

Seniors Parents and Families!

Congratulations . . .you are almost there! We know how proud you are of your cadet's accomplishments and excited you are about [Commencement](#) this May. You should be because you've earned it! If you haven't had a chance to review the schedule or order your invitations for Graduation, you can find the information by clicking on the [Commencement 2023 website](#).

To make sure Commencement happens as you hope, please take time over Spring Break to have a few conversations with your cadet that include the following subjects:

1. Remind your cadet that they are a cadet until they throw their hats in the air at Commencement! One of the worst experiences of my life was having to tell a family on the Friday morning before Saturday's graduation that their cadet was not going to graduate because they had violated the cadet regulations. It happens, but ask your cadet to make sure it doesn't happen to them . . .and you!
2. Academics. Here are four Graduation questions you should ask your cadet. If they answer no, or give you a confused look, make sure they do them as soon as they return to campus.
 - Are you on track to pass this semester's courses? Midterms will post this Friday (March 10th).
 - Have you applied for graduation with the Registrar's Office? This should have been done last semester.
 - Have you reviewed your *Degree Works* report this semester? Does it agree with the Registrar's assessment that you are on track to graduate? If not, stop by and discuss it with the Registrar.
 - Have you let the Registrar's Office know if you will have a Legacy member of your family (*parent or grandparent who is a Citadel graduate*) present your diploma?

Bottom-line: No surprises before Graduation!

3. Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) – their last PFA will be at the beginning of April. Remind them how important being physically fit is to leaders. . . .and to parents planning to attend Commencement on the 6th of May! Encourage them to take this last one seriously.
4. The Next Step. Hopefully your cadet has or is close to receiving an offer for employment, preparing for their commissioning or being accepted for post-graduate work.

- If they haven't, then encourage them to go speak to our counselors at the [Career Center](#) when they return from Spring Break.
 - The employees in the [Career Center](#) take great pride in helping our Cadets. . .and Alumni!
5. [Alumni Association Life Membership](#). Because of the strong bonds that develop at The Citadel, your cadet will become a member of the Citadel Alumni Association at some point in their lives. If you or someone in your family wants to give a gift they will use, we recommend giving a Life Membership now while it can be purchased at a discounted price. You can find out more by visiting the [Citadel Alumni Association's website](#).
 6. Finally, we hope you will have a conversation with your cadet about the importance of supporting their college financially after the graduate. Although they have given much, The Citadel has also given and will continue to support them after they leave. Developing a habit of giving early after graduation, even if a small amount, makes it easier to give over their lifetime. Encourage them to reach out to [The Citadel Foundation](#) to find out the best way to give.

We wish you a sincere congratulations on *your* four-year Citadel career and hope you have a wonderful Commencement Week!

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at parents@citadel.edu.