



Degree Grant Program Program Information



Thank you for your interest in the Fire/Science degree program. This program is funded by the FEMA/DHS AFG SAFER Grant program. This is a Recruitment/Retention incentive program. The reward for the firefighter for participating with their local fire department is educational benefits. The Green River Firefighters Association was awarded this grant to fund this educational experience and the Green River Firefighters Association has contracted with State Fire Rescue Training to provide the Degree Program classes. State Fire Rescue Training has a 2-year Associates of Applied Science in Fire Rescue Science Technology. This degree will be granted by the Owensboro Community & Technical College once the student completes the 46 core curriculum hours (in fire related topics) and the 18 general education hours. This grant will cover the cost of the 46 core curriculum hours. The student will incur no expense due to gaining college credit for the courses that they participate in.

The program is geared towards two groups of firefighters: New firefighters (as a recruitment incentive) and existing firefighters (as a retention initiative). New firefighters that are recruited by their fire department are invited to attend this class as an initiative for joining the fire service. Existing firefighters are invited to attend this program as a reward for their dedicated service to their department. There are stipulations to attending the program. Firefighters must have attended at least 50% of the training offered at their home department during the previous year. In addition to this training requirement, the firefighter must have responded to at least 10% of the structural fires in their fire department's fire protection district over the past year. Along with the requirement for the previous year's participation, the firefighter will also need to continue with the responses and training during the term of the class. To become enrolled into the program, the firefighter will need to get the Chief of the department to verify that the firefighter has met the terms of enrollment by signing the verification statement. The firefighter interested in participating in the program will need to ensure that the department is a dues paying member of the Green River Firefighters Association.

The classes will be "floated" throughout the region. Each class will be hosted by a department in each county. At the January 2010 GRFA meeting in Henderson, seven of the eight counties were in attendance and selected the first round of class offerings. The schedule is posted on the training calendar page on the Area 3 webpage at www.sftarea3.org. All of the classes must be delivered before 2013. Students will not be charged for attending classes nor will they be charged for textbooks for classes. Firefighters may attend all of the training or just parts of the training. The degree is structured in segments called 'fractional credits'. For instance, if a firefighter needs FRS 1023 – Aircraft Rescue, they would not need to attend the entire FRS 102 course, just the nights scheduled for FRS 1023. The syllabus is posted on the website. After the completion of the course, the student names and grades will be entered into the Peoplesoft transcript system. Once all of the requirements for graduation are met, the student will need to fill out an application for graduation at the Owensboro Community and Technical College. The academic advisor will walk the student through this process when that time comes.