



California Fire Technology Directors Association

Rick Vogt, President

3423 Davis Avenue Suite G
Riverside CA 92518

p: 909.486.2845 f: 909.486.2910 e: Rick.Vogt@fire.ca.gov

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October 28, 2002

Frank Abbott
California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street Sacramento
California 95814-6511

Dear Mr. Abbott,

For several years, the California Community College Fire Technology Directors Association and others, have sought to align the learning domains in both the associate degree programs offered through community colleges and the courses leading to position certification, currently overseen by the California State Board of Fire Services, into a single academic/certification track. By establishing a single track, Fire Service professionals could earn an associate degree and professional certification simultaneously. A degree and certification could be earned in Fire Technology (Generic), in Firefighting and Emergency Operations (Firefighter I), Fire Service Management (Fire Officer) and in Fire Prevention Operations (Fire Prevention Officer 1).

The attached proposal was developed by members of the California Community College Fire Technology Directors Association at the Public Safety Retreat in San Pedro, California on November 2-3, 2001. The full membership of CFTDA voted to endorse the proposal at the September 19 2002 meeting in Riverside, California. The association therefore recommends that the California Community College Chancellors Office as a template for college degree patterns in Fire Technology.

Rick Vogt
Fire Technology Director
Riverside Community College

FIRE TECHNOLOGY DEGREE - Associate Degree and Certificate of Achievement on completion of coursework.

Fire Protection Organization
Fire Prevention Technology
Building Construction for Fire Protection
Fire Protection Equipment and Systems
Fire Behavior and Combustion
Fire Technology Electives
General Education Requirements

FIRE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DEGREE (Firefighter I) - Associate Degree and Certificate of Achievement on completion of coursework. Firefighter I Certification would be granted upon successful completion of required experience

Fire Protection Organization
Fire Prevention Technology
Building Construction for Fire Protection
Fire Protection Equipment and Systems
Fire Behavior and Combustion
Basic Fire Academy (Includes EMT)
General Education Requirements

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEGREE (Fire Officer) - Associate Degree and Certificate of Achievement on completion of coursework. Fire Officer certification would be granted upon successful completion of required experience

Fire Protection Organization
Fire Behavior and Combustion
Fire Prevention Technology
Building Construction for Fire Protection
Fire Protection Equipment and Systems

The learning domains from the following classes, some of which may be contained in specific required General Education classes (approximately 360 hours)

Incident Command System / I-200 - Basic ICS
Incident Command System / I-300 - Intermediate ICS
Fire Command 1A - Command Principles for Company Officers
Fire Command 1 B - Hazardous Materials Command Principles for Company Officers
Fire Command 1C – Wildland Fire Control
Fire Instructor 1A - Instructional Techniques
Fire Instructor 1B - Instructional Techniques
Fire Investigation 1A - Fire Cause and Origin Determination
Fire Management 1 - Management/Supervision for Company Officers
Fire Prevention 1A - Fire Inspection Practices
Fire Prevention 1B - Code Enforcement
General Education Requirements

FIRE PREVENTION OPERATIONS DEGREE (Fire Prevention Officer 1) - Associate Degree and Certificate of Achievement on completion of coursework. Fire Prevention Officer 1 certification would be granted upon successful completion of required experience

Fire Protection Organization
Fire Behavior and Combustion
Fire Prevention Technology
Building Construction for Fire Protection
Fire Protection Equipment and Systems

The learning domains from the following classes (approximately 328 hours)

Incident Command System / I-200 - Basic ICS
Incident Command System / I-300 - Intermediate ICS
Fire Prevention 1A - Fire Inspection Practices
Fire Prevention 1B - Code Enforcement
Fire Prevention 1C - Flammable Liquids and Gases
Fire Investigation 1A - Fire Cause and Origin Determination
Fire Investigation 1B - Techniques of Fire Investigation
Public Education 1 - Systematic Planning and Communication Skills
PC-832 Arrest and Firearms
General Education Requirements

All classes in the above degrees would meet the hour and Carnegie Academic Requirements. Upon completion of all the coursework in each of the degrees, an Associate of Sciences Degree and Certificate of Achievement would be granted by the Community College.

To provide credit to those students who have taken state certification or other classes comparable to those offered in the above degrees (i.e. other colleges/universities, National Fire Academy, other states, military, etc.) through an accredited educational institution, the current practice by California Community Colleges of evaluation and credit would continue, and where the learning domains were met, yet the academic rigor of the classes listed above had not been met, a means of reciprocity and for gaining full academic credit for those classes, would be developed. Example: If a Firefighter were to take Fire Management 1 at the Community College on a straight 40 hour basis, without meeting the Carnegie requirement, there would be a means of allowing full academic credit, when the student presented official transcripts and completed an additional critical thinking and other out of class assignments.