and be in the Corps?

Cadets are very talented and have many interests, but it can be difficult to be a competitive athlete & cadet at the same time. Freshmen are expected to focus on academics. A new cadet's first priority is to get organized and adapt to the Corps structure / lifestyle. Time is usually the greatest constraint; but, for those who have the time, the Corps and ROTC leadership works with cadets so they can pursue extracurricular interests, to include playing sports, if they need to be excused from mandatory events on a case-by-case basis. Review the cadet regulations for current policy on joining campus organizations or teams.

See photos & learn about the Corps' Spend the Night Program online! Visit: <http://www.vtcc.vt.edu/>