

Freshmen

Congratulations Parents and Families for making it through your freshmen year . . . well almost! We know you are proud of your Cadet's accomplishments. The Citadel's 4th Class System is tough and they did it! A word of warning: *Spring brings a great deal of distractions*, so tell your Cadet to remain focused on their classes through the end of the year. To help you with that conversation, here are a few topics we hope you will address while they are home for Spring Break:

1. Academics. Your Cadet should have a good understanding of how they will finish the semester academically. They should also be able to tell you what they believe their Academic Classification will be at the beginning of the Fall Semester.
 - Remember class standing is based on credit hours and key to their ability to participate in various activities and receive certain privileges.
 - For some Freshmen their GPA is not what they had hoped, so they have some work to do. *The key for them is to meet with their Academic Advisor* and come up with a plan for success. Part of that plan could involve Maymester or one/both sessions of Summer School.
 - If your Cadet appears to be struggling academically, encourage them to visit the Academic Support Center. It is a great resource for all Cadets, but **they** have to make the decision to go.

This is also a good time to start the conversation of when would be a good time to study abroad.

- A successful experience takes planning and collaboration between the Cadet, their Academic Advisor and the Director of Study Abroad Programs.
 - If your Cadet has not thought about the possibility of studying abroad, encourage them to meet with the staff in the Study Abroad Office, then with their advisor to determine the right time and what other courses they may need to take.
2. Building the Resume. It's not too soon to be thinking about what they would like to do after their graduation. This is a great time for them because the windows are wide open to different career paths.
 - Successful Cadets have taken advantage of each summer to narrow their career fields of interest. Internships are a great way to do this. Internships provide the Cadet a deeper knowledge of a career field, supports their resume and provides potential recommendations. Finally, a large number of Seniors receive job offers as a result of their internship experiences.

- If they are interested or not sure, encourage your Cadet to visit the [Career Center](#) where they can learn more.
3. Leadership. Your Cadet should know what rank they will have next year. Regardless if your Cadet has a formal leadership position or not, they will be leaders.
- Privates have a great deal of influence on their company's performance because next year's Freshmen will be looking to them for the acceptable standard.
 - Between now and the end of classes your Cadet will be attending the Commandant's Leadership Academy. We hope part of your conversations will be to ask them what they learned and how they see themselves leading the Corps next year.
 - We hope you will reinforce what we are teaching them with examples from your own life experiences.
1. Physical Fitness. The Corps completed their [Physical Fitness Assessment](#) the week prior to Spring Break. Ask them how they did.
- If they did well, ask them how they plan to stay in shape over the summer.
 - For those who were close or did not pass, ask them what their plan is to improve over the summer.
 - Remember, participation in various activities requires proficient performance across the Leadership Pillars – Academics, Military, Moral/Ethical and Physical Fitness.
 - We encourage you and your Cadet to discuss where they believe they stand in each area and the ramifications when they don't meet the standards.
2. Key Dates:
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| Class of 2021 Reports: | 12 August 2017 |
| Upperclass Cadets Report: | 20 August 2017 |
| Parents' Day Weekend: | 6-8 October 2017 |
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| Commencement <u>Class of 2020</u> | 9 May <u>2020</u> |

We hope you and your families have a wonderful summer, and look forward to welcoming you back for your Cadet's Sophomore Year! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at parents@citadel.edu.