Fire Academy Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.’s)

When is the Firefighter course (Fire Academy) offered?
- The Fire Academy is offered five times a year – three full-time day, two part-time night.
- Day Fire Academy: Monday-Friday, 0830 – 1730. Approx. three months.
- Go to [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/fire/firefighter-academy-.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/fire/firefighter-academy-.aspx) for academy dates and application deadlines.

Requirements
- Must be certified 40-hour First Responder, EMT, or Paramedic.
- Must take CPAT, NFSI*, and T.A.B.E.* tests. *Exemptions apply, see below.
- Must be 18 years of age on or before the first day of the program.
- A clean criminal background.

What is the cost for the Fire Academy? Does Financial Aid cover all or part of the costs?
- The current in-state costs for Firefighter I (FFP0010) is $1,729.20 and the in-state costs for Firefighter II (FFP0020) is 857.16. Unfortunately at this time Financial Aid does not cover the cost of the Fire Academy.

Do I have to pay for Firefighter I and II at the same time?
- Although it is recommended that both FFP0010 and FFP0020 be paid together, it is not required. Each course must be paid for before the first day of class.

What campus is the Fire Academy offered on?
- The program is only offered at the Lake Worth campus.

How many students are selected for the program? How does the selection process work?
- There are 24 students accepted into the Firefighter program. Students are selected on a points-based system, which is listed within the application packet.

Where do I submit the application?
- The Fire Academy application, along with all required documents, are to be submitted to Frank D’Amelio in the Admissions office on the Lake Worth campus. All documentation must be turned in prior to the deadline date or you will be disqualified from the selection pool.
- If you are a first time student at Palm Beach State College, you will have to apply for the college before applying to the Fire Academy. You need to send your official high school and college transcripts to the registrar’s office prior to the application deadline.

What documents do I need to submit with my application?
- CPAT Test sheet (given to you if you pass the CPAT) proving a passing score.
- High school and college transcripts, sent via U.S. mail from the educational institution or in a sealed envelope.
- Proof of age (copy of drivers license)
- EMT/First Responder/Paramedic certificate.
What is the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)?
- Applicants must register for the CPAT online at www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/fire/cpat.aspx and successfully complete it prior to consideration for placement into the selection pool. CPAT scores are valid for one year prior to the application deadline. There is a $159.60 fee for this test. CPAT information can be found at http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/fire/cpat.aspx. A valid CPAT Certificate will be acceptable from other providers and must be submitted prior to program deadline.

What is the National Firefighter Selection Inventory (NFSI) - Test?
- Applicants (unless exempt, see below) must take the I/O Solutions NFSI Test (National Firefighter Selection Inventory) within two years of application deadline date and score at least a 70% in all subject areas (Reading, Language and Math) in order to be eligible for consideration for selection. The test is conducted at the Palm Beach State College testing center. Check with the testing center on the campus near you for availability. www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing. There is a $45.00 fee for this test.

What are the exemptions to the NFSI solution exam?
- Students with an A.A., A.S., A.A.S. or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution. The number of credits earned will not exempt a student from taking the test.
- Students who have taken and met the minimum cut scores, within the past two years, on the PERT, SAT1 or ACT-E, are exempt from the NFSI exam. Documentation required.
- If a student has any questions regarding qualifying for an exemption they should see an academic advisor for assistance.

Do I have to take the T.A.B.E. (Test of Adult Basic Education)?
- All enrolled students that need to take the NFSI - Test must take and pass the TABE Full Battery Level (A) with a score of 10th grade level or higher in reading, language and math to be eligible to graduate. There is a $25 fee for this exam. Please pay the cashier and report to the Testing Center (with photo ID) to arrange to take the exam. * All applicants who have successfully completed the TABE after November 30, 2012 are exempt from taking the TABE for graduation.