
The History of The Citadel

The name Citadel evokes images of military might and strength. Before its use as The Citadel Academy beginning in 1842, the site of the institution had been used for military purposes by both the state and federal governments dating back to colonial times.

As the economy of South Carolina diversified to include the cultivation of crops other than rice, a building was needed for the “inspection of tobacco.” It was on this site in downtown Charleston that such a building was built in 1790. On February 22, 1797, the two regiments of the city were reviewed by President George Washington near the “Tobacco Inspection” on what was later known as the Citadel Green, now known as Marion Square.

In December, 1822, the legislature passed “An Act to Establish a Competent Force as a Municipal Guard for the Protection of the City of Charleston and Vicinity.” Marion Square was selected for an arsenal and guard house and in 1829, the building which was to be known as the Citadel was completed. The state and city authorities requested that it be garrisoned by United States troops from Fort Moultrie. The Nullification Crises of 1832 and the growing schism between North and South caused the state to request the withdrawal of United States troops in 1832, and the facility was garrisoned by South Carolina troops for the next ten years.

In 1910, the college’s name was officially changed from The South Carolina Military Academy to The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. This change was necessary to reflect the academic nature of the institution. The word “Academy” had come to indicate a high school instead of a college and it presented an incorrect perception of The Citadel, which is an institution of higher learning.

The Citadel had outgrown its campus on Marion Square, despite numerous building additions, and could accommodate only 325 students. In 1918, the City of Charleston gave the State of South Carolina a magnificent site on the banks of the Ashley River for a greater Citadel. On October 21, 1922, the cadets returned to a new campus which consisted of a barracks (now known as Padgett-Thomas Barracks), an infirmary, two wings of Bond Hall, and other auxiliary buildings. The eighty years on Marion Square had come to an end.

The academic program was expanded in 1966 to include a coeducational undergraduate evening program. Although bachelor’s degrees were not granted through this program, it was one of the first instances of women learning in Citadel classrooms. Hours earned here were usually credited towards undergraduate degrees in other institutions. Two years later The Citadel began granting bachelor’s and master’s degrees through an evening program. The program grew until 1994, when The Citadel Board of Visitors approved the foundation of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS). The name was changed in 2007 to The Citadel Graduate College (CGC). A coeducational institution from its conception, the CGC is now a mainstay of The Citadel’s academic environment.

The Citadel has established a niche as a small public “teaching” college. This refers to The Citadel’s emphasis on in-classroom instruction. While many Citadel faculty members have distinguished themselves through upper-level scholarly research, their focus remains on teaching and challenging their students. Unlike many larger colleges and universities, professors, not graduate assistants or doctoral candidates, conduct classroom instruction. Also, The Citadel’s policy of mandatory class attendance means that cadets will get more hours of classroom instruction than their civilian college counterparts.

SUPERINTENDANTS/PRESIDENTS OF THE CITADEL

Rank	Name	Branch	Years
Captain	William F. Graham	USA	1843-1844
Major	Richard W. Colcock	USA	1844-1852
Major	Francis W. Capers	SCM	1852-1859
Major	Peter F. Stevens	SCM	1859-1861
Major	James B. White	SCM	1861-1865
Colonel	John P. Thomas	CSA	1882-1885
Brigadier General	George D. Johnston	CSA	1885-1890
Colonel	Asbury Coward	CSA	1890-1908
Colonel	Oliver J. Bond	SCM	1908-1931
General	Charles P. Summerall	USA, Ret	1931-1953
Colonel	Louis S. LeTellier	SCM	1953-1954 (Acting)
General	Mark W. Clark	USA, Ret	1954-1965
General	Hugh P. Harris	USA, Ret	1965-1970
Major General	James W. Duckett	SCM	1970-1974
Lieutenant General	George M. Seignious	USA, Ret	1974-1979
Vice Admiral	James B. Stockdale	USN, Ret	1979-1980
Major General	James A. Grimsley, Jr.	USA, Ret	1980-1989
Lieutenant General	Claudius E. Watts III	USAF, Ret	1989-1996
Brigadier General	Roger C. Poole	USAR, Ret	1996-1997 (Interim)
Major General	John S. Grinalds	USMC, Ret	1997-2005
Brigadier General	Roger C. Poole	USAR, Ret	2005-2006 (Interim)
Lieutenant General	John W. Rosa	USAF, Ret	2006-