

# Nathan A. Stillings, M.Ed. | Student Success Advisor

## *About*

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Nathan Stillings is a dedicated Student Success Advisor in the Office of Student Affairs at The Citadel, where he supports students in navigating college life and achieving their academic and personal goals. As a first-generation college student, Nathan is passionate about meeting students where they are, helping them feel seen and supported, and guiding them through the challenges and opportunities of higher education. Originally from New Jersey, he began his academic journey at Sussex County Community College before transferring to Slippery Rock University in Western Pennsylvania, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Hospitality, Event Management, and Tourism. After graduating in 2020 during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, he spent several years working outside higher education before realizing his calling to support students. This led him to pursue a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where he also worked in Admissions and Financial Aid. In 2025, Nathan relocated to the greater Charleston, South Carolina area and joined The Citadel. He brings warmth, personal experience, and a student-centered approach to his advising, and is committed to walking alongside students from all backgrounds as they work toward their own definitions of success.

## *Advising Philosophy*

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"As an advisor, I believe I am fulfilling a calling—serving God by serving students, so they may go on to serve our nation and the world with character, purpose, and conviction. My role is not simply administrative or academic; it is deeply relational and rooted in the belief that every student, regardless of background, belief, or life journey, carries intrinsic value, potential, and purpose.

I am passionate about walking alongside students as they pursue growth—academically, professionally, and personally. Whether they arrive with confidence or uncertainty, my goal is to ensure that every student who enters my office leaves feeling seen, heard, and supported. I aim to create a space where students know they matter—not just for what they achieve, but for who they are.

Advising is a shared responsibility. As an advisor, it is my duty to listen actively, guide intentionally, and provide resources and insight that empower students to make informed decisions. I am here to help them discover their strengths, navigate challenges, and clarify their goals. I commit to staying current in my field, reflecting regularly on my practice, and continually growing in empathy, cultural awareness, and advising strategies so I can serve students better.

At the same time, students have a responsibility to take ownership of their journey. I expect them to come with openness, engage in meaningful dialogue, and take action on the plans we co-create. Growth cannot be forced—it must be chosen. My role is to encourage and equip; their role is to step forward.

I will know I have been successful as an advisor not merely when students graduate, but when they leave empowered, resilient, and confident in their path. Success is seeing a student light up with clarity after a hard conversation. It's watching them overcome doubt, find direction and go on to lead with integrity. Ultimately, it's knowing that I helped plant seeds—whether seen or unseen—that will bear fruit in their lives and in the communities, they will serve one day. "