Steps to Financial Aid

SUCCESS

1) APPLY
Apply for your FSAID (fsaid.ed.gov). Your FSAID is your electronic signature in the federal student aid process. Most cadets will need a FSAID in their name and also one in a parent’s name.

2) COMPLETE
Complete the FAFSA online (fafsa.ed.gov). Use the IRS Data Retrieval to transfer tax information into the FAFSA if possible. Be sure to include The Citadel’s school code (003423) on your application – this will ensure your application is automatically sent to the school.

3) VERIFY
The Department of Education will send you an email once your FAFSA has been processed. Check your Student Aid Report for accuracy and any issues that may need resolved.

4) AWARD
Check the status of your application inside The Citadel’s portal called Lesesne Gateway. Complete outstanding requirements and accept/decline financial aid offers as appropriate.
CITADEL SCHOLARSHIPS
Incoming freshman cadets are automatically considered for Citadel scholarships based on their application for admission. The Citadel does not have a separate scholarship application for incoming cadets.

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS
www.che.sc.gov
S.C. HOPE and LIFE state scholarships are available to qualifying in-state students.

S.C. Palmetto Fellows scholarships are available to qualifying in-state students and can only be earned during high school. Contact your high school guidance counselor for details and an application.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS
Private scholarships from outside sources (e.g., local clubs, businesses, organizations) should be pursued. Guidance counselors and the local library are great resources for discovering free funding options.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS
ROTC Scholarships are offered by Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy. Each branch has its own criteria and application process. In June, before the senior year begins, high school seniors should start the ROTC application process online directly with their military branch of interest. Once enrolled at The Citadel, cadets may apply for a two or three-year scholarship. These scholarships pay tuition costs, but do not cover room and board, books, supplies, or the OneCard Restricted Account.

GRANTS
A grant is a gift given on the basis of financial need and is not repaid. Federal, state, and institutional grants are available to students who qualify.

WORK-STUDY
Work-Study is a federal program in which students earn money while enrolled in school to help offset education expenses. First-year cadets are not eligible due to the various knob-year obligations.

FEDERAL LOANS
Federal loans accrue interest and must be repaid. These loans are available to all students, but applicants must file their annual FAFSA. Parents of dependent students can apply for the Parent PLUS loan at studentloans.gov.

ALTERNATIVE LOANS
Private educational loans or alternative loans are available through many different lenders. Follow the “FASTChoice” link at the bottom of the WELCOME page at citadel.edu/finaid for a comparative analysis of popular alternative loan options.

S.C. TEACHER LOAN PROGRAM
This program was established by the state of South Carolina to encourage talented and qualified students to enter the teaching profession. scstudentloan.org

VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS
Veterans, service members, or their eligible dependents, may qualify for educational benefits through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, state funding, or private sources. Contact: (843) 953-9824, VA_BENEFITS@citadel.edu

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
fafsa.ed.gov
The FAFSA application opens up every year on October 1st at fafsa.ed.gov.

To receive federal assistance, students are required to complete the FAFSA each year. The FAFSA is used to administer federal grants, loans, and Work-Study programs.

The FAFSA is also used to determine eligibility for several state-level and Citadel grants and scholarships. This is why it is recommended that every student complete the FAFSA online each year.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS: The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships will send email notifications to the email account you enter on the FAFSA starting in November through early summer. Check your account often, follow directions, and provide documents to our office. Failure to comply with requests may delay your loan, grant, and scholarship payments.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS
1) Track the status of your FAFSA and financial aid award by logging into Lesesne Gateway often.
2) Meet all of your requirements early.
3) Supply additional information, if asked.
4) Communicate any questions or concerns to The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships.