

Prepare for a rewarding career as a firefighter.

Firefighting requires teamwork, dedication, intelligence, and physical stamina. This career consistently ranks as the most prestigious occupation in national public opinion polls.

The Texarkana College Fire Academy will prepare you for a career that provides great personal satisfaction and generally provides good salaries, benefits and pension plans. In this 14-week program, you'll learn the skills you need to save lives, save property, and bring order to chaotic situations.



Admissions requirements

AGE

Applicant must be 18 years of age or older. There is no age maximum for the program, but many fire departments have a maximum hiring age of 35.

EDUCATION

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

A pre-academy physical by personal physician is required. Physician must certify that the candidate is physically capable of the demands of firefighting. A clear urine drug screen is required.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Registration packets are available at Texarkana College’s Continuing Education Division, located in the administration building. The packet will include an application, physical form, liability waiver, and other required paperwork and information.

Requirements for graduation

- Average score of at least 70% on periodic written exams
- Complete all instructional skills
- Pass the final exam with a score of at least 70%

For more information about the Texarkana College Fire Academy, contact Fire Academy Coordinator Harry Simms at 903-823-3404 or harry.simms@texarkanacollege.edu

Course information

CLASS SESSION

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday with lunch breaks and periodic breaks

COURSE LENGTH

14 weeks

NORMAL CLASS SIZE

25 students

CLASSROOM LOCATION

Aikin Building, Texarkana College

FIELD LOCATION

Texarkana, Texas Fire Department Training Field
1101 West 21st St., Texarkana, Texas

Course objectives

Course will prepare graduates for a career as a structure firefighter.

- Safety will be emphasized in all areas of the academy. Students will learn to perform safely in the training environment and, in the future, on the job.
- Teamwork will be emphasized throughout the academy. Firefighters must perform as a team to safely accomplish training and job performance objectives.
- Students will learn how to function within an Incident Management System.
- Students will learn proper use of firefighter protective clothing and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- Students will learn how to attack and extinguish fires of various types, including fires in buildings, automobile fires, ground cover fires, and various others.
- Students will learn the use of fire service hose, ladders, and tools.
- Students will learn rescue techniques.
- Students will learn fire prevention, public education, and public relations skills.
- Students will learn how to support fire detection and suppression systems.
- Students will learn how to safely approach and deal with incidents involving hazardous materials.

Certification

Graduates will be eligible for the Texas Commission on Fire Protection structure firefighter exam.

Those passing the state exam will be eligible for International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) certification as Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Hazardous Materials Operations. IFSAC seals are accepted as evidence of training by many states, Canadian provinces, and some other countries.

Other requirements for state certification:

Besides completing the basic fire academy, candidates must also meet these requirements prior to being granted firefighter certification by the state:

1. Pass a state written exam
2. Pass a skills examination
3. Complete Texas Commission on Fire Protection recognized medical training. The commission recognizes the following emergency medical training:
 - Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Service Personnel certification training;
 - an American Red Cross Emergency Response course, including the optional lessons and enrichment sections;
 - an American Safety and Health Institute First Responder course;
 - National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification
4. Background check with fingerprints
 - For applicable convictions, refer to Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 37, Part 13, Chapter 403, Rule 403.7 “Criminal Convictions Guidelines”

Estimated cost

	In District	Out of District
Tuition	\$1,165.00	\$2,165.00
Protective Clothing*	\$460.00	\$460.00
Drug Screen	\$50.00	\$50.00
Textbook	\$100.00	\$100.00
Uniforms	\$100.00	\$100.00
State Test**	\$85.00	\$85.00
Total	\$1,960.00	\$2,960.00

*Protective clothing cost shown is based on rental. Trainees who are members of a fire department may not require this expense if compliant PPE is issued by department.

**Testing fee for state certification exam. Paid near end of course.

***Costs other than tuition are estimated and paid by student direct to supplier.