



Department of Economics and Business

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Cadets interested in pursuing undergraduate research projects on supply chain management, operations research, or financial modeling can contact COL Barry Cobb at cobbbbr@vmi.edu. Projects can be organized as SURJ projects, departmental honors projects, or Institute honors projects, provided the cadet meets academic qualifications. Prior projects have included: 1) forecasting demand for health care services and budgeting health care labor costs, 2) determining optimal portfolios in employee retirement plans, and 3) developing inventory management models for companies with uncertain product demand.

MAJ Tim Murray invites cadets who interested in sports economics, labor economics, or health economics to set up a meeting with him. These topics can include:

- **Sports Economics:** Impact of sports on the economy, sports analytics, collective bargaining (unions), and salary cap management
- **Labor Economics:** Any kind of public policy evaluation related to the labor market including issues on wage discrimination based on race and gender; income/wealth inequality by education, race, and gender; minimum wage policies; retirement policies; tax policies; unions; and other state/federal/local government policies
- **Health Economics:** Any kind of public policy evaluation related to the health care industry including issues on Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drug policy, individual health insurance policies, and local government regulations (e.g., soda taxes, cigarette taxes) OR the impact of individual/societal behavioral changes or interventions on health outcomes including exercising, pollution, mental health, caffeine use, alcohol use, etc.

Any cadet interested in one of these topics (or related topic) should email MAJ Murray at murrayta@vmi.edu to set up a meeting to talk about research ideas and ways to pursue a research topic that interests you.