

Abby Giordano | Program Coordinator

About

Abby holds bachelors and master's degrees in English and is currently pursuing her doctorate in Education at the College of Charleston. Abby has been involved with The Citadel since 2021, when she worked in the Student Success Center as a writing tutor, before transitioning to the School of Engineering as a full-time program coordinator in 2023.

In her position, Abby is passionate about enhancing the experience of all engineering students at The Citadel. Through a student-oriented approach, she has lead initiatives such as weekly engineering study halls, evening student socials, and weekly lunch and learns.

Outside of work, Abby enjoys reading, watching Kdramas, and caring for her two cats, Squint and Etain.

Advising Philosophy

"Meeting the students where they are is one of the key points of my advising philosophy. No two students are exactly the same, and it is important to engage with students with a method that is most suited for them. That is why I find it important to communicate with a student to find out what practices in advising work best for them; this may mean that one student requires a direct approach with consistent support, while another student may require a more hands-off approach. Once we are able to determine what is the most appropriate approach, I adapt my processes to best help them reach their goals.

Advising with Empathy is incredibly important when working with students. College is hard! The uniqueness of The Citadel's campus environment adds further complexity to our students' lives. It is important to be aware of what responsibilities, life commitments, and stressors they are enduring so that each advising session or interaction can be more effective. Students are much more receptive to advice we share when they feel like their experiences and feelings are acknowledged.

Encouraging independence is the final cornerstone of my advising philosophy. Students need support throughout college, but with the understanding that they will one day use the knowledge gained from that support to find their own way in the world, whether that be in their professional or personal life. Within the field of advising, it is important to me that students can seek support when needed and know that it is there for them should they stumble, but it is just as important that they understand when it is time for them to take charge."



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