

# FIRS-1401 Firefighter Certification I Master Syllabus

**Course:** FIRS-1401 Firefighter Certification I

**Synonym:**

**Section:** 001

**Campus Location:** This course is taught at the ACC Fire Training Academy (FTA) located at 4800 Shaw Ln, Austin, TX 78744 in Building G.

**Instructor Information:**

**Name:**

**Office phone or contact number:** 512-223-9764

**Office hours and location:** Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, 4800 Shaw Ln Austin, TX 78744 (Bldg F)

**Conference requests:** Students who would like a conference with the professor should contact him or her by their provided phone number and/or ACC email address. When using email the student should use their own ACC email address for all official class communication.

**ACC email address:**

**Other avenues for contact:** Students may also contact their professor through the use of Blackboard or they may contact the department chair of Fire Protection Technology at [nathan.zaleski@austincc.edu](mailto:nathan.zaleski@austincc.edu) or 512-223-9764 or the Fire Academy director at [ryan.grinnell@austincc.edu](mailto:ryan.grinnell@austincc.edu) or 512-223-9762 if they need additional help. Professors will not respond to any communication through avenues such as social media or outside platforms.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION I (4-3-2) One in a series of courses in basic preparation for a new firefighter. Should be taken in conjunction with Firefighter Certification II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII to satisfy the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) curriculum for Basic Structural Fire Suppression, Course #100. An introduction to firefighter safety and development. Topics include Texas Commission on Fire Protection rules and regulations, firefighter safety, fire science, personal protective equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, and fire reports and records. Please refer to the academy website at [www.austincc.edu/fireprot](http://www.austincc.edu/fireprot) for application process.

Transferability of workforce courses varies. Students interested in transferring courses to another college should speak with their Area of Study (AoS) advisor, Department Chair, and/or Program Director.

**COURSE RATIONALE:** This course will cover information that will assist fire protection technology students in the continuation of higher education goals and their employment in fire protection. It is also certified for the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) Basic Structure Fire Suppression certification.

**PREREQUISITES:** There are no prerequisites for this course; however, students should be advised by the department chair in the degree plan prior to registering for FIRS courses within the program. Additionally students will need to apply to the Level I certification program through the ACC FTA's website: <https://pss.austincc.edu/fireacademy/>

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Students seeking to become a TCFP certified firefighter must meet the certification criteria from TCFP. Requirements for TCFP certification can be found here:  
<https://www.tcfp.texas.gov/services/certificate?CertificateSlug=structure-fire-suppression>

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES, GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES, & SCANS:**

#### **Program Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student shall be able to perform fire suppression and rescue activities for a working structural, auto, and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) fire as a TCFP Basic Structural Firefighter.
2. The student shall be able to perform mitigation of a hazardous materials incident at the Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness and Operations levels as a TCFP Basic Structural Firefighter.
3. The student shall be able to perform technical rope and confined space rescue operations in accordance with NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications*. Chapters 5 and 7.
4. The student shall be able to perform mitigation of wildland fires as a TCFP Basic Wildland Firefighter.
5. The student shall have the strength and endurance to perform the job performance requirements required of fire protection personnel for entry level employment.

#### **Course student learning outcomes:**

1. The student shall describe the physics and chemistry associated with fire ignition.
2. The student shall describe post ignition fire development propagation and suppression of an uncontrolled room, compartment or structure fire.
3. The student will recognize fire phenomena that can cause injury, impede fire suppression, or delay rescue and property conservation operations.
4. The student will analyze the combustion process and the physical aspects associated with combustion.
5. The student shall document an emergency response on an applicable fire reporting form.
6. The student shall inspect, clean, and maintain an SCBA.
7. The student shall don, doff, and operate in a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) during emergency operations.
8. The student shall inspect, clean, and maintain structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
9. The student shall don, doff, and operate in structural firefighting (PPE) during emergency operations.
10. The student shall demonstrate how to identify, protect and preserve evidence on a fire scene.
11. The student shall identify potential causes of fire and the point of origin.

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## REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS/SOFTWARE:

IFSTA: Essentials of Fire Fighting 7th ed. ISBN # 978-087939657-2

IFSTA: Haz Mat for First Responders 5th ed. ISBN # 978-087939613-8

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of course work online in Blackboard  
<https://aconline.austincc.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
2. Completion of Exams at the ACCFTA.
3. Attendance of class sessions.
4. Ability to pass a physical examination in accordance with the ACC FTA Handbook.
5. Perform firefighter hands-on skills while wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment.
6. Work in hazardous environments such as, but not limited to, confined spaces, heights of nine stories or more, live fire with extreme temperatures, and other related environments associated with the fire protection career field.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Computer connected to the Internet (Google Chrome should be used as your browser).
2. Ability to utilize the Internet and email.
3. Ability to use Blackboard

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:** At the instructor's discretion, lecture, videos, class discussions, class projects, research papers and skills demonstration may be used to instruct the class.

**DISTANCE EDUCATION:** This course will be presented using a combination of Blackboard and in-class, classroom sessions. The professor for each subject area within the course will review their syllabus and course requirements.

## GRADING SYSTEM:

Grade Component

Subject Area	Possible Percentage
Fire Behavior	20%
Reports and Records	20%
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	20%
Personal Protective Equipment	20%
Fire Cause and Determination	20%
Total	100%

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\* All students must maintain a 75% average for each subject area within this course, must pass all assigned final exams administered for each subject area in this course with a 75% or higher grade, and must pass all skills exams administered for each subject area in this course. (Skills are strictly Pass/Fail) This is required to be eligible to take ACCFTA comprehensive final exam.

An individual who fails his/her first attempt to pass the written portion of an examination or skill test will be offered one opportunity to pass the re-examination. The student will not be permitted to take a retest on any written exam (to include the ACCFTA comprehensive final exam) on the same day the failure occurred, this re-exam will occur on the next day of training or when designated by the primary instructor. If the student fails the retest for a written exam or skills exam they will fail that subject area and be required to complete the entire course over again (Course repeats will occur in the next semester the ACCFTA is offered). For example, if a student fails the subject area HazMat Operations, which is found in FIRS-1423 Firefighter Certification V, the student will be required to repeat the entire FIRS-1423 course. If an individual fails their first attempt and passes the retest with a 75% or better, the grade recorded will not exceed 75% when the final grade average is calculated.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

This is how your course grade will be determined:

Course Grade Calculation

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100%	89-80%	79-75%	74-70%	<70%

### **Course Schedule:**

The course schedule will be posted by the ACC FTA Director each semester. This is subject to change due to weather conditions, availability of training props and/or equipment, and drill field availability. Instructors for each subject area will provide the students with a syllabus of their subject area requirements and due dates for all academic work, to include assignments, quizzes, exams, or other required work.

### **Attendance/Class Participation**

Regular and punctual class and laboratory attendance is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class.

In the event the college or campus closes due to unforeseen circumstances (for example, severe weather or other emergency), the student is responsible for communicating with their professor during the closure and completing any assignments or other activities designated by their professor as a result of class sessions being missed.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the rolls should they decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also

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verify that the withdrawal is recorded before the Final Withdrawal Date. The student is also strongly encouraged to keep any paperwork in case a problem arises.

Students are responsible for understanding the impact that withdrawal from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans' benefits, and international student status. Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2007 or later at any public Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a W) from more than six courses during their undergraduate college education. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor when making decisions about course selection, course loads, and course withdrawals.

### Missed Exam and Late Work Policies

Late work will only be accepted on a case by case basis. The instructor for each subject area will determine their policy for late work within their class per their syllabus. The highest grade that can be achieved for late work or exams is 75% unless the professor deems the late work or missed exam was excused. Students wishing to complete TCFP certification with this course must pass the final exam of each subject area with a score of 75% or greater and have an overall average of 75% or greater for each subject area within the course and overall average of 75% for the course.

### Incompletes

An instructor may award a grade of "I" (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for a passing grade in a course due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. prolonged illness or death in the family). The student should contact the professor when a situation arises where the student cannot complete the course work. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor but may not be later than the final deadline for withdrawal in the subsequent semester.

## COLLEGE POLICIES

### Health & Safety Protocols

Operational areas of ACC campuses and centers are fully open and accessible through all public entrances. While some health & safety protocols are no longer mandatory, the college encourages its staff, faculty, and students to be mindful of the well-being of all individuals on campus. If you feel sick, feverish, or unwell, please do not come to campus.

Some important things to remember:

- If you have not done so, ACC encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available throughout the community. Visit [www.vaccines.gov/](http://www.vaccines.gov/) to find a vaccine location near you.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, please get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible before returning to an ACC facility. Testing is now widely available.

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- If you test positive, please report it on the [ACC self-reporting tool located here](#).
- ACC continues to welcome face masks on campus. Per CDC guidelines, face masks remain a good way to protect yourself from COVID-19. The college cannot mandate indoor masking, but is encouraging it during this spike in cases as a result of the Delta variant.
- The college asks that we all continue to respect the personal space of others. We are encouraging 3 feet of social distancing.
- Please be sure to carry your student, faculty, or staff ID badge at all times while on campus.

Because of the everchanging situation, please go to ACC's Covid website at <https://www.austincc.edu/coronavirus?ref=audiencemenu> for the latest updates and guidance.

### Statement on Academic Integrity

Austin Community College values academic integrity in the educational process. Acts of academic dishonesty/misconduct undermine the learning process, present a disadvantage to students who earn credit honestly, and subvert the academic mission of the institution. The potential consequences of fraudulent credentials raise additional concerns for individuals and communities beyond campus who rely on institutions of higher learning to certify students' academic achievements and expect to benefit from the claimed knowledge and skills of their graduates. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, falsifying documents, or the inappropriate use of the college's information technology resources. Further information is available at <https://www.austincc.edu/about-acc/academic-integrity-and-disciplinary-process>

### Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students at ACC have the same rights and protections under the Constitution of the United States. These rights include freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition and association. As members of the community, students have the right to express their own views, but must also take responsibility for according the same rights to others and not interfere or disrupt the learning environment. Students are entitled to fair treatment, are expected to act consistently with the values of the college, and obey local, state, and federal laws. [www.austincc.edu/srr](http://www.austincc.edu/srr)

As a student of Austin Community College you are expected to abide by the Student Standards of Conduct.

<https://www.austincc.edu/students/students-rights-and-responsibilities/student-standards-of-conduct>

### Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements

Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the faculty and all College employees are required to report any information concerning incidents of **sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking** committed by or against an ACC student or employee. Federal Title IX law and College policy also require reporting incidents of **sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct**. **This means faculty and non-clinical counseling staff cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with them.**

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If you would like to talk with someone confidentiality, please contact the District Clinical Counseling Team who can connect you with a clinical counselor on any ACC campus: (512) 223-2616, or to schedule online: <https://www.austincc.edu/students/counseling> .

While students are not required to report, they are encouraged to contact the Compliance Office for resources and options: Charlene Buckley, District Title IX Officer, (512) 223-7964; [compliance@austincc.edu](mailto:compliance@austincc.edu) .

If a student makes a report to a faculty member, the faculty member will contact the District Title IX Officer for follow-up.

### **Student Complaints**

A defined process applies to complaints about an instructor or other college employee. You are encouraged to discuss concerns and complaints with college personnel and should expect a timely and appropriate response. When possible, students should first address their concerns through informal conferences with those immediately involved; formal due process is available when informal resolution cannot be achieved.

Student complaints may include (but are not limited to) issues regarding classroom instruction, college services and offices on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability.

Further information about the complaints process, including the form used to submit complaints, is available at:

<http://www.austincc.edu/students/students-rights-and-responsibilities/student-complaint-procedures>

### **Statement on Privacy**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects confidentiality of students' educational records. Grades cannot be provided by faculty over the phone, by e-mail, or to a fellow student.

### **Recording Policy**

To ensure compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student recording of class lectures or other activities is generally prohibited without the explicit written permission of the instructor and notification of other students enrolled in the class section. Exceptions are made for approved accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recording of lectures and other class activities may be made by faculty to facilitate instruction, especially for classes taught remotely through BlackBoard Collaborate or another platform. Participation in such activities implies consent for the student to be recorded during the instructional activity. Such recordings are intended for educational and academic purposes only.

### **Safety Statement**

Health and safety are of paramount importance in classrooms, laboratories, and field activities. Students are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Emergency Procedures posters and Campus Safety Plans are posted in each classroom and should be reviewed at the beginning of each semester. All incidents

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(injuries/illness/fire/property damage/near miss) should be immediately reported to the course instructor. Additional information about safety procedures and how to sign up to be notified in case of an emergency can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/emergency>

Everyone is expected to conduct themselves professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual may be immediately dismissed from the day's activity and will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an emergency situation or an outbreak of illness, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, students will be provided an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

### **Campus Carry**

The Austin Community College District concealed handgun policy ensures compliance with Section 411.2031 of the Texas Government Code (also known as the Campus Carry Law), while maintaining ACC's commitment to provide a safe environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Beginning August 1, 2017, individuals who are licensed to carry (LTC) may do so on campus premises except in locations and at activities prohibited by state or federal law, or the college's concealed handgun policy.

It is the responsibility of license holders to conceal their handguns at all times. Persons who see a handgun on campus are asked to contact the ACC Police Department by dialing 512-223-1231. Please refer to the concealed handgun policy online at <http://austincc.edu/campuscarry>

### **Discrimination Prohibited**

The College seeks to maintain an educational environment free from any form of discrimination or harassment including but not limited to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Faculty at the College are required to report concerns regarding sexual misconduct (including all forms of sexual harassment and sex and gender-based discrimination) to the Manager of Title IX/Title VI/ADA Compliance. Licensed clinical counselors are available across the District and serve as confidential resources for students.

Additional information about Title VI, Title IX, and ADA compliance can be found in the ACC Compliance Resource Guide available at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o55xINAWNvTYgl-fs-JbDyuaMFDNvAjz/view>

### **Use of ACC email**

All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify students of any college-related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Information about ACC email accounts, including instructions for accessing it, are available at:

<http://www.austincc.edu/help/accmail/questions-and-answers>

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## Use of the Testing Center

For Fall, 2021, the Testing Centers will allow only limited in person testing and testing time will be limited to the standard class time, typically one and one-half hours. Specifically, only the following will be allowed in the Testing Centers:

- Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Testing: All approved SAS testing
- Assessments Tests: Institutionally approved assessment tests (e.g., TSIA or TABE)
- Placement Tests: Placement tests (e.g., ALEKS)
- Make-Up Exams (for students who missed the original test): Make-up testing is available for all lecture courses but will be limited to no more than 25% of students enrolled in each section for each of four tests
- Programs incorporating industry certification exams: Such programs (e.g., Microsoft, Adobe, etc.) may utilize the ACC Business Assessment Center for the industry certification exams (BACT) at HLC or RRC

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The success of our students is paramount, and ACC offers a variety of support services to help, as well as providing numerous opportunities for community engagement and personal growth.

### Student Support

ACC strives to provide exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. Information on these campus services and resources is available at

<http://www.austincc.edu/students>. A comprehensive array of student support services is available online at:

<https://www.austincc.edu/coronavirus/remote-student-support>

### Student Accessibility Services

Austin Community College (ACC) is committed to providing a supportive, accessible, and inclusive learning environment for all students. Each campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Students are encouraged to request accommodations when they register for courses or at least three weeks before the start of each semester they are enrolled, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed. Students who have received approval for accommodations from SAS for this course must provide the instructor with the legal document titled "Notice of Approved Accommodations (NAA)" from SAS.

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Until the instructor receives the NAA from the student accommodations should not be provided. Once the NAA is received, accommodations must be provided. Accommodations are not retroactive, so it is in the student's best interest to deliver the NAA on the first day of class.

Please contact SAS@austincc.edu for more information.

### Academic Support

ACC offers academic support services on all of its campuses. These services, which include online tutoring, academic coaching, and supplemental instruction, are free to enrolled ACC students. Tutors are available in a variety of subjects ranging from accounting to pharmacology. Students may receive these services on both a drop-in and referral basis.

An online tutor request can be made here:

<https://de.austincc.edu/bbsupport/online-tutoring-request/>

Additional tutoring information can be found here:

[austincc.edu/onlinetutoring](https://austincc.edu/onlinetutoring)

### Library Services

ACC Library Services will be offering both in-person and extensive online services for Fall, 2021, with research and assignment assistance available in-person during limited hours of service. Although all college services are subject to change this fall, plans include ACC students signing up for study space and use of computers at open libraries, extensive online instruction in classes, online reference assistance 24/7 and reference with ACC faculty librarians. In addition, currently enrolled students, faculty and staff can access Library Services online (also 24/7) via the ACC Library website and by using their ACCeID to access all online materials (ebooks, articles from library databases, and streaming videos). ACC Libraries offer these services in numerous ways such as: "Get Help from a Faculty Librarian: the 24/7 Ask a Librarian chat service," an online form for in-depth research Q and A sessions, one-on-one video appointments, email, and phone (voicemail is monitored regularly).

- Library Website: <http://library.austincc.edu>
- Library Information & Services during COVID-19: <https://researchguides.austincc.edu/LSinfoCOVID19>
- Ask a Librarian 24/7 chat and form: <https://library.austincc.edu/help/ask.php>
- Library Hours of Operation by Location: <https://library.austincc.edu/loc/>
- Email: [library@austincc.edu](mailto:library@austincc.edu)

### Student Organizations

ACC has over seventy student organizations, offering a variety of cultural, academic, vocational, and social opportunities. They provide a chance to meet with other students who have the same interests, engage in service-learning, participate in intramural sports, gain valuable field experience related to

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career goals, and much else. Student Life coordinates many of these activities, and additional information is available at <http://sites.austincc.edu/sl/>.

### Personal Support

Resources to support students are available at every campus. To learn more, ask your professor or visit the campus Support Center. All resources and services are free and confidential. Some examples include, among others:

- Food resources including community pantries and bank drives can be found here:

<https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now>

- Assistance with childcare or utility bills is available at any campus Support Center: <http://www.austincc.edu/students/support-center>.
- The Student Emergency Fund can help with unexpected expenses that may cause you to withdraw from one or more classes: <http://www.austincc.edu/SEF>.
- Help with budgeting for college and family life is available through the Student Money Management Office: <http://sites.austincc.edu/money/>.

A full listing of services for student parents is available at: <https://www.austincc.edu/students/child-care>

- The CARES Act Student Aid will help eligible students pay expenses related to COVID-19:

<https://www.austincc.edu/coronavirus/cares-act-student-aid>.

Mental health counseling services are available throughout the ACC Student Services District to address personal and or mental health concerns: <http://www.austincc.edu/students/counseling>.

If you are struggling with a mental health or personal crisis, call one of the following numbers to connect with resources for help. However if you are afraid that you might hurt yourself or someone else, call 911 immediately.

Free Crisis Hotline Numbers:

- Austin / Travis County 24 hour Crisis & Suicide hotline: **512-472-HELP (4357)**
- The Williamson County 24 hour Crisis hotline: **1-800-841-1255**
- Bastrop County Family Crisis Center hotline: **1-888-311-7755**
- Hays County 24 Hour Crisis Hotline: **1-877-466-0660**
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
- Crisis Text Line: **Text “home” to 741741**
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline: **1-800-662-HELP (4357)**
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline: **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)**