

POLK STATE COLLEGE

FIRE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE DEGREE

The Fire Science Technology Associate Degree: This degree is designed to allow fire service or fire protection professionals to enhance their technical competencies and prepare for career advancements. The program emphasizes scientific understanding of fire hazards and their control; effective operating procedures at fires and other emergencies; and preparation of students for leadership, emergency risk management, and managerial positions. The program is normally designed for students who have completed Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Certifications; however there is an option available for non-certified firefighters.

Job Opportunities and Potential Salary: This degree places a strong emphasis on the individual pursuing a career in a fire department. Most modern fire departments mandate degrees in supervisory positions. Some of these positions exceed salaries of \$50,000. Also, there are some opportunities for employment in risk-safety management; fire investigations; safety inspections; insurance divisions; and the State Fire Marshal's office, which places higher emphasis on Investigation and law enforcement.

Accreditation and Program Overview:

Polk State College and all of its academic programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Students may earn 24 to 36 articulated fire credits (FFP courses) from different combinations of Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Certifications. A group of these FFP courses comprise the Fire Officer, Inspector, and Investigator's Certificates (<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/SFM/BFST/default.htm>); these combinations can then be articulated into college credit; these are outlined in Table A or B on the reverse side.

The FFP courses that prepare students for these certificates are normally offered at any vocational fire school. The local fire academy is at Ridge Career Center in Winter Haven; and has a longstanding working relationship with Polk State College.

Program Costs:

The total cost for the program is approximately \$8,000 which includes tuition and fees for all courses, textbooks, and lab fees. The price may vary depending on the location where the core fire classes are taken.

Advantages of this Fire Program:

It allows flexibility! The student can take the fire classes at locations most convenient for them, as long as it satisfies the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards & Training Certifications and it also complies with the option requirement as defined by Polk State College. Simultaneous goals are satisfied! While working towards this degree, the program core requirements uniquely mesh or fulfill many of the fire department's educational, promotional and merit requirements. Basically, the individual fire courses are mandated requirements in many professional fire departments.

Admission: This program has an open-door admission policy for anyone who meets the general admission requirements.

How do I get started? 1) Complete admission application, 2) take college placement test, 3) see an academic advisor, and 4) register for the courses.

Normal Career Paths:

- ✓ State Certified Firefighter I and II (Basic firefighting training at a vocational fire academy).
- ✓ Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and some departments require Paramedic
- ✓ Fire Science Technology Associates Degree (AS Degree)
- ✓ Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management (BS Degree)

Information Contact: For additional information, please contact an academic advisor on any of the College campuses or for specific information relating to the Fire Classes contact: Fire Science Technology Coordinator: Jim Davis, M.A., jdavis@polk.edu

General Education (18 credits) + Fire Core Requirements (42 credits) = A. S. Degree (60 Credits).

General Education Requirements		Total Credits Required 18
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
COMMUNICATIONS		
ENC 1101	College Composition	3
MATHEMATICS		
MAC 1105	(One Course) College Algebra	3
MGF 1106	Topics in Mathematics	
MGF 1107	Explorations in Mathematics	
HUMANITIES		
HUM 2020	(One Course) Introduction to Humanities	3
PHI 2600	Ethics	
SOCIAL SCIENCES		
PSY 2012	(One Course) General Psychology	3
SYG 2000	Introduction to Sociology	
NATURAL SCIENCES		
BSC 1005	(One Course) Survey of Biological Science	3-4
BSC 1930	Biological Issues	
ESC 1000	Survey of Earth Science	
OCE 2001C	Oceanography	
PSC 1121	Survey of Physical Science	
PSC 2515	Energy and Humanity	
CHM 1025C	Introduction of Chemistry	
	Or any approved General Ed Science Course.	
HEALTH		
HLP 1081	(One Course)* Wellness Concepts	2-3
HSC 1101	Wellness: Nutrition, Personal Growth and Fitness *Students who take a 3-credit science class must take HSC 1101. Students who take a 4-credit science class can choose either HLP 1081 or HSC 1101.	

Program Core Requirements		Total Credits Required 42
Course Number	Course Title (Select one course from each)	Credits
ENC 2210	Intro to Technical and Professional Writing	3
GEB 2214	Business Communications	
CGS 1061C	Intro to Computers and Info Systems	3
CGS 1100	Computer Applications for Business	

Chart A Select ONE Fire Officer I Certification earned after 11-18-2013				
Options	Title of Fire Study Option	Certification Requirements <i>Fire Officer = FO</i>	Credits from Certifications (Range: 24-36)	Additional Credits Needed *
Option I	Fire Supervisor / Fire Safety	FOI, FOII, Inspector I, & Investigator I	36	0
Option II	Fire Supervisor / Manager	FOI & FOII	24	12
Option III	Fire Supervisor / Inspector	FOI, FOII, & Inspector I	30	6
Option IV	Fire Supervisor / Investigator	FOI, FOII, & Investigator I	30	6
Option V	Fire Safety (non-cert. firefighter)	Investigator I, Inspector I, & Inspector II	27	9

Chart B Select ONE Fire Officer I Certification earned prior to 11-18-2013				
Six Variations	Title of Fire Study Option	Certification requirements <i>Fire Officer = FO</i> "New" represents FOII earned after 11-18-2013	Credits (Range: 24-36).	Additional Credits Needed *
1	NA	FOI, Inspector I, & Investigator I	36	0
2		FOI	24	12
3		FOI & FOII (new)	27	9
4		FOI & FOII (old)	36	0
5		FOI & Inspector I	30	6
6		FOI & Investigator I	30	6

*Up to 12 credits of the 42 program credits can come from the following approved "elective course" listing:
POS 112, INP 1390, MAN 2021, MAN 2023, STA 2023, & SPC 1608.