

WEST POINT ACADEMY SCHOLARS





Advanced Individual Academic Development (AIAD) and Spring Break educational opportunities offer cadets a wide range of diverse experiences from cultural immersion opportunities in foreign countries, from first-hand explorations of historical or unique geographical sites to internships in other governmental agencies.

➤ Intellectual training at West Point is underpinned by the belief that the best officers are created from a broad-based education, which is heavily supported by the Academy Scholars Program. Cadets, regardless of academic concentration, must 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. But, we also know that much of what cadets learn from their education and studies will be applied outside of the classroom, long after their four years at West Point have come to an end. Indeed, knowing how to take what one has learned and apply that knowledge in unknown or changing circumstances is a skill required of any player in our increasingly interconnected world.

Yet bridging the classroom-“real world” divide is arguably more important for West Point cadets, who eventually will be called upon to make decisions and interpretations not just in their personal lives, but within the military structure, often while serving internationally and perhaps even in times of war or national crisis.

WEST POINT ACADEMY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Through the Academy Scholars Program, cadets understand that learning is not only a purely academic pursuit, but something experienced as well; something steeped in the classroom but given a fuller life outside the Academy gates. Moving outside the classroom, cadets learn unexpected things—about themselves and others—in unexpected ways.

West Point believes that cadets should have the chance to engage in these rewarding opportunities—and not simply for the personal experience, but because our Army and our world today demands this broader training.

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Kevin Gulino '11 came to know this firsthand as an Academy Scholar. As part of a group of four other cadets, Gulino traveled to the Krivolak Military Training Grounds in Macedonia with Colonel Wiley Thompson, Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, to participate in Svetlina 2009, an exercise designed to provide intensive, hands-on training for disaster relief operations in a simulated conflict environment. Fashioning themselves members of a fictitious non-governmental organization called International Humanitarian Action, the cadets trained on topics such as small-unit leadership, negotiations, advanced first aid, mass casualty management, mine awareness, convoy operations, base-camp logistics, over-water rescue, urban search and rescue, and cultural awareness.

While in Macedonia, the cadets also had the chance to live

with a host family, immersing themselves in the local culture, language, and customs. In addition to increasing their understanding of their host country, the cadets benefitted from a dual immersion experience—the culture of humanitarianism. “Military leaders are engaged with humanitarian organizations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas. Just as understanding the local customs and beliefs of the local populace can help military leaders plan more effectively, the same goes for understanding the beliefs, views, and operating principles of the humanitarian. Enhanced awareness of these organizations will help military organizations work more efficiently, effectively—accomplishing their mission and setting the conditions for a timely disengagement from the region,” said Thompson.

BACK TO CLASS

Overseas and domestic experiences can include academic study, leadership roles, community service, and research with foreign militaries and government agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The relationships cadets build and the understanding they gain from these experiences will grow the skill set needed as they become Army officers. All Academy Scholar Program experiences are designed to provide cadets with out-of-classroom opportunities that reinforce academic subjects. These programs provide invaluable opportunities for cadets to apply the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom to “real world” situations, and as a result they bring back that

expertise to their studies at West Point. Often a cadet’s senior capstone project is directly augmented or informed by an Academy Scholar experience.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

The Dean of the Academic Board’s strategic vision is to expand access to these opportunities — allowing every cadet to take advantage of at least one Academy Scholar experience over

the course of their career at West Point. Gifts to the Academy Scholars Program will support cadet scholarships and the administration thereof of these scholarships for both:

- Cultural Immersion Programs: comprehensive three-week cultural immersion in a foreign country
- Domestic Internships: programs at the U.S. Supreme Court, the House of Representatives, the Senate, the FBI, other government agencies, and corporations

FUNDING CLIMATE

Support for the Academy Scholars Program is provided by governmental appropriated funds and private gifts (individual, corporation, and foundation). Since government and Department of Defense budget cuts in Spring 2013, the consistent stream of appropriated funding has been in jeopardy. About 60 percent or \$700,000 was cut from the current academic year’s budget for this program. Cadets who participated in the Academy Scholars Program in 2012 was 1,067 and fell to 767 in 2013—a decline of 25.3 percent. The forecast is that this trend will continue.



Kevin Gulino '11 calls forward medical evacuation assets during an urban search and rescue exercise in the village of Mushanci in Macedonia. Teams used police search dogs to locate actual role-player victims buried beneath the rubble.



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

Funding & Recognition Opportunities

Academy Scholars Program Endowment (370 cadets)\$37 million

Cultural Immersion Opportunities

Individual Cadet Endowment\$175,000

Funding for one cadet for one year\$6,000

Domestic Internships

Individual Cadet Endowment\$100,000

Funding for one cadet for one year\$3,500

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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