

Sophomores

Congratulations for making it through Sophomore year . . . almost! 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. Academic Classification. 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 receiving privileges and participation in select groups on campus like the Sword Arch and Summerall Guards.
 - If they believe they are going to be close or would like to strategically get ahead, you may want to advise them to take some courses during Maymester and/or the two Summer School sessions. Many of the courses are online and can be taken wherever they are this summer.
 - If they aren't sure or you think they should take some courses, encourage them to talk this through with their Academic Advisor. Registration for fall classes begins the week after they return and all cadets are required to meet with their faculty advisor prior to scheduling those classes. Several times during the year, Cadets are directed to pull a "Degree Evaluation" from Lesesne Gateway to ensure they are on track to qualify for graduation. They can also do this from home, so ask them to show you the latest report.
 - If they don't have it or is out of date, get them to pull the report and explain it to you.
 - If they aren't sure or you don't agree with their interpretation, encourage them to see their Academic Advisor as soon as they return to campus.

Bottom-line: there should be no questions about their academic standing when they return to campus in August.

2. Post-Graduation. It's not too soon for your Cadet to think about what they would like to do after graduation. This is a great time for them because the windows are still open to different options.
 - This summer encourage them to take advantage of opportunities that will help narrow their focus so they can further refine their ideas during their Junior year.
 - Internships are a great tool for your Cadet to explore different career fields of interest. They are also a great for way businesses get to know your Cadet which, in many cases, results in job offers during their Senior year.

- If they are interested in doing an internship or would like to learn more about the services available to them, guide them towards the [Career Center](#).

3. Leadership. Your Cadet should know what rank they will have next year.

- Regardless if they will have a formal leadership position or not, they will be leaders.
- Privates have a great deal of influence on how their company performs because those in the lower classes look 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 share examples from your own life experiences that reinforce what we are teaching them.

4. 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.

5. Key Dates:

Class of 2021 Reports:	12 August 2017
Upperclass Cadets Report:	20 August 2017
Parents' Day Weekend:	6-8 October 2017

Commencement Class of 2019 4 May 2019

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