

FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAM - Noncredit

Workforce Development and Continuing Education/Law Enforcement & Public Service

The Fire Academy provides theory and practical application of firefighter skills that exceed the instructional objectives of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I and II training standards. The instructional content of HACC's Fire Academy includes classroom and practical training in firefighting operations; hazardous materials targeting NFPA 472 and 29 CFR 1910.120 "Operations" level competencies; NFPA 1500 standard; physical development; Emergency Medical Technician; Vehicle Rescue Operations; and Technical Rescue Awareness Level Training. The course topics covered are intended to prepare students to successfully pass a nationally recognized Firefighter I and II certification exam and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Emergency Medical Technician certification exam. The program is available at the Harrisburg Campus.

Harrisburg Area Community College has conducted an average of two Fire Academies each year since 1989, graduating over 500 career firefighters. It is the only true "Open Enrollment" career Fire Academy in Pennsylvania that has the ability to continually accept firefighters from various career fire departments and be able to graduate them with high efficiency. The instructor cadre has grown to include some of the best instructors from Pennsylvania and beyond. Our staff is experienced and professional in their approach to training and evaluating firefighter cadets. They are personally chosen by their expertise in the given topic area.

This program is conducted weekdays from 7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., with few exceptions. This program can be taken in 14 weeks, totaling 590.25 hours, or in eight weeks, totaling 300 hours. (The eight week program does not contain the EMT portion.) The program is operated under a semi-military environment with strict guidelines established for cadet's behavior, attitude and interaction. For training purposes, the Academy does have a command structure. Cadets are required to assume in-class leadership roles during the academy. Cadets are exposed to daily and weekly academic testing, intense physical exercise, and development. Although not a pre-requisite, preparatory physical exercise greatly enhances a cadet's ability to meet the physical rigors of academy training.

Competency Profile

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to

- Obtain course completions of: NIMS 700, 100 & 200
- Obtain National Professional Qualifications Certifications in:
 - NFPA 1001 - Fire Fighter I and Firefighter II Certifications
 - NFPA 472 - Haz Mat Awareness and Haz Mat Operations Certifications
 - American Heart Association Certificates in both Professional CPR and First Aid.
- Obtain course completions of PA DOH Basic Vehicle Rescue series.
- Complete the HACC's Emergency Medical Technician Certificate of Completion (only during the 14-week Academy. PA DOH for EMT-B testing is also included.)
- Receive a total of four (4) college credits to individuals who successfully complete the HACC's Fire Academy and who formally enroll as matriculated students into HACC's Fire Science Technology programs. These four credits can be applied towards the required 60-credits needed for graduation, but they may not substitute for any required Fire Science courses.

Career Opportunities

Municipal Firefighters – (paid full time, part time or per call)

PROGRAM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS (Pre-service cadets)

- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Required to be a minimum of 21-years of age by the last date of the training program
- Possess a valid operator's license
- High school diploma or G.E.D (transcript required)
- Submit college transcripts if applicable
- A \$15 fee is required to take the Nelson-Denny Reading Test (a test on reading comprehension and spelling)
- A \$25 fee is required to take the CPAT Physical Fitness Standard Test
- Provide proof of medical insurance
- Complete physical examination

- Complete psychological examination (MMPI and a clinical interview with the psychologist)
- Obtain a Criminal History Check through the PA State Police (online at <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>)
- Obtain a 10-year Department of Transportation driving record check (online at www.dmv.state.pa.us)
- If applicable, submit a copy of military discharge document (DD214)
- Three letters of reference from non-relatives
- Three letters of reference from present or former employers
- Successful completion of an oral interview
- Agree in writing to abide by the Academy Rules and Regulations
- Pre-service cadets are not permitted to be employed during their attendance

(Note: In-service cadets are enrolled through a similar process and requirements with their employing agency)

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE FOR STUDENTS

Students must successfully complete the entire course to receive a certificate of completion.