



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.
- Night Fire Academy: Monday-Wednesday, 1800 – 2200, Saturday 0830 – 1730. Approx. six months.
- Go to 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.
- Must be able to complete a background check with the State of Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

What is the cost for the Fire Academy? Does Financial Aid cover all or part of the costs?

- The current in-state approximate costs for Firefighter I (FFP0010) is \$890.00 and for Firefighter II (FFP0020) is \$936.00, not including textbooks, uniforms, turnout gear, and pre-screening costs. Unfortunately at this time Financial Aid does not usually 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, and before the session payment due date.

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 the Admissions office on any Palm Beach State College 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?

- Proof of passing the CPAT test from any IAFF certified CPAT test provider. High school and college transcripts, sent via U.S. mail from the educational institution or in a sealed envelope.
- Proof of age (copy of driver's license) or similar government issued ID.
- 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 the test prior to consideration for placement into the selection pool. CPAT Certificates are valid for one year prior to the application deadline. CPAT information can be found at www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/fire/cpat.aspx. A valid CPAT Certificate will be acceptable from other IAFF Certified CPAT providers and must be submitted prior to program deadline.

What is the National Firefighter Selection Inventory (NFSI) - Test?

- Applicants must take the **I/O Solutions NFSI Test** (National Firefighter Selection Inventory – Form 3 Test) within the past two years of application deadline date and score at least a 75% in all subject areas (Reading, Language and Math) in order to be eligible for consideration for selection. Information about this test and study guides can be found at www.publicsafetyrecruitment.com. The Palm Beach State College Lake Worth book store will have a study guide in stock. The test is conducted at the Palm Beach State College testing center. Check with the testing center on the campus near you for availability as not all testing centers offer the NFSI test. There is a fee for this test. See www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing.

Do I have to take the T.A.B.E. (Test of Adult Basic Education)?

- All enrolled students who do not possess an AS or AA degree or higher 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.