

**STATE OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**  
**7 February 2025**

1. SACSCOC reaccreditation

- In our 2-year reaffirmation window
- Ad hoc Ideation committee to develop Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) ideas – report due mid-February 2025
- Spring 25 – Determine QEP, committee oversight and responsibility delegation matrix
- Spring 2025 – 31 March first draft of compliance certification reports due

2. Fall '24 AACSB and ABET reaccreditation

- AACSB – October team visit outcome
- ABET – November team visit outcome

3. Admissions (Academic) standards/criteria \*

4. Timing of awarding of merit scholarships

5. Fall 2024 academic highlights \*

6. Academic Board items under discussion

\* Denotes item has read-ahead materials

**Academic Record.** A college preparatory program comparable to the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Advanced Studies Program, or higher, is preferred. The applicant should present a secondary school record showing at least 16 academic units earned by the time of graduation. The 16 units must include **at least four in English, two in algebra, and one in geometry.** The distribution cited is desirable, but minor exceptions may be made if the record is otherwise sufficiently promising. Applicants interested in a STEM major requiring calculus in the first semester are strongly encouraged to complete pre-calculus prior to matriculation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	REQUIRED UNITS
English	4 units
Algebra	2 units
Geometry	1 unit
Advanced mathematics	1 unit
Social studies	3 units
Laboratory sciences	3 units
Foreign language (3 years of one, or two years of two each)	3-4 units
Electives	2 units
<b>TOTAL ACADEMIC UNITS</b>	<b>19-20 desirable</b>

Equally important is the quality of the applicant’s record as measured by grades, class rank, and the school’s evaluation of leadership and academic promise. VMI has not set rigid minimum requirements in these respects, but in general it is expected that the applicant will rank in the top half of the class with grades substantially above passing and that College Board and other test scores will be above average or better.

**Standardized Tests.** For 2024-2025, VMI remains test optional.

Applicants may submit SAT and/or ACT scores to the Institute, but are not required to do so. Applicants whose first language is not English are required to submit evidence of English proficiency to the Office of Admissions.

Applicants to the **Institute Honors Program** must submit SAT and/or ACT scores.

Information about the SAT or ACT may be obtained from the applicant’s high school guidance office. VMI’s code for the SAT is 5858. VMI’s code for the ACT is 4418.

**Essay.** Although an essay is not required, it is encouraged. The applicant may wish to submit a one-page essay on a topic of their choice or a graded essay from a high school class.

**Extracurricular Achievements.** Since the VMI cadet is being trained for leadership, extracurricular achievement indicative of leadership potential, physical and moral stamina, and adaptability to a disciplined environment are important, as are significant academic honors. A partial list of significant achievements would include membership in student government organizations, the National Honor Society, editorship of student publications, athletic awards, JROTC participation, significant civic or church work, and honors in such organizations as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Such achievements are not a substitute for academic qualifications, but they do represent an important supplement.

**Character Recommendations.** Satisfactory character and personality evaluations must be furnished by the secondary school or schools attended by the applicant unless precluded by school policy. One or two letters of recommendation may be helpful if written by persons who know the applicant well, especially if the writer's relationship to the applicant has been that of teacher, employer, or leader in some significant activity, or if the writer is a VMI alumnus.

**Interviews and Visits.** It is strongly recommended, though not required, that applicants visit VMI for an interview and a tour of the post. Both usually can be accomplished within a morning or afternoon. The Admissions Office will arrange for interviews and tours as far as possible to suit the convenience of the applicant, who should cite a preferred date when writing for an appointment. Preferred times Mon. - Fri. are 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Virtual interviews are also available upon request.



## Matriculation Agreement

Every cadet, upon matriculation, is required to sign the following pledge, which is binding upon the cadet from the day it is signed until all official connection with the Institute is severed:

"I hereby engage to serve as a cadet in the Virginia Military Institute for the term for which I have entered, and I promise, on my honor, while I continue to be a member of the Corps of Cadets, never to lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do. I will, to the best of my ability, discharge all of my duties as a cadet with regularity and fidelity, and I will obey all the legal orders and constituted authority of the Institute. I further affirm that I am an unmarried person; that I am not a parent; and that never, during the term of my cadetship, will I join or affiliate with any secret society, fraternity, or sorority."

## How and When to Apply

Applications can be submitted electronically at [www.vmi.edu](http://www.vmi.edu) through VMI's application platform or through the Common App. VMI does not charge an application Fee. New cadets, whether first time freshmen or transfers, are enrolled only at the beginning of each new session in August. The application and all required supplemental forms must be received between August 1 and February 1 for those applying for regular decision. Applicants should submit the following items:

1. The completed application form.
2. An official transcript of the high school record.
3. Secondary School Report Form.
4. Guidance Counselor/School Administrator Letter of Recommendation.
5. College Report Form (Transfer students only).



**ACADEMIC COURSE STRENGTH**

- 0 Does not meet Academic requirements for VMI
- 1-2 Meets only minimal academic requirements, several non college prep courses
- 3-4 Virginia Standard Diploma requirements, mostly college prep courses
- 5-6 Basic college prep curriculum, equivalent of Virginia Advanced Diploma, no/few Honors or AP Courses
- 7-8 Strong college prep curriculum with a number of AP, IB or Dual Enrollment Courses
- 9-10 Extremely strong curriculum with many Junior and Senior year AP, IB or Dual Enrollment Courses

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE** (Score should vary based upon strength of courses taken)

- 0 GPA <2.00
- 1-2 GPA ≥2.00-2.49
- 3-4 GPA 2.5-2.99
- 5-6 GPA 3.0-3.49
- 7-8 GPA 3.5-3.99
- 9-10 GPA +4.0

**ACADEMIC GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

- 0 GPA <2.20
- 2 GPA 2.20-2.49
- 4 GPA 2.50-2.99
- 6 GPA 3.00-3.49
- 8 GPA 3.50-3.79
- 10 GPA 3.80-4.00

**ATHLETICS/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

- 0 No Athletics
- 1 Minimal Athletic involvement
- 2 Above Average Athletic involvement
- 3 Extraordinary Athletic involvement

**EXTRACURRICULAR/LEADERSHIP**

- 0 No Extracurricular Activities/Leadership
- 1 Minimal Extracurricular Activities/Leadership
- 2 Above Average Extracurricular Activities/Leadership
- 3 Extraordinary Extracurricular Activities/Leadership

**RECOMMENDATIONS/ INTERVIEW RATING**

- 0 Below Average Recommendations/Interview
- 1 Average Recommendations/Interview
- 2 Above Average Recommendations/Interview
- 3 Extraordinary Recommendations/Interview

**DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN VMI**

- 0 No significant interest demonstrated
- 1 Minimal interest demonstrated
- 2 Above Average interest demonstrated

**STAFF CONSIDERATIONS** (Area Students, Out-of-State, Commissioning, Political Concerns, Engineering/Sciences etc)

- 0 No Special Consideration
- 1 Minimal Special Consideration Appropriate
- 2 Above average Consideration Appropriate
- 3 Exceptional Special Consideration Appropriate

APPLICATION EVALUATION FORM

<b>Name:</b>																					
Major #1:	Major #2:																				<b>Score</b>
ACADEMIC COURSE STRENGTH	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
GRADE POINT AVERAGE	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
CALCULATED GPA	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
ATHLETICS/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	0	1	2	3																	
EXTRACURRICULAR/LEADERSHIP	0	1	2	3																	
RECOMMENDATIONS/INTERVIEW RATING	0	1	2	3																	
INTEREST IN VMI	0	1	2																		
STAFF CONSIDERATIONS	0	1	2	3																	
<b>PROSPECT RATING</b>																				<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	
If Common App																					
An Applicant must have at least one of the following:																					
Personal Statement (1 paragraph)								Early/Regular	E	R											
Athelete Label								Private Visit	Y	N											
JLAB Academic/Leadership Label								Open House	Y	N											
ROTC Scholarship Recipient								NCR Function	Y	N											
Interview with Admissions								Interview	Y	N											
Visited on own/recruiting event								Band	Y	N										Instrument:	
LOR from Alumni								Calculus	Y	N											
Minimum Met:(2.5) YES ( ) NO ( )								Language Units													
GPA								Commissioning	Y	N											
Calculated Academic GPA								Branch			Army	AF/SF	MC	Navy/CG							
Class Rank								Scholarship Applications				ROTC	Merit								
								Personal Statement	Y	N											
HT:	WT:							Honors		AP			IB								

Evaluator: DRB

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Attachment  
**DRAFT**  
General Admissions Requirements

I. To be considered for admission to VMI for the fall semester of 2006 under the normal review process, applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. The applicant must have completed or is scheduled to complete Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry by the end of the 2005-06 academic year ending with the spring 2006 term.
2. Freshman applicants must achieve a minimum composite score of 1000 on the SAT or 21 on the ACT.
3. Freshman applicants must achieve or exceed scores of 450 on both the Critical Reading and Math portions of the SAT or 19 on the English and Math portions of the ACT.
4. Freshman applicants must have a cumulative high school reported grade point average of 2.50 or higher.
5. The applicant must demonstrate good character and have an acceptable disciplinary record.
6. Transfer applicants are considered on the basis of their entire academic record with less emphasis placed on the high school record as more college work is attempted. Transfer students must have a cumulative college grade point average of 2.80 on all college level work attempted following graduation from high school.

*Commissioning  
decision - ?*

Meeting these basic standards does not mean that the applicant will be offered an appointment, but rather they meet the minimum standard for review. The admissions decision is determined on the basis of a complete review of the student's application taking into consideration such things as the strength of the courses completed, standardized test scores, grade point average, extracurricular activities, motivation, domicile status, academic interest and the strength of the applicant pool for that particular year.

II. If an applicant does not meet the conditions outlined above (1-6) but appears to possess other superior talents or personal characteristics, or has other personal circumstances that would dictate special consideration, the applicant's record is reviewed by the Director of Admission who will make the final admissions decision. In some cases, the Director of Admissions will consult with the Chief of Staff before a final admissions decision is made.

Students normally offered appointments under this process are considered to be capable of academic success at VMI and can make an impact on the Institute in such areas as athletics, leadership, socio-economic diversity, public relations, etc. Admissions staff, coaches, faculty and others associated with VMI can request that this review be made on the student's behalf.




## James Squire

Jamison-Payne Professor of Electrical Engineering

**Virginia Military Institute**



James Squire is the Jamison-Payne Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). He was born in England, attended the United States Military Academy, and was awarded a Bronze Star as an Army officer during deployment in Desert Storm. Dr. Squire taught in an inner-city high school before earning his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has received numerous teaching, research and mentorship awards, including recognition as a Rising Star by SCHEV in 2004. VMI cadets elected him an honorary member of the Class of 2009. Dr. Squire is the first named inventor on eight patents, has published more than 50 papers and authored two textbooks. He is heavily involved with community service and currently volunteers as an EMT with the Lexington Fire Department.

[Nomination packet](#)



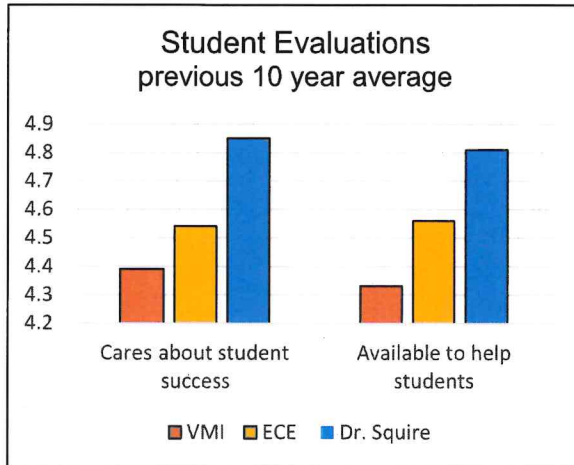
## Summary of Accomplishments

### Teaching

- Received Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award, Rising Star category, 2004
- Created YouTube channel for video lessons on electrical engineering
  - Over 350 videos since 2020
  - Over 19,000 views in 4 years. 25% US-based, remaining worldwide
- Advised student research project "Autonomous Tick Collecting Robot" for the International Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Circuits Society; first place for North America, third place in World, 2022
- Advised "High Power Rocket: Mars Rover" national competition; won third place in U.S., 2020
- Advised "Open Source Audiology Simulator"; won first place, undergraduate division, for the IEEE Southeastcon Annual Conference (1 of 6 regions in US), 2023
- Received VMI's Distinguished Teacher Award, 2003
- Received Faculty Mentor Award by VMI Corps of Cadets
- Selected by Corps of Cadets to be "Honorary Brother Rat" for the class of 2009; one of two professors selected from 2000-2024
- Rated in the highest block for teaching for each of the 25 years he has taught at VMI
- Advised student research project "Stent Deployment Pressure Sensing System", selected by International Electrical and Electronics Engineers as one of the top 6 papers in US, 2002
- His work with students has been filmed nationally and internationally ([links](#))
  - Worked with independent study students building seismic elephant communication system featured in Richard Hammond's "Miracles of Nature" (season 1, episode 2); Hammond's team flew the VMI team to Botswana for filming (see [IMDB](#) for details).
  - Worked with students to build equipment to recreate Benjamin Franklin's lightning kite flying experiment with Richard Hammond and Oxford Scientific films; team constructed 12 high power rockets trailing titanium wire and cryptographic control system. Students and Hammond flew the rockets on set in Miami.
  - Discovery Channel Canada featured his work with students designing a system his lab patented that allows miners trapped after a mine collapse to communicate wirelessly; show was broadcast in North America and Europe.
  - His independent study students constructed a robot that removes ticks from lawns which his lab patented. It was filmed by a local FOX affiliate and syndicated to stations across the US.



- His eclectic and inspirational teaching style is reflected in his licenses, including:
  - Federal High Explosives License (used as faculty founder of the VMI Rocketry Club)
  - High Power Rocketry Level 3 License (permits rockets with up to 1,100 lbs of thrust)
  - VDOT EVOC Level III Drivers License (permits driving of vehicles up to 40,000 lbs)
  - Highest Ham Radio License (amateur extra, callsign KV4WU)
  - Emergency Medical Technician's Licenses, both national and state



The VMI Office of Institutional Research collects student evaluations describing how much students feel that the faculty member cares about their success, and how available the faculty member is to help the student. Ratings are on a 1-5 scale and collected at the conclusion of every course. The most recent ten year average of these data comparing Dr. Squire to his Electrical & Computer Engineering department and to VMI as a whole is graphed.



LEXINGTON, Va., Dec. 5, 2024—Mattie Quesenberry Smith, Ph.D., instructor in the [Department of English, Rhetoric, and Humanistic Studies \(/academics/departments/erhs/\)](/academics/departments/erhs/) at Virginia Military Institute, was recently appointed the commonwealth's new poet laureate by Governor Glenn Youngkin.

A lifelong resident of Virginia, Smith grew up in Appalachia in humble surroundings. Though she went without many modern comforts, her childhood provided a rich tapestry of experiences from which to draw for her creative writing. Her father was a carpenter and her mother cared for the

family at home. The family spent many hours outdoors fishing, hunting and exploring the wilderness. Smith even acknowledged having relatives who were moonshiners.

The first of her family to go to college, she received her undergraduate degree from Hollins University where she double majored in biology and English literature. She continued her studies at Hollins, earning a master's degree in English literature and creative writing. "My intent was to write poetry because I was really interested in science and poetry. Poets represent different aspects of our worldview, which comes primarily from scientific awareness," said Smith.

Smith often gets inspiration for poetry from nature. She is particularly drawn to metamorphosis, a change of physical form like that of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, and fractals, geometric shapes with complex, repeating patterns, like seashells. She also collects things that stir her, like rocks. "And then there are things that haunt me that I write around. Once when my husband was outside raking leaves, he uncovered remnants of toys our children had played with when they were young. He brought them in and placed them on a windowsill. Seeing those little leavings was very emotional to me, and I wrote a collection of poems about them called, "Leaving October."

VMI cadets also inspire Smith. In her writing and rhetoric class, a cadet once challenged her to spontaneously write a haiku, a short, unrhymed Japanese poem of three lines with a five-seven-five syllable pattern. She responded quickly with "The Water Washes."

***The water washes stones.  
Smooth as time's sand-filled hour,  
everything glass sighs.***

Smith keeps a tall stack of notes on her desk. Each note holds a starting line of a poem. "If I don't write it down, there is no poem. As long as it's over there in the stack, I know a poem is in there."

Smith sees her appointment as poet laureate as an honor and a call to service. "I'd like to teach people in the community who are struggling with secure residency or food security how to unveil their own voices, and realize their experiences are important enough to write about. I also want to have readings to benefit the local food pantry." She hopes to have a series of workshops for cadets on post.

Col. Emily Miller, head of Smith's department, is thrilled with this appointment. "Mattie will bring the same dedication to that position that she shows every day in teaching our cadets. With her considerable talents, she



will be an excellent proponent of the power and beauty of poetry,” stated Miller.

Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85, superintendent, stated that Smith's recognition is well deserved and a testament to the quality of faculty cadets interact with every day. “Our cadets have benefited from Dr. Smith's creativity and expertise for many years. Now, the VMI community is proud to share her talents and passion for teaching with the rest of the commonwealth as poet laureate.”

Brig. Gen. Robert Moreschi, dean of the faculty and deputy superintendent for academics, agrees.

“Being named the commonwealth's poet laureate is a significant honor that recognizes Mattie's poetic talent. She is dedicated to her craft and to cadets, and all of us who know her are absolutely delighted at her appointment.”

Smith's poetry has appeared in many periodicals including Poetry X Hunger, The Timberline Review, and Phi Kappa Phi Forum Magazine. She has written screenplays with her husband and VMI peer, Douglas N. Smith. Their documentary film, “Between Two Fires” garnered a CINE Eagle and Best Documentary of the Show in the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded the film an Oscar for excellence in graduate student filmmaking.

Smith is currently working on a book of poetry titled, “Optics and Doubt.” The title comes from Christian visual images and spiritual experiences likened to light. “Spiritual words like halos and auras are optical phenomena. That is troubling to me, but delightful at the same time. That's what that collection is about,” she shared.

Three days after she took her oath as poet laureate in Richmond, Smith successfully defended her dissertation, and earned her doctorate from Virginia Tech.

Since 1988 the governor has appointed the honorary position of poet laureate of Virginia. Smith will serve a two-year term.

**Marianne Hause**

*Communications & Marketing*

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE