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Matriculation Preparation

Simone McKelvey

Although the class of 2011 has not yet graduated, preparations have already begun to welcome the Fall 2011 Rat Mass.

Once their VMI email accounts have been created, I will contact incoming cadets electronically with instructions for taking foreign language and/or mathematics placement tests.

Students who have taken two or more years of French, Spanish or German must take the test. The Mathematics test is required of **all** NAVY ROTC cadets and **all** cadets in the following majors: applied mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, engineering, psychology (B.S. degree only).

Foreign language placement tests should be completed by Wednesday, June 1st and the Mathematics placement test should be completed by Monday, June 20th.

Incoming cadets will be advised to contact the VMI Helpdesk if they have technical difficulty during testing.

Any person who has a disability and would like to request a testing accommodation will be directed to the Office of Disabilities Services.

In addition, letters were mailed on May 6th to make new cadets aware of the advising-related responsibilities which they will have during the 2011-2012 academic year. Rat Advising lunches and other year specific responsibilities were mentioned.

Important Note included in the letter:

There will be many demands on your time at VMI. It is imperative that you communicate legitimate conflicts of schedule prior to an activity to avoid unforeseen consequences.

Summer Advising

Department heads have provided the following information regarding advising contacts for the summer months. Current cadets have been apprised that advisors may need several days to respond to emails and/or phone messages.

Major	Advisor
Biology	Regular Advisor
Chemistry	Regular Advisor
Civil/Env. Engineering	CAPT Riester 1 st and 2 nd Session LTC Newhouse, MAJ Johnstone 2 nd Session
Economics & Business	COL Basu , LTC Cobb 1 st Session COL West 2 nd Session
Electrical/Computer Engineering	COL Addington COL Squire COL Smith
English & Fine Arts	COL Miller
History	COL Wilkinson COL Koons
International Studies	BG Brower 5/23-27, 6/15-7/1, 7/18-8/19 COL Hentz 5/16-20, 6/27-7/29, 8/8-19 MAJ Holston 5/16-6/3, 6/27-8/19 LTC Foster 6/27-8/19 MAJ Sanborn 5/16-6/24
Math & Computer Science	MAJ Cone
Mechanical Engineering	Regular Advisor
Modern Languages	COL Bulger-Barnett
Physics & Astronomy	LTC G. Topasna 1 st Session LTC Brooke 2 nd Session
Psychology/Philosophy	Regular Advisors 1 st Session LTC G. Sullivan 2 nd Session

Have a great Summer!

The Advisor

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Upcoming Events

February 9th

1100-1200, Scott Shipp 117

E-Advising training for ECBU and IS Advisors

Responding to Rats when they use the Student Educational Planning module

February 23rd

1100-1200, Shell Hall 302

Teaching cadets to understand their Program Evaluations

March 2nd

1100-1200, Shell Hall 302

The New Academic Regulations and how they impact advising

2014 Cadets should check the DTT schedule at

<http://www.vmi.edu/Academics.aspx?id=10151>

for remaining E-Advising training dates.

Learning Programs Make the Grade

Anna Crockett

Now that the semester is gearing up, with these first weeks likely setting the stage for performance later in the semester, I would like to share Fall 2010 data that supports the benefits of cadet participation in Learning Programs.

As you may be aware, some cadets believe that Learning Programs is a resource primarily for those who are struggling. We are working hard to correct this perception, since it often leads to reluctance to take action until grades and confidence have taken a costly hit. The important message is that Learning Programs can benefit all students who want to improve their level of success, ranging from avoiding academic suspension to earning a scholarship or academic honors. The S-2 staff is working with us to reinforce this information to the Corps.

The two tables, which follow, describe academic performance last semester for cadets who completed: 1) three or more individual conferences; and 2) the GRIT Seminar. Both tables make the case that not only do successful cadets participate in Learning Programs, but that cadets are much more likely to be successful if they start early rather than wait until they encounter difficulty. When emphasis is on damage control rather than positive skill development, frustration and discouragement are then additional complicating obstacles. Cadets have found that it is much easier to develop good habits and skills early in the semester and build on these than to break poor habits and change ineffective skills later.

Please consider sharing this information with your advisees and cadets in your classes. In addition, I would be happy to speak briefly to your cadets about our programs, or to offer a workshop to your class on a topic of your choice. Just let me know if you are interested in this or other areas in which I can support you and your cadets.

Table 1. Cadets who completed 3+ Learning Programs Conferences in Fall 2010

(Using the highlighted column as an example, among cadets who completed three or more conferences and earned a **2.0 or better**, **91%** began their conferences in **September**, compared to **42%** who began in **October**, and **31%** who began in **November**.)

Cadets Who Completed 3+ Learning Programs Conferences - Fall 2010							
Began conferences in	Fall 2010 GPA					1st Quarter GPA	Sem. GPA
	<1.5	2.0-2.4	2.5-2.9	3.0+	Total 2.0+		
September	8%	11%	27%	46%*	91%	2.68	2.74
October	21%	7%	14%	21%	42%	2.02	2.07
November	38%	23%	8%	0%	31%	1.76	1.28

*includes 41% who earned a 3.5+ GPA, and 18% who earned a 4.0 GPA.

Table 2. Air Force ROTC Scholarship Cadets who completed the GRIT Seminar in Fall 2010.

(Enrollment required by AFROTC to assist scholarship cadets in achieving the required 2.5 GPA)

GRIT Seminar - Fall 2010			
Quarterly GPAs for AFROTC Scholarship Cadets (Rats)			
1st GP	2nd GP	3rd GP	Final
2.42	2.49	2.55	2.9
Met required GPA		Earned 3.0 or higher GPA	
80%		40%	

The GRIT (Goal-setting, Responsibility, Initiative, and Tenacity) Seminar consists of small groups that meet weekly throughout the semester, starting in September. Activities focus on learning and applying skills ranging from time management and attitude choices to active learning strategies. At seminar meetings, participants share the highs and lows of the previous week and set goals for the coming week.

LTC Anna Crockett, Director of Learning Programs, crockettaz@vmi.edu

For your Consideration

Is Developmental Advising the best approach?

Should we use it at VMI?

Inside this Issue

1 New Name Same Purpose

2 Athletic Advising

Upcoming Events

November 10

1100-1200, Scott Shipp 501

Academic Regulations: The old and the new to avoid the blue

A look at the new regulations and the impact on cadets.

November 15

S2 Pre-Registration Workshop for Rats

1100-1215, Mallory Hall Lecture Room

November 17

1100-1200, Scott Shipp 117

E-Advising training

CE Faculty Advisors will receive training on assisting cadets through the use of the Student Educational Planning module of Post View.

Rats will be trained on November 22 and 29.

The Advisor

New Name

Same Purpose

Simone McKelvey

It has been a year of transitions since I came to VMI in August of 2009. The most recent change happened on September 1, 2010 when I moved out of Carroll Hall and into a new office and position in Shell. The physical move was in response to BG Schneiter's desire to make the already intuitive link between Advising and the Registrar's Office official. Effective immediately, I became the Associate Registrar for Advising Support and reported to LTC Battaglia. Although, I will learn and do more as a result of this new structure, my purpose has not changed.

Why am I here?

If I had to use one word to describe what I hope to be at VMI, it would be **Resource**. This takes several different forms in my day to day activities. I am the administrator of Academic Advising and am the point of contact for all aspects of the program. Providing development opportunities for all faculty advisors is another aspect of what I do.

My contact with cadets is, usually, limited to pre-Matriculation communication regarding placement test completion. This recently changed due to a new module in Post View.

E-Advising, as it is called, is a tool which allows students to create short and long term academic plans electronically. It also integrates the Program Evaluation and registration functions already being used.

Between September and March, I will meet with all Rats and help them to begin creating an educational plan. I will also meet with

their advisors to provide tips on navigating the program.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with faculty and others on post to strengthen the current VMI Academic Advising Program.

Athletic Advising

Stephen Ross

The VMI Athletic Academic Advising office tracks academic progress for over 400 NCAA athletes by monitoring and evaluating degree progress reports and transcripts each semester. We educate cadet athletes on NCAA and VMI academic progress rules and strive to implement long term plans that prevent any athletes from losing eligibility. We work closely with all coaching staffs and the NCAA compliance director to help ensure that VMI remains within the NCAA academic rules. The overall mission of the Office of Athletic Academic Advising is to ensure that VMI cadet athletes experience a balanced educational program, in which they excel athletically and academically, providing:

- Academic support for all NCAA athletes
- Mentoring, counseling and advising
- Grade review
- a liaison between you, the athletic director and team coaches
- Assistance in the recruitment of quality athletes
- Guidance and education of the many unique VMI and military traditions and opportunities

Please contact us if we can assist you.

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Elizabeth Igo, Athletic Academic Advisor, igoec@vmi.edu