

Call for Applications: Alumni Scholarship Awards Committee

The Alumni Scholarship Awards committee invites applications from VMI graduates and graduating cadets who intend to pursue graduate studies during the 2025-26 academic year. The *John E. Woodward (1923) Graduate Scholarship* is also open to VMI faculty.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate academic competence and provide evidence of acceptance into reputable graduate schools. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.20 is required for all applicants. For graduates transitioning from military service or professional careers into higher education, other indicators of superior performance will also be considered. Preference will be given to those who demonstrate a passion for an academic career and VMI's mission, as well as those with superior organizational, leadership, and communication skills.

These scholarships are made possible by the generosity of several benefactors and traditionally range between \$3,000 and \$17,500. Please see below for detailed descriptions of each scholarship and criteria for application.

Please apply here: [Application form for Graduate Scholarships by 15 March 2025](#).

Please contact COL Tinni Sen at sensb@vmi.edu with questions or to submit additional application materials.

I. Alfred Dickinson Barksdale (1911) Law Scholarship

Judge A.D. Barksdale, Class of 1911, graduated from the Institute at the age of 18. He served as president of his law class at the University of Virginia and as a U.S. District Court judge. During World War I, Judge Barksdale served in the U.S. Army in France, earning the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest award for gallantry in action. This scholarship provides financial assistance for graduate studies at an accredited law school.

Applications for the Alfred Dickinson Barksdale Law Scholarship must include the following:

1. The name(s) of the accredited law school(s) into which the applicant has been accepted,
2. A statement indicating whether the applicant intends to practice law after graduation,
3. A discussion of the personal goals that led the applicant to pursue a legal education.

While financial need is not the determining factor, among applicants of equal merit, preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need. Therefore, if applicable, please provide details regarding financial need.

This scholarship may be renewed upon the successful completion of each year of law school.

II. The Bowles Family Scholarship

Established in 1992 by Mr. and Mrs. Bowlman T. Bowles, Jr. in memory of Mrs. Bowles' parents, Margaret Keesee and Robert H. Fleshman, VMI Class of 1932, this scholarship provides fellowship awards to graduates of the VMI History or English Departments who wish to pursue law or graduate business school.

The selection criteria include financial need, a demonstrated desire to apply a law or graduate degree in practice, and evidence of academic improvement during the applicants' time at VMI. Preference may be given to cadets with the rank of Private who either held leadership positions in or actively participated in extracurricular activities or sports at VMI.

III. Major General Joseph G. Lynch (1969) and Patricia G. Lynch Graduate Scholarship

Established in 2019 by Major General Lynch, Class of 1969, *the Major General Joseph G. Lynch (1969) and Patricia G. Lynch Graduate Scholarship* provides need-based financial assistance to VMI graduates and graduating cadets who are pursuing a law degree and who have expressed a commitment to accept a commission in the US Armed Forces, have accepted such a commission, or who are on active duty, serving their initial service commitment.

Applications must include:

1. The name(s) of the accredited law school(s) into which the applicant has been accepted,
2. A statement confirming that that applicant is on active duty or is planning to commission into the U.S. Armed Forces,
3. A discussion of the personal goals that led the applicant to pursue a legal education.

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need, to applicants who are children of currently serving or retired service members, and to the children of service members who died on active duty.

This scholarship may be renewed upon the successful completion of each year of law school.

IV. William T. Wells, Sr. and William T. Wells, Jr. (1973) Graduate Scholarship in Engineering

The Williams T. Wells, Sr. and William T. Wells, Jr. (1973) Scholarship provides financial aid to an engineering graduate of VMI pursuing a graduate degree in engineering at Virginia Tech.

V. The James C. Wheat, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Established by James C. Wheat, Jr., Class of 1941, in memory of his father, this scholarship provides financial assistance for a Master of Business Administration degree or for advanced degrees in appropriate fields. For the latter, the scholarship is conditional on the candidate returning to the Institute to teach. Preference will be given to applicants accepted to the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

VI. John E. Woodward (1923) Graduate Scholarship

This scholarship was established by John E. Woodward 1923, a distinguished graduate and wrestling champion of VMI. Applications for the scholarship must include:

1. The name of the graduate school(s) into which the applicant has been accepted,
2. The program course of study into which the applicant has been accepted,
3. A discussion of the goals that led the applicant to choose this course of study.

VII. The Peay Fellows Program

The Peay Fellows Program has been established as part of the General J. H. Binford Peay III (1962) Endowment for Academic Excellence. It supports graduate studies for those aspiring to a career in academia. The program will fund two years of graduate level education.

Upon completion of a graduate degree, Peay Fellows may apply to be “Instructors in Residence” on the VMI faculty for up to two academic years, with full pay and benefits. Peay Fellows applying to be Instructors in Residence must submit a letter of recommendation from the relevant VMI department head. The letter of recommendation must address the appropriateness of the proposed degree program to a potential faculty position in their department, attest to the personal qualifications of the applicant, and confirm that upon completion of the applicant’s graduate program, the department would be willing to hire the applicant as an Instructor in Residence for up to two years. Letters should be sent directly to the Chair of Alumni Scholarships Award committee, COL Tinni Sen, sensb@vmi.edu, by the application deadline.