



21 REASONS TO CHOOSE VIRGINIA TECH ARMY ROTC



Dear Prospective Student,

As you consider the other colleges, other ROTC programs or a military academy appointment I want to share with you some benefits of joining the Virginia Tech Army ROTC program. Many of these reasons you are probably well aware of however I promise you there is at least one that you did not know.

- Cadets who are commissioned from Virginia Tech Army ROTC are all but **guaranteed** active duty. Last year 58% of all Army ROTC cadets (nationwide) received active duty however **100%** of those who requested active duty at Virginia Tech received an active duty commission.
- Training at Virginia Tech is very well resourced. Students are exposed to and utilize the latest equipment including machine guns, grenade launchers, Blackhawks, Night Vision Goggles. Much of the equipment utilized are upgrades to equipment currently used in active army units.
- Attend a major university; earn a challenging degree without completely giving up the university lifestyle. The university looks a lot like the 'real world', this is not an artificial military education/training environment and Virginia Tech cadets must interact with civilians just like U.S. Army Officers and Soldiers.
- Train at one of only six Senior Military Colleges- serve in leadership positions of increased responsibility; benefit from numerous training opportunities.
- Earn a Leadership Minor- Virginia Tech was the first university to offer such a degree and this was a natural fit due to the increased responsibilities cadets at Virginia Tech face compared to those who attend other universities.
- Virginia Tech has a strong scholarship program that results in the funding of hundreds of scholarships from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Association including the Emerging Leader Scholarship (ELS)
- Non-scholarship Army cadets earn commissions. Many high school prospects, Navy and Air Force Cadets feel that you must have a scholarship to earn an Army commission. This is not true however those who start with the program are twice as likely to earn a scholarship their sophomore or junior year compared to those who wait to join Army ROTC as a junior.
- Tradition- Virginia Tech boasts seven Medal of Honor winners. No other university has more.
- Virginia Tech Army graduates serving as Captains are selected to Major early (Below the Zone- BZ) at a rate twice the Army average.
- Alumni are encouraged and frequently return to share their experiences. The Army department maintains an alumni website and a wall honoring those alumni who served their country as a general officer.
- Virginia Tech Army cadets consistently outperform their peers at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) a 32-day summer training course held between the cadet's junior and senior year.
- Virginia Tech Army cadets have an increased number of opportunities to attend Airborne, Air Assault, Mountain Warfare, Robin Sage, CTLT and other optional training
- Virginia Tech is the only university who has a Special Forces Sergeant Major (SGM). The SGM teaches the freshman (MS Is). So join Army your first semester otherwise you will miss out on the exciting training planned. Navy and Air Force cadets are constantly switching to the Army ROTC program due to a drawdown of Air Force and Navy commissions, the lack of exciting/useful training and after learning more about the 17 career fields available to Army Officers.
- More students join Virginia Tech's Army ROTC program compared to the other ROTC programs offered at Virginia Tech
- Have the opportunity to participate on a Ranger Challenge team that takes on cadets from other universities in a variety of Army events.
- Opportunity to join dozens of cadet organizations to include the toughest cadet led Corps of Cadet organization, Ranger Company.
- The Ranger Company conducts rappel clinics, a 100 mile football spirit run, utilizes the university obstacle course and conducts tactical training using paintball and night vision goggles. Ranger Company also executes an annual rafting trip.
- If you want a Reserve or National Guard commission then this program can assist. Currently reserve forces officers are receiving bonuses and some are even receiving in-state tuition for committing to the Virginia Army National Guard.
- With guaranteed active duty there is no reason to worry about finding a civilian job upon graduation. This enables our cadets to focus on their degree requirements knowing that they have a guaranteed \$42,000/year job upon graduation.
- There are nearly 200 majors to choose from and if you decide to change your major you will not be asked to give up your scholarship (if you are on scholarship) or leave the program unlike other ROTC programs. The Army wants committed young men and women with all types of degrees but more importantly with the leadership skills to lead today's Soldiers.
- A guaranteed seat to every home football game. Not every student at Virginia Tech has this opportunity. Each cadet seat is valued at nearly \$1000 for the season.

