

# WEST POINT ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT



West Point  
**READY** 

READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.

The U.S. Military Academy is again rated as one of the nation's best undergraduate education institutions. The 2022 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges rankings places the U.S. Military Academy Number 2 in Top Public Liberal Arts Colleges and Number 11 in Best National Liberal Arts Colleges. In the Best Engineering Programs category, at engineering schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's, West Point ranks Number 4 overall, and ranks Number 5 for its civil engineering program in the Best in the Specialties category.

"This recognition reflects the U.S. Military Academy's commitment to preparing cadets for the intellectual rigors of leading in an ever evolving and complex world. Our academic program is the intellectual engine that drives innovation in the Army through applied research, cross-disciplinary work, and engagement. Our faculty and staff are dedicated instructors, mentors, scholars, and, most importantly, role models who work tirelessly to support our cadets in and out of the classroom."

—Brigadier General Shane Reeves '96, Dean of the Academic Board



The United States Military Academy. For many, these words conjure up ideas of 5 a.m. bugle calls, demanding calisthenics drills, and practice in battlefield formations and simulations. Dominant in this image is the idea that the Academy is providing, first and foremost, a physical education. West Point cadets and graduates would beg to differ.

Distinguishing the West Point tradition is the belief that the best soldiers are cultivated by training the body and the mind—that the best military education is always both physical and intellectual. For, as the 19th-century British Army Officer and writer Sir William Francis Butler knew, "A nation which makes great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools."

## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Intellectual training at West Point is underpinned by the belief that the best officers are created from a broad-based education. Cadets, regardless of academic concentration, split their 30 core courses evenly between humanistic and scientific endeavors. From this liberal learning comes officers well suited to approaching problems or questions from a variety of perspectives. Our rapidly changing world, with its forever-shifting political realities and near-daily scientific advances, requires these sorts of thinkers and leaders.

The West Point Academic Enrichment Program provides individual endowments for each of the Academy's 13 academic departments. These endowments will provide essential resources to sustain quality teaching, research, and outreach at West Point. They will help to increase the range of guest lecturers and lecture series, seminars and conferences, class trips, and research, as well as continue to provide cutting-edge technology. And importantly, they will provide the Academic Dean and department heads with the capacity and flexibility to respond to curricular and departmental needs, as well as to rapidly changing political, scientific, and technological realities with cutting-edge pedagogies.

In the 19th Century, Butler understood—just as we do at West Point today—that brute force is never enough for military prowess or success. Certainly, in numbers the United States military is the strongest in the world; but gauging the intellectual strength of our forces is always a trickier effort. And it is the intellectual questions of warfare—how officers and soldiers will interact with people and influence locals, how they will solve a problem and adapt in unknown circumstances—that so often determine ultimate success or failure. These are questions best answered by the well-trained mind.

## COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM

The goal is to arm cadets with intellectual tools to help our graduates think through conditions of complexity, uncertainty, and ambiguity. Academic Enrichment funding will enhance the programming departments can offer cadets. For example, departments host conferences that bring in renowned academics, journalists, practitioners, and policymakers to explore important issues facing the United States and the world. This combination of classroom and real-world exposure provides powerful learning opportunities. The Academy invites notable guest speakers with diverse backgrounds and from all walks of life who share different perspectives and ways of thinking about important issues and challenges. It synergistically leverages the activities to provide the best educational experience possible, which is critical to the holistic development of the future leaders of our Army.

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

What do you believe is the most important part of intellectual development? Maybe inspiration and dedication of a home department or a particular professor? Maybe an assistantship in a research center? Maybe an independent research project, motivated by a side interest picked up from another class? Maybe discussions with experts in the field?

No matter the exact place where intellectual development takes root, it grows within the intellectual vibrancy of West Point. Help us ensure that intellectual inquiry continues to thrive at West Point, wherever it occurs.

Acting with agility and speed to meet today's ever-changing realities and needs will make certain that West Point maintains its competitive edge and attracts the best and brightest cadets to the Academy for an unparalleled education.

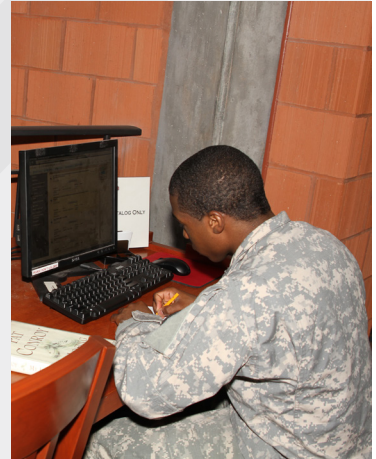




Photo: Lee Ross '73

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**GENEROUS GRADUATES AND FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY WHO SUPPORT THE WEST POINT ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM WILL TAKE PRIDE IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEIR GIFTS.**

Individual Department Endowments (13) ..... \$250,000

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|---|-------------------------------|
| Behavioral Sciences & Leadership          | History                       |
| Chemistry & Life Science                  | Law                           |
| Civil & Mechanical Engineering            | Mathematical Sciences         |
| Electrical Engineering & Computer Science | Physics & Nuclear Engineering |
| English & Philosophy                      | Social Sciences               |
| Foreign Languages                         | Systems Engineering           |
| Geography & Environmental Engineering     |                               |

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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*as of May 3, 2022*