Corps SQUAD Program
(Athletic Academic Services)

The Corps SQUAD Program or CSP is an Academic Support Program for cadet student athletes administered by the Citadel’s Academic Support Center. The goal of the program is to “Support Quality Academic Development” in Citadel student athletes. The program aims to ensure that cadet student athletes have equal access to the academic support services provided to all cadets by providing a greater degree of flexibility in those services to accommodate the time commitments and schedules of student athletes. The program also focuses on addressing as well as providing support for those academic issues unique to the cadet student athlete population.

I. Corps SQUAD Program for Incoming Freshmen

The Freshmen Corps SQUAD Program consists of a weekly individual half-hour academic counseling appointment with a learning specialist, a twice-weekly evening study hall, and additional subject-specific tutoring appointments as needed. The focus of the academic counseling and learning strategies appointments is two-fold. First, they focus on helping incoming freshman student athletes with transitional issues like planning and organization. Organization and planning are particularly important for student athletes because of their team travel commitments. Second, these weekly appointments also function as an early warning system. By getting regular weekly feedback from the student athlete, his or her learning specialist can identify and address academic problems quickly. For example, as an issue arises, the learning specialist can place the student athlete in subject specific tutoring and/or communicate with the student athlete’s coaches to address it immediately. The program’s study halls are on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the fall semester and are 1½ hours long. During these study halls, students have access to the range of tutoring services in the Academic Support Center. In addition, the staff that monitors these study halls is composed of learning specialist whose expertise are aimed at addressing the traditional academic weaknesses of freshman student athletes.
II. **Corps Squad Advising Purpose Statement**

The fundamental purpose of the Academic Support Center’s advising services for Corps Squad is not to replace the faculty advising system, but rather to support it and work in concert with it. The mission of the Corps Squad Program for cadet student athletes is to ensure that cadet student athletes have equal access to all academic support services including advising support services. The primary difference for athletes is that coaches and the Athletic Department require freshmen and certain academically at-risk students to use these services. Furthermore, many teams including football, basketball and volleyball require that all of their student athletes come in for advising support services. There are greater degrees of flexibility in these services for cadet student athletes to ensure these students have access to services without having to comprise their athletic or academic time commitments. About 70% of the cadet student athlete population (well beyond the number of those who are required) will come into the Academic Support Center for assistance with advising and registration.

During Pre-Registration, the focus of pre-advising meetings with cadet student athletes is to educate them about the process and make them informed consumers when they meet with their faculty advisor. In a calm one-on-one none-threatening setting, they learn how to read their transcripts, degree audits, course catalog, and course offerings. They work out a preliminary course schedule on a yellow worksheet that takes into account all of their athletic travel and practice commitments. At this point, everyone also makes sure that cadet student athletes are working both toward degree completion and NCAA academic eligibly checkpoints, which can be very different from the Citadel’s academic requirements for continuance. The cadet student athletes leave the pre-advising meeting with a worksheet containing a rough schedule for them to discuss with their faculty advisor. They often leave with specific questions to ask their advisor and a step-by-step instruction sheet on how to finish the process. These meeting are usually completed two weeks to ten days prior to the opening of registration for the whole corps of cadets.

These athletes are instructed to meet with their faculty advisors prior to registering; however, they are additionally told that if they are unable to meet with their advisor (for whatever reason) prior to the opening of registration, they should go ahead
and register in order to hold seats in the classes they will likely want to take. This is not done to usurp the faculty advising process in anyway, but solely to prevent the cadet student athletes from losing places in classes that work well with their athletic schedules. The scheduling of classes that do not conflict with athletic commitments is a major key to academic success for student athletes. Even if they register before meeting with their faculty advisor, they are still expected to meet and discuss the upcoming semester’s schedule with their advisor. From the opening of registration to the close of add/drop is more than 2 months in which schedule adjustments can be made if the advisor believes one should be made.

Furthermore, meeting with both academic support staff, and their faculty advisor provides cadet student athletes with several layers of redundancy in their advising process to ensure that all institutional and NCAA requirements are met and that they are on a path to earning their degree.

The intention of this registration process for cadet student athletes is to ensure that there is at least a baseline of consistency across all majors and to allow students to graduate in a timely manner.

III. Advising Process for Cadet Student Athletes

1. Cadet student athletes may meet with Kathleen Brown or another member of the Corps Squad Academic Services Team. If they chose to do so or are required to do so by their coach, they will receive assistance with planning courses for the next semester. Not every student-athlete may be meeting with Ms. Brown/Academic Support, nor is it required for all of them to do so but it is encouraged as it facilitates the advising process. Often student athletes will then proceed to registrar for courses following this meeting. The registration step is important to maximize the probability that student athletes will have course times that minimize conflicts with practice and game schedules. Failure to registrar as soon as possible limits the degrees of freedom.

2. The Academic Advising Forms are distributed to each academic department by Ms. Brown. A cover sheet is also included detailing the process and the NCAA Eligibility Requirements Sheet as an informative document for faculty. The advising forms have
been filled out with the cadet student athlete's name, his/her major, and the name of their respective advisors.

3. All cadet student athletes are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisors as soon as possible once the preregistration period has begun. Cadet student athletes should meet with their advisors, review classes they plan on taking, discuss professional development, and adjust course selection as suggested by their academic advisors. This step is critical and cadet student athletes understand that courses they may have selected and registered for in Step 1 may change as a result of their conversations with their academic advisors.

4. Cadet student athletes return their academic advising forms to their respective coaches who, in turn, return these forms to the Office of Compliance in the Dept. of Athletics. The Corps Squad Academic Services Team tracks the return rate and follows up with cadets whose forms are not returned. This process is part of an institutional oversight for the Dept. of Athletics.