

Firefighter Academy | Fall 2025 Information Packet

General Information

The fire academy is a rigorous 16-week, 12-credit program that provides the education and training required to take the State Firefighter I and Haz Mat Ops certification exams. The Academy's rigorous instruction includes lectures and hands-on-training on fire behavior, building construction, search and rescue, and hazardous materials, to name a few. All training is conducted by an experienced instructor cadre that has served in various roles within the fire service to include firefighter, driver engineer, company officer, and chief officer. If you are looking for a career in firefighting, or if you want to serve your community as a volunteer firefighter, this is an excellent place to begin. All training complies with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications.

Students who pass the Hazardous Materials portion of the Academy will be eligible to take the State Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations written exams and practical certification exam. Students who pass the Firefighter I portion of the Academy will be eligible to take the State Firefighter I written and practical certification exams, including the live burn exam.

Admissions Policies and Practices

Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) is committed to diversity in its people and programs. The College is an equal opportunity educational institution which prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment including those that violate federal and state law, or the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education Board Policies 3-120 and/or 4-120. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, age, national origin or ancestry, pregnancy status, veteran's status, genetic information, physical and/or mental disability or any other category protected by applicable law in its employment practices or education programs. Red Rocks Community College will take appropriate steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and/or participation in vocational education programs.

The College has designated the Executive Director of Human Resources as its Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Administrator/Equal Opportunity Administrator with the responsibility to coordinate its civil rights compliance activities and grievance procedures. For information, contact: Executive Director of Human Resources, Title IX Administrator, Title VII/Equal Opportunity Administrator, ADA/Section 504 Administrator, PO Box 17, 13300 West Sixth Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80228-1255. Telephone: 303-914-6298

Prerequisites:

- Proof of age 18 by the first day of class (no exceptions).
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED.
- Must be eligible to enroll in ENG 1021 or provide proof of completion of ENG 1021, or its equivalent, with a grade of C or higher.
- Set up a meeting with Advising.

Co-Requisites Courses

The fire academy consists of **FST 1001 and FST 1007. Remember to sign up and register for both.** Classes run concurrently, and students will meet and attend these classes on Thursdays and Fridays. In some cases, such as with military funding requirements, the student will need to have up to three (3) more college credits taken the same semester as the academy classes to apply for such benefits, and this class would be a suggested area of study. Other Fire Science classes are listed in the Catalog relating to a Fire and Emergency Services Degree.

It is highly recommended that you take Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) prior to attending the fire academy, however, EMT is not required as a prerequisite to attend the fire academy.

Registration Process:

Registration for the Fall 2025 Semester will start on Monday, March 10, 2025. Students with all the required prerequisites are admitted to the program on a first-come, first-served basis. The two courses are corequisites and prospective students need to talk with an RRCC Advisor for admittance into the program. Please complete the steps shown below:

- Meeting with an RRCC advisor is mandatory. Meetings with the department chair are also encouraged.
- Complete the RRCC online application and sign up for COF (College Opportunity Fund) at Red Rocks Community College.
- Ensure eligibility to enroll in ENG 1021, either through placement exam scores or prior coursework or show proof of prior completion of ENG 1021, or its equivalent, with a C or better.
- Obtain a copy of your high school diploma or GED.
- Obtain proof of age 18 by the first day of class (no exceptions).
- Once the above documents/processes have been completed, meet with the advisor for a second time, if needed.

Once Registered

The following information shall be required in order to attend the fire academy. All forms are due on your first day at the academy. If you are missing any of these documents, you will not be able to participate in the academy. Each nonparticipation day will result in an F being issued. If you run into any issues obtaining the documents, contact the program specialist immediately and they will assist you.

- Proof of completion of a background check through CastleBranch.
- A completed medical release form, signed by a health care provider, documenting that you do not have any condition that would endanger your health during your education.
 - The medical release form can be completed by the student's primary care physician, or at the Red Rocks student health clinic.
- Release of liability waivers.
- Equipment Agreement Form.
- FEMA ICS 100, ICS 200, and ICS 700 certificates.

After you have registered for the academy, you will receive an email outlining your next steps and specific instructions for completing the mandatory physical, background check, and IC training.

Mandatory Orientation:

- The mandatory orientation for the Fall 2025 Academy will be held **Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm** in the Community Room (room #1280) on the Red Rocks Community College Lakewood Campus.
 - Please arrive no later than 4:45 pm to check in.
- After this date, we will no longer register students for this semester's academy except under certain circumstances approved by the Department Chair. We reserve the right to adjust this orientation time, location, presentation, and attendance requirements due to circumstances that might arise beyond our control.
- All requirements, rules, and expectations by the school or partner agencies, including academy drill grounds and or classrooms, must be adhered to.
- The Fire Academy training is academically, physically, and mentally rigorous and exacting; students are strongly encouraged to bring at least one parent, spouse, or significant other to this meeting so they may also understand what will be asked of each Fire Academy student.
- At the orientation, the Red Rocks Fire Academy Instructor Cadre will explain the guidelines, procedures, and policies required to successfully complete the Academy and pass the State Written and Practical Exams. You will be sized for your personal equipment (PPE). Bunker gear fitting and additional equipment will be within the first week of class.

General Information:

- The Academy is held on Thursdays and Fridays from 0650 to 1700 hours. The first day of training is Thursday, August 14, 2025, and the last day of training is Friday, December 12, 2025. The building is open at 0630 hours.
- There are no sick days, and you are expected to be at class every day before the start time each day.
- Absences, safety infractions, and assignments not being completed are grounds for removal from the academy.
- State Firefighter I exams normally occur after the academy, or in the last week of academy. A class schedule will be provided at the beginning of the class. Pay attention to any schedule changes as might be posted, and we reserve the right to adjust the topics of each class session as needed.
- Students should plan on spending approximately two (2) hours of study/practice time for each hour spent in class and on practical skills (roughly 36 hours of homework/study per week).
- A Graduation Ceremony will be held in the RRCC Community Room. Finalized dates and times will be announced during the academy.

Funding Assistance: Financial Aid and Scholarship Opportunities

You may be eligible for tuition assistance through the College Opportunity Fund (COF) and the Chief George Goldbach Scholarship Fund.

If you qualify for free grant funding, Career Advance Colorado can pay your tuition, fees, and other program costs, i.e. textbooks, background check, equipment, etc., for the fire academy. To see if you qualify, follow these steps:

- Complete the [FAFSA](#) financial aid application (ASSET/DACA recipients, complete the [CASFA](#)). Contact Financial Aid if you would like help with this step.
- Apply for and authorize the [College Opportunity Fund \(COF\) Stipend](#). (Colorado residents only).
- Have a complete financial aid file.
- Be classified as a Colorado resident for tuition purposes.
- Declare an eligible certificate listed [here](#).
- If you need to update your program of study, you can [click here to learn how](#).
- If you already have a certificate or degree declared but want to add one of the eligible certificates as a second priority, email Student.Records@rrcc.edu from your student email account to request the change.
- Please reach out to the Financial Aid office if you have any questions.
- Contact the [Red Rocks Foundation](#) for scholarship opportunities, e.g., Chief George Goldbach Memorial Scholarship and the Cody and Shelby Allen Endowed Memorial Scholarship.

Expected costs

- Resident tuition and fees (with COF applied) are approximately \$2,500.
 - All tuition and costs listed are approximate and subject to change.
- Financial aid may be available, please contact [RRCC Financial Aid](#) directly with questions regarding financial aid.
- Required textbooks and workbooks (approximately \$300).
- Blue BDU-style pants and one grey RRCC Fire Academy polo shirt (approximately \$35 each).

Academic Demands

The program demands a high level of academic performance, both within the classroom as well as with homework assignments. This requires that the student attend all class sessions as well as adequately prepare for and follow through with the self-study workload outside of class. Students can expect approximately two (2) hours of homework/study time for each hour of time spent in class or on drill ground. This equates to an additional 26 hours per week outside of the classroom or drill ground.

College Placement Exam:

The college placement exam is offered at the RRCC Assessment Center for students who have not met the English 121 pre-requisite. Please visit the [Assessment Center website](#) for testing times and availability or contact them at 303-914-6720.

No appointment is needed for the computerized exam, and there is no cost for the initial attempt. Allow approximately two (2) hours to complete the exam. Placement exams must have been taken within the last five (5) years to be accepted for admission into the academy.

Marijuana Use in Public Service Occupations

In 2012, with the approval of Amendment 64, the use of recreational marijuana became legal in Colorado for those 21 years of age and older. In 2015, in the case of *Coats vs. Dish Network*, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that employers do have the right to refuse employment, or terminate employment, for the use of marijuana (recreational or medical), even in situations where that use was when the employee was not on paid time. Currently, most public safety agencies and healthcare agencies continue to prohibit the use of marijuana in their substance abuse policies and employment policies, which includes students who are completing rotations as part of their educational program.

First Day of Class:

Bring the following items with you on the first day of class

- Required Documentation
- Required textbooks obtained from the RRCC bookstore
- Change of clothes from classroom attire to work out clothes
- Books must be purchased and reviewed after orientation night for the first day of class. It is suggested all reading material be purchased once accepted into the program and not wait until after orientation night.
- Lunch and snacks as needed for personal consumption
 - No refrigeration is provided at site or is limited.

We look forward to seeing you at the orientation on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the Community Room (room #1280) on the Red Rocks Community College Lakewood Campus.