

Matriculation for the Class of 2028 – TS Debby Style!

We are excited about your student Matriculating on August 10th. Below is everything you need to know about Matriculation weekend – including the changes due to Tropical Storm Debby.

As you probably know we have had a weather event down here this week called Tropical Storm Debby. As of this writing on Tuesday afternoon, it looks like she'll leave us on Thursday. This gives us Friday to make the preparations we couldn't work on this week. So, in order to give our staff a chance to prepare for Saturday, we have canceled Friday's events. You are still welcome to come to campus, buy a shirt at the bookstore and, if you are a future women cadet, have your uniform measurements taken at the Cadet Store (*if you are unable to make it to the Cadet Store on Friday, don't worry because the Commandant has made room in the training schedule to get them done*).

[Click Here to see our map of the campus](#). The numbers below refer to the buildings on the map.

Summary of Events

Friday August 9th

Offices will be open on Friday, just no events. So, if you have questions for Financial Aid, Admissions, or the Infirmary, the offices will be open between 8:30am to 5pm. As mentioned above, the Cadet Store (#31) as well as the warehouse (#25) will be open for those last-minute items or to pick up gear shipped to campus.

Saturday 10 August

We hope you will attend the Information Fair and get around to as many tables as you can to meet the wonderful staff we have and the programs available to your cadet. Remember, you are transitioning to an advisor role, so the more informed you are the better advice you can provide to your cadet.

7:00-9:00AM	Report to the Holliday Alumni Center (HAC - #56) – 69 Hagood Avenue
7:00-12:00PM	Warehouse (#25) open for pickup/drop off
8:00-10:30AM	Parent and Family Welcome Reception and Information Fair – McAlister Fieldhouse (#21)
10:45-11:30AM	Senior Administration Briefing to Parents and Families

If the weather prevents your cadet from arriving Saturday morning, please contact Admissions and let them know. You can email them at admissions@citadel.edu or call at 843-953-5230

Monday August 12th – 5:30PM the Oath Ceremony – Parade Field

Saturday August 10th – Matriculation Day Details

The day has finally arrived when your incoming cadet officially begins their Citadel Career! Take a deep breath, it is going to be OK. *Here is what to expect:*

- 1) The first stop you will make is at the Holliday Alumni Center (aka The HAC - #56). Because most of the cars arrive early, we form a “serpentine” line in the football stadium parking lots that ends up at the HAC. You will enter the line by turning off Fishburne Street. [Click Here to find a picture](#) of where to enter the serpentine as well as the HAC (69 Hagood Avenue). Here is the Lat/Long of the entrance into the serpentine to plug into your GPS: [32.792411, -79.954857](#)
- 2) Once you get to the entrance of the HAC, your student will need to show a picture ID to the cadet on duty. This cadet will hand your student their Company Assignment and instructions on how to get to their assigned battalion. Remember, we will have plenty of guides to get you to the right battalion – so this is not something to worry about.
**You will also receive a small plastic bag with the “CFA Logo” on it. This is information for the parents, not cadets.*
- 3) Once you get to your assigned Battalion, look for people telling you where to park. When you arrive, you will be mobbed by folks in Blue Shirts – this is the Citadel Family Association’s (CFA) Blue Shirt Army! They will greet you and tell you to offload your cadet’s gear on the sidewalk. Once unloaded your cadet will enter the Battalion and check-in while you park your car. It is important to go park so we keep the lanes moving for drop off. Don’t worry, your cadet will return to get their gear around the time you return from parking the car.
- 4) Once the car is parked and your cadet has completed their initial check-in, it will be time to carry all their gear up to the third or fourth floor (unless you are assigned to the Band – they are all on the first floor!). The good news is members of the Blue Shirt Army will help you get it all in one trip – you can pay them back by helping next year!
- 5) After you move your cadet into their room and you’ve said your goodbyes, come to the Information Fair in McAlister Field House. It starts at 8:00AM and ends at 10:30AM. You will have the opportunity to meet members of our staff and other incoming freshmen parents.
- 6) Ideas for the Fair:
 - a. Come and meet the happiest group on campus – the Citadel Family Association (CFA)! Remember, you will be its newest members!
 - b. Meet the Dean of the School that has the major your student will be pursuing a degree in.
 - c. Drop off letters with the Post Office – no postage required!
 - d. Explore what Religious Programs are on Campus.
 - e. ROTC Questions? They’ll be there.
 - f. Meet G3! Who’s that??
 - g. Where can cadets Study Abroad?

The list goes on! Many more things to learn about!
- 7) The President, Provost, Commandant, and CFA Chair will all have a welcome address that will begin at 10:45AM. This typically concludes around 11:45AM.

When it comes time to take a seat for the President's remarks, look for the CFA Member holding up the sign with your cadet's company letter on it. We'd like for you to sit together in order to start building those relationships with folks you are going to see over the next four years.

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Monday's Oath Ceremony – this event will be at 5:30PM on the Parade Field. If you are in the area, it is a nice event to attend. We do not recommend coming if you are not close by because it is quick and there is not time to interact with your cadet.

Things to consider:

- 1) You know your child better than anyone so make sure you pay attention to their cues. If they want to get there early, then do so. If they tell you at 7:05 they are ready for you to leave their room, then give them a hug and leave. Remember: this day is about them.
- 2) Saturday can be a stressful day, so do what you can to reduce it. If you can come on Friday, take time to review where you enter the serpentine line, so you don't have to guess on Saturday. If you shipped their gear, try and pick it up from the warehouse on Friday (open 9AM-5PM). If you want to purchase some Citadel gear from the bookstore, do so on Friday so your student isn't worried about you hanging around on Saturday. Whether you come on Friday or Saturday, have a plan for Saturday morning that your student is comfortable with. Get a good meal and rest the night before. They start training at 10AM.
- 3) When do you arrive? That's up to your cadet. Most choose to arrive early – some in line before 6AM. Those who get to their rooms early have more time with their families – or time to prepare if they tell you, it is time for you to leave. Arriving later means it is a little more hectic moving in the room since there is less time. If you are coming later, we recommend being in line by 8:30 at the latest.
- 4) If you have any outstanding issues that prevent your student from matriculating, they will be directed to the appropriate location to get the issues resolved. For example, you will have to go to the Infirmary and get cleared by the doctor if you have any outstanding medical issues. Try to take care of these before Saturday.
- 5) If your student is coming by themselves via rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc.), have them tell the driver 69 Hagood Avenue. They can come to the front of the line with their gear. We will have cadets with golf carts to take them to their assigned battalion.
- 6) When do you leave? All parents and families must be out of the barracks by 10AM. The right time to leave is when your child lets you know it's time to go. Remember, this day is about them.
- 7) Keep in mind your student will turn their cell phone in when they initially check-in, and not get them back until a week later, on Sunday night, August 18th.

- 8) Many parents ask what their student should wear, or how they should look on Matriculation morning. Here are some suggestions: Arrive clean shaven and in appropriate civilian attire. Jewelry should not be visible. Ladies' hair should be natural in color. Men's hair should not be completely shaved, nor should it be past their shoulders. We recommend having their shirt tucked in, whatever they choose to wear.
- 9) Matriculation events typically conclude by 11:30AM. We recommend going ahead and leaving campus instead of trying to find your cadet. They will be training and need to stay focused. Also, if they see you, you might have someone riding back with you that you weren't expecting! Instead, go home to the hotel and relax, you will have earned it!