

Southwest Florida Fire Academy Frequently Asked Questions – Fire Program

1. **How long is the program?** The program typically runs 16 weeks, M-F. The hours are 7:00 am to 4:00 pm with a 1-hour lunch break and 1-hour of physical training.
2. **What is the cost of the program?** Please see our website for the most updated information. Information is also provided in the application packet. Fees are subject to change without notice.
3. **Is financial aid available for this program?** Yes, you can apply for financial aid by filling out your FASFA online, you will need to choose Fort Myers Technical College as your school choice and then contact Fort Myers Technical College to ask what else is required. We also accept the Post 911 GI Bill, Career Source, Florida Prepaid, & Bright Futures. More information on how to apply is included in the application packet.
4. **What payment methods are accepted?** Cashier's Check, Debit or Credit Card.
5. **When is payment due?** ALL fees are due on Orientation Day.
6. **How do I apply?** Click on the FIRE Application Link, review and print out all of the application forms. Complete all of the steps that are on the application checklist and return your completed application to the Academy. Your application will be reviewed for acceptance. You will be e-mailed the result of the review with further information and/or instructions. PLEASE review and follow ALL directions, ***incomplete applications WILL NOT be processed.***
7. **Is an entrance test required?** Yes. Successful completion of the CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test) is required before you can apply. In addition, you will be required to provide CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems) test scores as part of the application process. Additional testing information is provided on our website.
8. **What are the minimum requirements to apply to the program?**
 - a. Be at least 18 years of age.
 - b. Have a standard high school diploma or GED® - Must be from an acceptable accredited agency.
 - c. Have a valid Florida driver's license.
 - d. Not have been convicted of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or false statement. A background check will be required.
 - e. Be a legal United States resident.
 - f. Be Tobacco Free for a minimum of 12 months prior to attending class.
 - g. Not have a dishonorable discharge from any of the armed forces in the United States.
 - h. Be drug free a minimum of 3-5 years prior, depending on substance used, Certified Drug Test required.
 - i. Complete an American Heart Association CPR - BLS for the Healthcare Provider Course, submit a copy of card with application.
 - j. Complete a physical (after acceptance into the program).
9. **Will my background check disqualify me?** You must not have been convicted of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or false statement. All other questionable backgrounds will be reviewed by the Program Coordinator for final approval.
10. **Is this program accredited?** Our facility is approved by the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training to provide basic and advanced firefighter training programs including minimum standards. The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard). The SWFPSA adheres to the standards put forth by the Florida Department of Education and we follow the curriculum frameworks published by the DOE. Once our classes are completed the Department of Education recognizes, through the curriculum frameworks, 3 college credits for the Firefighter program. It is however up to the individual college on how the credits are matriculated.