



FIRE PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY

Covid-19 Information:

The Firefighter Training Academy is a hands-on, skills-focused program. San Jacinto College does not typically offer online/distance-learning fire academies. However, social distancing requirements may necessitate completing some *lecture-type* content online so cadets must have computer and internet access. Additionally, a spike or surge in the number of local/Texas infections may result in class-completion delays. We are committed to helping you learn to be the best firefighter you can be and we will work through any delays or Covid-related restrictions.

Interested in the Fire Academy at San Jacinto College?

Revised: May 3, 2021

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. This training is provided in conjunction with our Firefighter Training Academy. 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. 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 above in the spring
2. 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 below in the spring.*
3. 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 four 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. 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. EMT classes for cadets are offered on the Central campus each summer semester. There is also a fall EMT class for cadets who are taking the summer Academy. Please contact the EMT Program Director, Sylvia Gallegos (sylvia.gallegos@sjcd.edu), for more information on EMT classes.**

A quick note about 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.

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/steps-enroll>*

1. Submit an Application for Admission to San Jacinto College. Visit www.sanjac.edu and click on the Apply button.
2. An applicant 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. Applicants have the right to request a criminal history evaluation. Such an applicant should contact the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, (512) 936-3838, www.tcfp.texas.gov, for guidance in requesting a criminal history evaluation. Likewise, an applicant 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.

3. A meningitis vaccination or booster is required if you are younger than 22. Visit www.sanjac.edu/meningitis for information.

4. Have all of your transcripts sent to SJC Enrollment Management Center:

San Jacinto College - Records Management
13735 Beamer Road
Houston, TX 77089

5. Please make an official request to have San Jacinto College evaluate your transfer college transcripts to determine what courses will transfer by visiting any campus student services office or by calling 281-998-6150.

6. Complete placement testing. Though you may be exempt, it is highly recommended. In our experience, students with very low reading scores are less likely to successfully complete the Academy.

7. **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.

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. Additionally, 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 to talk about programs available, choose their courses, and potential career options.

9. If you are a veteran please consider visiting your campus veteran center or www.sanjac.edu/veterans to learn about veteran services.
10. If you are an international student please visit the South Campus to speak with an international advisor or visit www.sanjac.edu/international-students.
11. 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 www.sanjac.edu/accessibility to learn about services available to you.
12. Apply for Financial Aid: Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Our FAFSA code is 003609. Contact the Financial Aid office, if needed. 281-998-6150.
13. Apply for Scholarships: Visit sjcd.academicworks.com to search for available scholarships.
14. 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. Cadets who register incorrectly or incompletely risk losing their enrollment spot and/or preferred cadet class. **Current registration details are included later in this packet.**
15. Pay for your classes. Cadets who fail to 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 = \$1872.00
(Additional uniform, equipment, and textbook costs are listed below).
 - Approximate out-of-district tuition for the entire Academy = \$3240.00
(Additional uniform, equipment, and textbook costs are listed below).
16. Once you have registered and paid for the Academy schedule an appointment (**no sooner than thirty days before the start of your Academy and not during class time**) with your Doctor for a physical/medical exam. 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. San Jacinto College does not pay for, or reimburse for, the cost of the physical exam. Contact the fire.academy@sjcd.edu to obtain a physical exam packet. 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.

While cadets do not responded 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 proactive 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.

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.

17. Get your student ID card. ID cards can be obtained from any campus Admissions office. *Available 24 hours after tuition payment*
18. Set up your San Jacinto College email account at www.sanjac.edu/email
19. **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, Fourth Edition (Includes Navigate Preferred Access) Published by Jones & Bartlett Learning, ISBN: 9781284151299**
- 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.
- Total textbook costs (including recommended books), purchased new, are approximately \$345.00. It is strongly recommended that cadets purchase their books as soon as possible to ensure they have them for the first day of class. The following books are the only additional books needed for the entire Academy (*required* by dates will be discussed the first day of class):
 - Essentials Of Fire Fighting And Fire Department Operations, 7Th Edition Published By IFSTA, ISBN: 9780879396572 (Recommended)
 - 2016 Emergency Response Guidebook published by USGPO, ISBN: 9780160932151 **(Required)**
 - Exam Prep: Hazardous Materials published by Jones & Bartlett, ISBN: 9780763758387 (Recommended)
 - Exam Prep: Firefighter I & II published by Jones & Bartlett, ISBN: 9780763758363 (Recommended)

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

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

22. Uniform shirts will be ordered online the first week of class at a cost of \$7.50 per shirt (additional cost for XXL and above, sweatshirts, etc.); credit card or Pay Pal only.

23. 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.
24. 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 \$100.00).
25. **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.**
26. **Students who are unable to afford and/or commit themselves fully to the Academy should not enroll. Cadets should refer to the current San Jacinto College schedule for enrollment specifics.**

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 68 (summer semester start, described above)

Course	CRN (Registration Number)
FIRS 1301.401	31094
FIRS 1313.401	31118
FIRS 1407.401	31103
FIRS 1329.401	31119
FIRS 1319.403	12901
FIRS 1423.403	12908
FIRS 1433.403	12913

**Cadets must register for all listed courses*

Class 69 (fall semester start #1, described above)

Course	CRN (Registration Number)
FIRS 1301.401	12867
FIRS 1313.401	12879
FIRS 1407.401	12872
FIRS 1423.401	12886
FIRS 1319.401	To Be Determined (TBD) spring 2022 semester
FIRS 1329.401	TBD spring 2022 semester
FIRS 1433.401	TBD spring 2022 semester

**Cadets must register for all listed courses*

Class 70 (fall semester start #2, described above)

Course	CRN (Registration Number)
FIRS 1301.402	12837
FIRS 1313.402	12850
FIRS 1407.402	12844
FIRS 1423.402	12855
FIRS 1319.402	To Be Determined (TBD) spring 2022 semester
FIRS 1329.402	TBD spring 2022 semester
FIRS 1433.402	TBD spring 2022 semester

**Cadets must register for all listed courses*