

# Camden Military Academy

## Camden, South Carolina

**Type:** Boys' boarding college-preparatory military school

**Grades:** 7–12, PG

**Enrollment:** School total: 300

**Head of School:** COL. Eric Boland, Headmaster

### The School

While the Camden Military Academy tradition dates back to 1892, operations on the current campus began with the 1958–59 school year. The Academy combines the traditions of three institutions—Carlisle Military School, which operated in Bamberg, South Carolina, from 1892 to 1977; Camden Academy, which was located on the current campus from 1949 to 1957; and Camden Military Academy. Camden Military Academy, which was founded by Col. James F. Risher and his son, Col. Lanning P. Risher, has operated as a nonprofit tax-exempt institution since 1974 and is governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

Today, the Academy enjoys a capacity enrollment of 300 young men from around the United States and the world. The school's modern campus is located in historic Camden, South Carolina. The Academy is a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It holds membership in the National Association of Independent Schools, the Southern Association of Independent Schools, the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools, and the Association of Military Colleges and Schools in the United States. The Corps has been designated by the Department of the Army as a Junior Army ROTC Honor Unit with Distinction.

### Academic Program

Camden Military Academy enrolls young men in grades 7 through the postgraduate year. The academic program at the high school level (grades 9–12) is strictly college preparatory. All high school students must earn 24 units for graduation. These include 4 units of English; algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, plus a fourth math unit (pre-calculus and AP calculus are also available); three sciences (two of which must be lab sciences); 4 units of history; and 2 units of a modern foreign language (French, Latin and Spanish are offered). Students must also take a course in computer literacy and in JROTC. Additional units must be earned from approved academic electives.

The academic program is structured around a traditional class day, with all students taking six classes per day as well as JROTC. All class sections are small, with typically fewer than 15 students per class. Students are apprised of their academic progress every two weeks. Those students who earn less than a C for the two-week grading period in any class are required to attend a two-week tutorial period with their teacher. In addition, a

mandatory teacher-supervised study period is conducted four nights per week. All students are monitored, and assignments are checked. Students who maintain a B or better average may elect to study in the Cline Library. The library is available to other students during this time by faculty permission and is open daily to all students. The Academy encourages library use and has a full-time professional librarian available to assist in that usage.

Camden Military Academy high school students have the opportunity to earn credit in both high school and college while taking courses from the University of South Carolina in the Dual Enrollment Program. Dual credit courses carry an AP weight which is 1 credit for each semester and .5 high school credit for each semester. Both courses receive a 1point GPA for each credit.

- Economics 224
- English Language 101, 102
- Government and International Studies 201
- College Algebra and Business Calculus
- History 111, 112
- Mathematics 111, 122
- Psychology 101
- Sociology 101

For questions concerning prerequisites and fees, contact Dean of Students, LTC. John Heflin, at 803-432-6001 or email [academics@camdenmilitary.com](mailto:academics@camdenmilitary.com).

### Faculty and Advisers

Colonel Eric Boland was appointed Headmaster in 2003. He has been employed by the Academy for more than twenty years. He has served as an instructor, a Tactical Officer, and the Academy's athletic director. Col. Boland completed his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of South Carolina earning a B.A. in Philosophy and master's degrees in Secondary School Administration and Educational Leadership. He also holds an Educational Specialist Degree in School Administration from the University of S.C. as well as a Doctorate

Degree in Christian Counseling. Boland completed The Executive Leadership and Management Program from The Mendoza Business College at The University of Notre Dame in 2008.

Lt. Col. Pat Armstrong, a West Point graduate, is the Commandant of Cadets.

The faculty consists of 22 men and 4 women. Fifteen hold master's degrees and 11 hold bachelor's degrees.

### College Placement

Camden Military Academy has offered only a college-preparatory curriculum for many years. More than 95 percent of Camden graduates are accepted to four-year colleges and universities. All cadets are required to take the PSAT. The Academy provides students with the opportunity to take the SAT and ACT at each administration. All students are encouraged to take an SAT preparatory seminar that is offered twice each year. Students and parents work with college advisers to select the college or university best suited to each graduate. Among the colleges and universities that recent graduates have attended are The Citadel, Clemson, Emory & Henry, Georgia Tech, George Washington, Hillsdale, North Carolina State, Norwich, Ohio State, the United States Military Academy at West Point, Vanderbilt, Virginia Military Institute, Wake Forest, and the Universities of Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina.

### Student Body and Conduct

Camden currently operates at a capacity of 300 boarding boys in grade 7 through the postgraduate year. Students represent seventeen states and many other countries; however, most students are from the Southeast.

While Camden Military Academy is a military boarding school, its strength lies in its ability to work personally with each student, meet his needs, and help him realize his potential. Because all students are seven-day boarding boys, all live by the same rules and experience daily life in the same way. Students are usually housed 2 to a room in five companies. Each company is composed of 58 to 62 young men. Each company is supervised by an adult Tactical Officer who lives on the campus with his family. He serves as the counselor, mentor, encourager, and disciplinarian for each young man in his charge. He also serves as the communications liaison with the parents. These men bring a positive dimension to the Camden experience. Their background,

professional training, and personal commitment make them uniquely qualified to help one's son develop personally as well as academically. In addition, students benefit from being part of a cadet ranking structure. The organization gives each young man the opportunity to develop personal responsibility and leadership and management skills. All students are also required to participate in JROTC and attend religious services each Sunday.

### International Students

Each year, a limited number of applicants from outside the United States are admitted to the Academy. Prerequisites for admission include a reasonable command of the English language or attendance at the Academy's Summer Session prior to fall enrollment. To help international students transition into an English speaking environment, the Academy offers English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction.

In addition to the required admission documents (enrollment application and transcripts with English translation), international students must submit a financial certification to the Academy showing their parents' ability to pay the tuition.

Upon acceptance into the Academy, each international applicant will be provided with a Certificate of Enrollment (Immigration and Naturalization Service Form I-20). This form, along with the required financial certification, must be taken to the American Embassy or Consulate in the international applicant's country of origin in order to obtain a student visa (F-1) for entry into the United States.

Once the F-1 student visa is issued by the American Embassy or Consulate, the international student must use their passport and I-20 form together as entry documents when traveling to and from the United States. Passports and travel documents must be given to Academy officials for safeguarding immediately upon arrival at Camden Military Academy.

### Academic Facilities

The campus is composed of fourteen buildings. There are three academic buildings and the Cline Library dedicated to academic pursuits. Housed in these buildings are all classrooms, a computer lab, and a science lab. The Cline Library houses the school's 9,000-volume collection as well as periodicals and computer information services.

### Boarding and General Facilities

The Academy's 350-seat dining hall allows for family-style meals, and the entire cadet corps eats at one time. The modern infirmary, resident nurses, and school physician meet all cadet medical needs. The gym complex houses the gym, dressing rooms, and shower facilities for all athletic teams as well as the school's band room. Each of the cadet barracks features 2- or 3-man rooms that are air-conditioned and heated and individual combination door locks.

The Carlisle House serves as the center for cadet recreational time. The Carlisle House

amenities include a game room, a snack bar, a TV room, and a cadet lounge. On campus, there are three tennis courts, a swimming pool, three athletic fields, and a state-of-the-art track complex that features one of the nation's premier running tracks.

### Athletics

The Academy offers thirteen different sports: baseball, basketball, bowling, cross-country, drill team, football, golf, lacrosse, rifle team, soccer, tennis, track and field, and wrestling.

### Extracurricular Opportunities

The Academy offers a school band, Key Club, Boy Scout troop, Civil Air Patrol, FCA, and Honor Society. Cadets are also welcomed to participate in community and church-sponsored activities. In addition to these activities, the Academy offers weekly outings to area restaurants, movie theaters, and paintball. There are also trips to go white-water rafting and snow skiing and to other day and overnight activities.

### Daily Life

All students follow the same daily schedule. In addition to the academic day, there is drill three days per week, physical training, athletic practice, free time, and evening study period.

### Weekend Life

All weekends offer both structured activities as well as free time. Inspections, a Sunday Dress Parade, all meals, and Sunday church services are required of all students. Cadets may spend their free time Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon in the gym, the fully equipped weight room, the student center, or in their rooms. All cadets are permitted to bring personal items such as clothes, a TV, video games, and a stereo. Use of these items is strictly monitored and permitted only during a cadet's free time. High school cadets are also permitted to go into the town of Camden on weekend afternoons for shopping, a meal, or a movie. The Academy provides all transportation; students are not permitted vehicles. Day or overnight trips are also planned during the weekends that cadets are on campus. Cadets are granted furloughs (the opportunity to stay overnight away from the campus) based on several factors. Certain furloughs are given and others must be earned. Furloughs may be earned either through merits or academic performance. All cadets have the opportunities to earn furloughs. Those who maximize their opportunities may go home about once a month.

### Summer Programs

The Academy offers a summer academic program as well as a summer camp. Students should contact Casey Robinson, Director of Admissions, for summer program information.

### Costs and Financial Aid

The cost for a new student for the 2017-2018 school year is \$36,595. This includes tuition, uniforms and room and board. Activities for international students over all school holidays (except Christmas) are included.

### Admissions Information

All applicants are examined on an individual basis. Only young men who have demonstrated a desire to enroll and are capable of undertaking college-preparatory work will be considered. An on-campus interview is required of all applicants. A catalog and DVD are available from the Admissions Office. Camden Military Academy admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin. The Academy is a private, nonprofit educational institution with admission limited to young men.

### Application Timetable

Admission is offered on a rolling basis. Admission for the second semester is offered strictly on a space available basis. There is a \$100 nonrefundable application fee.

### Admissions Correspondence R.

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