

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 81)

28 September 2023

VMI Class Ring and Ring Figure Eligibility Policy

1. Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria and rules for wearing of the VMI ring and participation in Ring Figure events as a cadet. These actions are significant to the Corps and our alumni, and it is important that definitive rules be established and followed.
2. Scope: This policy applies not only to the Corps of Cadets but also to our alumni as well. Class agents and class officers are frequently asked questions in this area and having uniform criteria and guidance will assist them when these matters are raised. The Commandant of Cadets considers all appeals to receive a ring from members of classes that have yet to graduate. Likewise, the Alumni Agency considers requests from individuals who matriculated and graduated with classes that have graduated from the Institute.
3. Cadet Eligibility to Participate in Ring Figure and Wear a Class Ring: The criteria to be allowed to wear a class ring as a cadet and to participate in the fall Ring Figure Ball are as follows:
 - a. Must complete four full semesters at VMI and must be a registered, currently enrolled cadet. Study abroad or military service may count as a semester in attendance.
 - b. During the first semester of the second-class year, the cadet must be enrolled at VMI, or studying abroad on a VMI-sponsored program, or called to active duty during that semester;
 - c. Appeals or Requests for Exception: Cadets not meeting the above criteria may request an exception. Appeals may be granted in extraordinary situations such as cadets missing time from the Institute due to medical furlough or who were participating in religious mission trips. This must be presented to their Class General Committee, who will forward the request along with their recommendation to the Commandant of Cadets who will make the decision.
 - d. Dismissals: Cadets who have met the criteria and have been awarded a ring will receive the ring with the express understanding that a subsequent dismissal from VMI will result in their having to return the ring to VMI. The ring will be provided to the

agent who will consult with the VMI Alumni Association. The normal criteria for an alumnus to receive a class ring are as follows:

- a. Must have matriculated with that class and spent an entire Rat and fourth class year;
- b. Must have completed a total of four semesters enrolled as a cadet at VMI;

Cadet Eligibility to Participate in Ring Figure and to Wear the VMI Ring

Must complete four full semesters at VMI; study abroad or military service away from VMI may count as one of the semesters.

Must be at VMI, studying abroad, or called to active-duty 1st semester, 2nd Class Year to walk through the ring.

Special cases, such as military deployment, medical, or financial absences, will be reviewed by the Class General Committee, with recommendation to the Commandant for decision.

Representative to the Honor Court if a Cadet is dismissed for an Honor Code violation. A refund for the purchase price will be sent to the cadet.

The Commandant will make a recommendation to the Superintendent for all other dismissals.

Ring Award Policy

The criteria listed above must be fulfilled in order to be entitled as a cadet to wear a VMI ring.

Alumni who did not receive a ring must have been a cadet in good standing for four full semesters, include the entire Rat/Fourth Class year.

