

***Tips for Incoming Freshmen
From the Class of 2014***

The Fourth-Class System:

1. **Remember that there is a reason** behind most things.
2. **Don't worry** about becoming a knob—take one day at a time.
3. **Learn** the *Guidon* BEFORE you get here. It is online, so read it, or buy a copy.
4. **Keep** your sense of humor—don't take this stuff personally.
5. **Remember** that no one says they love being a knob, but stay with it because the experience will make you a better person.
6. **If you** already know how to do something (military stuff), you might want to keep that information to yourself. You want to blend in, not stand out.
7. **Remember** that you are not alone—there are 700 knobs going through the same thing.
8. **You will** be respected if you always try your best.
9. **Tackle** one day at a time.
10. **Nothing** lasts forever.
11. **Act** like a knob at all times even when no one is watching.
12. **The Citadel is a different** experience than what your hometown buddies are experiencing, so soak it all up and hold on until you can recharge your batteries over leave.
13. **Your classmates** are your best friends—confide in them, trust them.
14. **Patience** will serve you well.
15. **If you have trouble** in a class, get help immediately—don't wait!
16. **If you know something** is not right, speak up,
17. **Listen** to *what* they say, not *how* they say it.
18. **Get** into a routine as fast as possible. It is difficult to catch up, once you get behind. Be prepared!

Academics:

19. **Be careful** not to join too many organizations because they can rob you of valuable study time. Concentrate on your grades, first.
20. **Learn how** to study because the way you studied in high school may not work at The Citadel. Don't just read the material, highlight, underline important details, re-copy your notes, and review, often.
21. **Use binders** for your classes with dividers; spiral notebooks don't work nearly as well. Organize yourself the night before each day because you may not have time after breakfast.
22. **Limit your time** on the computer to, at the most, 30 minutes a day. Face Book will kill you! You are here for an education, so spend your time studying!
23. **Focus** on your grades; good grades are your ticket to privileges!
24. **Get** a calendar and put all of your tests, papers, exams, quizzes, and special events on it.
25. **Do NOT** wait until the last minute to do your schoolwork; you never seem to have enough time.
26. **Use** your free time wisely: do your homework and studying during the day when you are awake, and shine right before you go to bed—no more than 30 minutes.

Life in the Barracks:

27. **Make an effort** to get close to the knobs in your Company because they are the ones who will support you throughout the year.
28. **Make sure** that you bring EVERYTHING on the list (iron and snacks, for example). I didn't and regretted it.
29. **Find** something to take your mind off of school like a fantasy football team, a good book, or something (not more than the 30 minutes per day). Join a club on campus; do something to break the monotony. Don't stay in your room every weekend. Go out with your classmates.

Military Life:

30. **PT** as much as possible during the summer to be ready for the heat of Charleston and the runs. Run some stairs, run some bleachers, and run long distances to be physically ready. Do pushups and sit ups as often as possible.
31. **If you have trouble** shining, ask someone—don't waste time.
32. **Buy** your military shoes in the summer (Get the expensive ones; they seem to be better.) and spend time walking in them to break them in.
33. **Bring** extra sand paper for your brass and plenty of Blue Magic.