

## Fire Academy Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between the Firefighter Academy and the Fire Protection Technology program?

The best way to describe the difference is quite simple. The Firefighter Academy gives the Cadets the skills and certifications to get them hired by a fire department. The Fire Protection Technology Program gives them the skills and education to advance up the ranks of the fire department once they are hired.

2. What is the cost of the Firefighter Academy?

The average cost of the Academy for someone who is not with a Fire Department in North Carolina is about \$1800. This includes the following:

- Tuition for the Fire Academy:	\$183
- Tuition for the EMT class:	\$193
- Books for the Fire Academy:	\$142
- Books for the EMT Class:	\$85
- Uniforms:	\$250
- PT Clothes/ Workout Clothes:	\$150
- Medical Physical:	\$350
- Turnout Gear Rental:	\$500

If a Cadet is affiliated with a North Carolina Fire Department, then they will be exempt from paying the tuition fees and can use the turnout gear from their fire department with approval from the Chief of the Department.

3. What is the schedule like for the Firefighter Academy?

Every day starts with a short ceremony where we raise the flag, say the pledge of allegiance, and have a moment of silence for our fallen firefighters. At 8 am, there is about 40 minutes of physical training, which consists of running, push-ups, pull-ups, and sit-ups, weight training and job related agility skills. Classes usually begin at 9 am and run until 5 pm. However some days go until 6 pm or later, depending on the objectives to be done for the day. Every day the Cadets perform station duties which include sweeping and mopping the classroom and common areas of the building, taking out the trash, cleaning the bathrooms, and cleaning the apparatus bays and equipment. Cadets are not allowed to leave until all work is completed.

This schedule continues for approximately 16 weeks at the ERTC 3 building and then the Cadets go to EMT class in the Public Safety Building for approximately 5 weeks.

4. What Certifications do the Cadets receive from the Firefighter Academy?

Upon graduation from the Firefighter Academy, Cadets will receive Firefighter I & II, Technical Rescuer with and Extrication Specialty, Hazardous Materials Operations, and EMT.

5. When are the tests for the Firefighter Academy?

Every class session during the fire and rescue portion of the Academy has its own test from the NC Fire and Rescue Commission. The EMT class has tests throughout the class and the State test is typically given a few weeks after graduation.

6. How do I apply to the Firefighter Academy?

Fill out the application available on the Fire Academy web page and mail it in along with a copy of a College Level reading placement test, such as AccuPlacer or Compass, and a letter of intent to attend the Firefighter Academy. These items must be received to be considered for the Firefighter Academy.

7. What other requirements are there for the Firefighter Academy?

All potential Cadets must first pass a physical agility test that consists of the following:

1.2 mile run in 12 minutes

25 sit-ups in 1 minute

25 push-ups in 1 minute

Carry a 40 pound hose pack up to the top of the training tower (4 floors)

Pull a 40 pound hose roll to the top of the tower using a rope

Climb a 35-foot ladder

Carry two ventilation saws 75 feet around a barrel and back (150 feet total)

Drag a charged hose line 75 feet

Drag a 165 pound rescue manikin 75 feet

After passing the agility test, there will be a short interview process and the 24 best candidates will be selected. All Cadets must pass a medical physical prior to admittance to the Firefighter Academy. This physical is done at the ERTC 3 building approximately 2 weeks prior to the start of the Fire Academy.

8. What are the cut-off dates for applying to the Firefighter Academy?

The cut-off date for the Spring Academy is October 1. The cut-off for the Fall Academy is April 1. This allows time for agility testing and preliminary screening of all applicants prior to full acceptance to the Firefighter Academy.