

## **Virginia Military Institute Academic Enhancements**

### Description:

VMI requests new recurring State general funds of \$256,000 beginning in FY 2026, to fund enhancements to the academic program that include (1) an additional faculty position to teach a three-credit hour course in Civics titled “American Constitutional History”, (2) funding for an Assistant Director position in the Office of Global Education, and (3) funding for the Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program.

The new Civics course covers the foundational development of the Constitution, followed with a rigorous reading of key amendments and Supreme Court rulings, to include those addressing slavery and civil rights. VMI is a college with more than 50 percent of each year’s graduating class accepting a commission to serve in one of the military branches. It is imperative for students to have a robust understanding of US history, the Constitution, and Civics. The goal is to have this class as a required course for all cadets.

The Assistant Director position in the Office of Global Education will serve as the lead for international support for F-1 and J-1 visa students and scholars with responsibilities as a Designated School Official and Alternate Responsible Officer. The position will advise international students on the maintenance of immigration status, maintain immigration records in compliance with federal law and regulations, plan and execute international student orientations, cultural programming, and a variety of presentations related to immigration and international student concerns

The Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program (SUEP) would consist of a five-week summer course adopted from the Experiential Entrepreneurship Curriculum (ExEC, <https://teachingentrepreneurship.org/exec/>). Completion of the proposed program will make cadets more competitive for internships as well as future employment. The requested funding would support approximately 12 cadets’ academic credit, room and board as well as the program costs – i.e., instructor salaries, instructional materials, invited speakers, and travel. This program is contingent upon funding, and successfully filling, the Innovation Director position.

### Consequences of not funding/Justification:

If not funded, VMI must pass these costs along to cadets and/or re-allocate funds from other programs resulting in some degradation of those programs.

### Alternatives considered (must list at least one):

There are no other alternatives to consider outside of not offering the Civics course and Entrepreneurship program, and continuing to operate the Office of Global Education at less than optimal staffing levels.

### Explanations and Methodologies:

Costs are based on actual and estimated salary/benefit costs.