



FIRE PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY

Interested in the Fire Academy at San Jacinto College?

Revised: April 29, 2024

Are you trying to get a full-time job as a firefighter in Texas? Then you should begin by attending our Firefighter Training Academy. This handout serves as a basic description of the San Jacinto College Firefighter Training Academy and the process that needs to be followed in order for you to successfully enroll in the Firefighter Training Academy.

Academy Information

The San Jacinto College Firefighter Training Academy consists of seven firefighting courses spread over two college semesters. San Jacinto College is certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) to conduct Basic Fire Suppression courses (fire academies). The TCFP regulates the paid/career fire departments in the state. A TCFP Firefighter Basic certification is required to work as a paid/career firefighter in Texas. Upon successful completion of our Academy cadets will take the TCFP Basic Fire Suppression certification exam. To become certified, cadets must also complete basic medical training. Also, upon successful completion of the Academy, cadets are awarded 24 semester credit hours that count towards the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Firefighting.

San Jacinto College offers three Academies each school year:

1. Summer semester start (June through early/mid-October): This option includes 18 weeks of classes and begins in the summer semester and finishes at halfway through the following fall semester. Cadets attend class our days a week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays) in the summer semester from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each class day. Cadets then attend firefighting classes four days a week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays) in the fall semester from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each class day. A number of Friday classes will also be held in order to fulfill the required instructional hours. A detailed schedule will be provided the first day of class.

2. Fall semester start #1 (August through early/mid-March): This option includes 24 weeks of classes and begins in the fall semester and finishes halfway through the following spring semester. Cadets attend class three days a week (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) in the fall semester from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each class day. Cadets then attend firefighting classes four days a week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays) in the spring semester from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each class day. Holidays and/or closure may necessitate attendance on a different day/days. Cadets will be notified well in advance in most circumstances. If space is available, cadets may be able to start classes under this option and then switch to the option below in the spring
3. Fall semester start #2 (August through early/mid-May): This option includes 32 weeks of classes and begins in the fall semester and finishes at the end of the following spring semester. Cadets attend class three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) in the fall semester from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each class day. Cadets then attend firefighting classes two days a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) in the spring semester from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each class day. Holidays and/or closure may necessitate attendance on a different day/days. Cadets will be notified well in advance in most circumstances. If space is available, cadets may be able to start classes under this option and then switch to the option above in the spring.
4. Holidays and/or closure may necessitate attendance on a different day/days. Cadets will be notified well in advance in most circumstances.

*****Classes are held at the Maritime Training Center:

Maritime Technology and Training Center
3700 Old Highway 146
La Porte, Texas 77571

Cadets not already certified as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) or higher will also need to attend emergency medical technician classes. Cadets are **strongly encouraged to complete the EMT classes prior to attending the Firefighter Training Academy, but, if starting classes in the fall semester cadets should go ahead and enroll in the Academy first. Please contact the EMT Program Director, Sylvia Gallegos (sylvia.gallegos@sjcd.edu), for more information on EMT classes.**

Quick notes

- *Job placement:* Fire departments typically use a competitive selection and hiring process based on civil service exams and/or firefighting-specific exams; as such, traditional job placement is not possible. As of 5/16/2022 the mean annual wage for firefighters in the Houston Metro area is \$50,910.00.
- *Criminal records:* A person who has been convicted of a crime considered to relate directly to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of persons certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection may be ineligible for certification. Current guidelines regarding criminal convictions and eligibility for certification can be found in Chapter 403 of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Standards Manual for Fire Protection Personnel. You are able to request a criminal history evaluation to determine whether you are eligible for certification. Contact the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, (512) 936-3838, www.tcfp.texas.gov, for guidance in requesting a criminal history evaluation. Likewise, a person convicted of a crime may be ineligible for Emergency Medical Services certifications by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Current guidelines regarding criminal convictions and eligibility for certification can be found in the Texas Administrative code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 157.37, Certification or Licensure of Persons with Criminal Backgrounds. Applicants have the right to request a criminal history evaluation. For assistance with the criminal history petition process you may contact EMS Compliance at the following phone number: (512) 834-6700 and choose option 5.
- *Transportation:* We utilize a number of off-campus training fields for hands-on skills. Cadets are required to provide their own transportation.
- *Online coursework:* Cadets will be required to complete some coursework, on their own, online.
- *Shaving:* Firefighting is a profession that requires you to be clean shaven as facial hair could become a safety hazard that interferes with respiratory safety. You must be able to shave each morning if you grow facial hair.

Expectations

Some of the things you can generally expect in the Academy:

- You'll have a new family of brothers and sisters starting with the first day of class.
- You'll have a lot of fun but there will be times when the Academy is not so fun.
- Most of you will wish you had done more cardio.
- You will sometimes make mistakes.
- You will sometimes be frustrated.
- You will encounter subjects and/or skills you struggle with.
- You won't be better than everyone else at everything.
- You will sometimes be wrong about other people being wrong.
- You are not in competition with your classmates.
- You will have a **significant** amount of **reading and studying** to do.
- You won't be able to work, or play, all night before class.
- You will be proud of what you accomplish in the Academy. Even the little things.

Some of the things you can expect of the instructors:

- We are here to help you.
- We will treat you fairly.
- We will treat you with respect.
- Instructors three times as old as some of you will be your partner during evolutions. Try to keep up.
- We don't expect you to do skills as well as we can right off the bat.
- We can make mistakes.
- We will give you our best effort.
- We are here to help you.

Some of the things we expect of you:

- We expect you to treat everyone with respect.
- We expect you to treat everyone fairly.
- We expect you to help each other.
- We expect you to work as a team.
- We expect you to understand that everyone will struggle with a subject and/or skill at some point. You included.
- We expect you to make mistakes and learn from them.
- We expect you to read, study, and work hard.
- We expect you to take full advantage of all practice time and all learning opportunities.
- We expect your best effort.
- We expect you to work to become the best firefighter you can be.

Steps to follow in order to successfully enroll in the Firefighter Training Academy:

* *An overview of the general College enrollment process with current webpage links can be found at <https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/>*

1. Submit an Application for Admission to San Jacinto College. Visit www.sanjac.edu and click on the Apply button.
2. A meningitis vaccination or booster is required if you are younger than 22. Visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/support/health-support/communicable-diseases/meningitis> for information.
3. Send official high school and/or college/university transcripts to our records management office. You can take classes at San Jacinto College for one (1) semester without submitting your official transcript, however, financial aid will not be awarded until all official transcripts are received. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved third-party evaluator. Details on how to submit transcripts can be found at <https://sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/submitting-your-transcript>
4. Please make an official request to have San Jacinto College evaluate your transfer college transcripts to determine what courses will transfer by scheduling a virtual appointment via <http://appointments.sjcd.edu/> or calling 281-998-6150. Transcripts must be received and on file with San Jac before students may submit an evaluation request.
5. Complete placement testing. Though you may be exempt, it is highly recommended. In our experience, students with very low reading scores are much less likely to successfully complete the Academy. Students must be able to read and understand large amounts of technical information. Students with significant reading comprehension difficulties and/or students who score very low on the reading placement test should consider taking a developmental reading course before starting the Academy. Please see an educational planner or counselor for details.
6. **You do not need to be registered in any developmental courses for the Firefighter Training Academy. If an educational advisor, educational**

planner, or counselor tells you that you must also register for such a course please have them change your major to: "Fire Prot-Firefighting Certificate of Technology," program code 4FIREFTG. If they have any questions or concerns have them contact our office. Details regarding furthering your firefighter education, including the Associate of Applied Science Degree, will be discussed during the Academy.

7. Claim SOS Login. SOS is San Jacinto College's "Secure Online System" for credit and continuing education students. When you apply to San Jac, an SOS account is created for you. Claim your student account at www.sanjac.edu/soslogin.
8. All first-time in college students are required to attend New Student Orientation prior to registration for classes at San Jacinto College. Visit www.sanjac.edu/soslogin to claim your student account and sign-up for orientation.
9. There is no separate orientation for the Firefighter Training Academy.
10. Meet with Advising. As part of our mission in ensuring student success, all students who are new to San Jacinto College will need to meet with an admissions advisor. Visit appointments.sjcd.edu to schedule a meeting.
11. If you are a veteran please consider visiting your campus veteran center or <https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/veteran> to learn about veteran services.
12. If you are an international student please visit the South Campus to speak with an international advisor or visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/international-student/>.
13. If you are a student who may need extra assistance to proceed in your college coursework please contact the Accessibility Services office at 281-998-6150, x1014, or visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/support/accessibility> to learn about services available to you.
14. Apply for Financial Aid: Complete the FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Our FAFSA code is 003609. Contact the Financial Aid office, if needed. 281-998-6150.

15. Apply for Scholarships: Visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/paying-for-college/financial-aid/types/> to research available grants and/or scholarships.
16. After all admission requirements have been met you may register for the Academy. Enrollment is limited and classes tend to fill quickly. Cadets must register for all courses listed for their Academy class though cadets will be approved to register for the 2nd semester courses once the academy begins. Cadets who register incorrectly or incompletely risk losing their enrollment spot and/or preferred cadet class. Students are not required to speak to Firefighter Training Academy staff before registering for classes. **Current registration details are included later in this packet.**
17. Pay for your classes. Cadets who do not pay their tuition bill by the required deadline run the risk of losing their place in the Academy to another cadet. See the current San Jacinto College schedule for the payment schedule and the current tuition and fee amounts. The College does have an installment payment plan available.
 - Approximate in-district tuition for the entire Academy = \$1992.00 (Additional uniform, equipment, and textbook costs are listed below).
 - Approximate out-of-district tuition for the entire Academy = \$3456.00 (Additional uniform, equipment, and textbook costs are listed below).
 - Approximate out-of-state/international tuition for the entire Academy= \$5352.00 (Additional uniform, equipment, and textbook costs are listed below)
18. **NO SOONER than thirty (30) days before the start of your Academy, and not during class time,** all cadets must undergo a physical exam that meets the standard enclosed in the packet we will provide to you. Physicals completed without using our packet will not be accepted. Military, athletic, volunteer firefighter, or any other physicals will not be accepted. Physical packets must be signed by a MD, DO, PA-C, or NP. San Jacinto College does not pay for, or reimburse for, the cost of the physical exam. Physical exam packets will be emailed to registered cadets once we are close to the thirty-day window. If you complete your exam prior to the start of classes bring it with you the first day of class, otherwise you will need to have the exam within two weeks of the first day of class.

The Fire Academy is not the place to *get in shape*; you need to be in good physical condition starting with the first day of class.

While cadets do not respond to actual emergencies, they are required to perform many of the same tasks, including, but not limited to:

- While wearing personal protective ensembles and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), performing fire-fighting tasks (e.g., hoseline operations, **extensive crawling**, lifting and carrying heavy objects, ventilating roofs or walls using power or hand tools, forcible entry), rescue operations, and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions including working in extremely hot or cold environments for prolonged time periods
- Wearing an SCBA, which includes a demand valve-type positive-pressure facepiece or HEPA filter masks, which requires the ability to tolerate increased respiratory workloads
- Climbing six or more flights of stairs while wearing a fire protective ensemble, including SCBA, weighing at least 50 lb (22.6 kg) or more and carrying equipment/tools weighing an additional 20 to 40 lb (9 to 18 kg)
- Wearing a fire protective ensemble, including SCBA, that is encapsulating and insulated, which will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration and can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C)
 - This protective ensemble, including SCBA, must be donned within a two-minute time limit.
- While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, searching, finding, and rescue-dragging or carrying victims ranging from newborns to adults weighing over 200 lb (90 kg) to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility
- While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, advancing water-filled hoselines up to 2 1/2 in. (65 mm) in diameter from fire apparatus to occupancy [approximately 150 ft (50 m)], which can involve negotiating multiple flights of stairs, ladders, and other obstacles

- While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, climbing ladders, operating from heights, walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces that might be wet or icy, and operating in proximity to electrical power lines or other hazards
- Critical, time-sensitive, complex problem solving during physical exertion in stressful, hazardous environments, including hot, dark, tightly enclosed spaces, that is further aggravated by fatigue, flashing lights, sirens, and other distractions
- Ability to communicate (give and comprehend verbal orders) while wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA under conditions of high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hoselines and/or fixed protection systems (sprinklers)
- Functioning as an integral component of a team, where sudden incapacitation of a member can result in mission failure or in risk of injury or death to civilians or other team members

Typically these tasks are performed within a specified time limit and without physical accommodations. The Fire Academy does not conduct a physical fitness test as part of the enrollment process. Again, the Fire Academy is not the place to *get in shape*; you need to be in good physical condition starting with the first day of class.

19. Get your student ID card. ID cards can be obtained from any campus Admissions office. *Available 24 hours after tuition payment*
20. Set up your San Jacinto College email account at www.sanjac.edu/email
21. Once you have set up you San Jacinto College email, and before the first day of class, please fill in this pre-academy survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/wQpQJ89cTs>



22. **You will need to purchase the following textbooks and bring them with you along with a pen and paper to the first day of class:**

- **Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, Fifth Edition (Includes Navigate Premier Access) Published by Jones & Bartlett Learning ISBN: 9781284283051 (required)**
- Electronic-only books are strongly discouraged because of potential damage of electronic devices during training. Likewise, rented textbooks are also discouraged as students will need the books to study for fire department hiring tests after the Fire Academy. Books may be purchased at the Barnes & Noble bookstore on the Central Campus. The bookstore will price-match certain other retailers, e.g., Amazon. Contact the bookstore for details.
- We will have the Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills textbook available to loan the first day of class so don't pay for expedited shipping.
- Total textbook costs (including recommended books), purchased new, are approximately \$130.00. It is strongly recommended that cadets purchase their books as soon as possible to ensure they have them for the first day of class.

23. Get your parking permit. Parking permits are available at any campus business office with a San Jac ID card and ID number (G#).

24. Bring a photo ID with you the first day of class.

25. Read chapter 1, "The Fire Service," in the Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, Fifth Edition textbook prior to the first day of class.

26. Uniform shirts will be ordered online the first week of class at a cost of \$8.00 per shirt (additional cost for XXL and above, sweatshirts, etc.); credit card or PayPal only.

27. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be ordered the first week of class. Initial PPE issue is included as part of your tuition. Replacement of lost/damage items must be paid for separately.

28. Additionally, cadets will purchase (on their own from the supplier of their choosing) uniform pants, belt, socks, and boots. Details will be provided the first day of the Academy (estimated cost is \$120.00).
29. **Do not miss the first day of class. Class begins at 8:00 AM.** The Firefighter Training Academy is held in room M1.228 at the Maritime Campus. **Do not be late for class.**
30. There is no special dress code the first day of class.
31. There is a small cafeteria on campus. They sell breakfast and lunch.
32. Attached to this information packet are flyers about the many San Jacinto College services and resources available to you.

Firefighting is a profession that requires a high level of personal responsibility so we prefer to speak to the enrolling cadet and not parents. If you have any questions please re-read this packet. If you still have any questions after re-reading this packet please contact us at fire.academy@sjcd.edu or on 281-476-1834. Thank you for considering San Jacinto College and we look forward to seeing you in class.

Current Class Registration Details

Class 77 (summer semester start, described above)

1st day of class: June 3rd, 2024

<i>Course</i>	<i>CRN (Registration Number)</i>
FIRS 1301.401	32347 (summer)
FIRS 1313.401	32349 (summer)
FIRS 1329.401	32350 (summer)
FIRS 1407.401	32348 (summer)
FIRS 1319.403	15952 (fall)
FIRS 1423.403	15953 (fall)
FIRS 1433.403	15954 (fall)

**Cadets must register for all listed courses. Cadets will be approved to register for the 2nd semester courses once the academy begins.*

Class 78 (fall semester start #1, described above)

1st day of class: August 20th, 2024

<i>Course</i>	<i>CRN (Registration Number)</i>
FIRS 1301.401	15959
FIRS 1313.401	15961
FIRS 1407.401	15960
FIRS 1423.401	15962
FIRS 1319.401	To Be Determined (TBD), spring 2025 semester
FIRS 1329.401	TBD, spring 2025 semester
FIRS 1433.401	TBD, spring 2025 semester

**Cadets must register for all listed courses. Cadets will be approved to register for the 2nd semester courses once the academy begins.*

Class 79 (fall semester start #2, described above)

1st day of class: August 19th, 2024

<i>Course</i>	<i>CRN (Registration Number)</i>
FIRS 1301.402	15955
FIRS 1313.402	15957
FIRS 1407.402	15956
FIRS 1423.402	15958
FIRS 1319.402	To Be Determined (TBD), spring 2025 semester
FIRS 1329.402	TBD, spring 2025 semester
FIRS 1433.402	TBD, spring 2025 semester

**Cadets must register for all listed courses. Cadets will be approved to register for the 2nd semester courses once the academy begins.*