

40th Heartland Fire Academy

STATE ACCREDITED FF1 ACADEMY

In Partnership with Southwestern Community College

APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

January 12th 2026 – March 28th 2026

Dear Fire Academy Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the 40th Heartland Fire Academy. We hope this academy will help you in preparation for a career in the Fire Service. The Heartland Fire Academy consists of Southwestern Community College courses (FS-281F, FS-281G & FS32) and various certification courses that are accredited by the California State Fire Marshal. Upon successful completion of the Heartland Fire Academy and the additional required SFT courses, students will receive a State Fire Training Firefighter 1 Certificate, and earn twenty (20) Southwestern Community College Fire Technology units.

The Heartland Fire Academy includes lecture-based classroom sessions on topics such as *firefighter safety, equipment operation, fire extinguishers, forcible entry tools and techniques, lifting and hoisting equipment, fire hose, hose nozzles and fittings, hose evolutions, ladders, breathing apparatus, fire control, fire prevention, and more*. Manipulative classes give recruits the opportunity to practice skills taught in the classroom.

ACADEMY INFORMATION

- **Academy 40 is a 540-hour course; start date will be Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 am**
- **This course meets Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- Class locations will be the Heartland Fire Training Facility and other off-site locations

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 18 years of age at time of academy start date & High school graduate or equivalent (GED)
- EMT-B or Public Safety-First Aid (*completed by academy start date*)

PREREQUISITE CERTIFICATIONS

- WMD/Terrorism Awareness for first responders (available online at teex.org)
- ICS IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 (available online at teex.org)
- CPAT completion no older than 12 months at time of acceptance to academy
- **Medical Examination (*only completed if given an offer to join academy*)**

ACADEMY FEES

Fire Academy cost includes: **College Tuition** for FS-281F (16 units) and FS-281G (1 unit) and FS-32 (3 units) (**\$46 per unit fee reflects California in-state tuition**). Financial aid and scholarships available, please inquire if interested.

Course Title	Units	Tuition Fee
FS 281F Heartland Firefighter 1 Academy	16 Units	736.00
FS 281G Firefighter I Skills Review and Certification	1 Unit	46.00
FS 32 Academy Fitness and Nutrition	3 Units	138.00

Heartland Fire Training Authority Fees:

Consumables, textbooks, manuals, handouts, field guides and printed materials	\$1,290.00
State Fire Training Certificates, materials and fees and academy PT gear	\$1,290.00
Southwestern College Tuition Fees (as outlined above)	\$ 920.00
Total Fees:	\$3,500.00

Included Certifications are listed below:

➤ California State Firefighter 1 Certification	SFT Cert
➤ Fire Control 3	SFT Cert
➤ Firefighter Survival	SFT Cert
➤ Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician	SFT Cert
➤ Confined Space Rescue Awareness Certificate	SFT Cert
➤ S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior	NWCG Cert
➤ S-130 Wildland Firefighter Training	NWCG Cert
➤ HAZMAT FRO/FRA Pro-Board	CSTI Cert

Additional costs associated with the fire academy

(recruits are responsible for all of the costs below, paid directly to vendors)

SCBA, FIT test, Structural PPE, Wildland PPE	\$ 1,300.00
Medical respiratory exam (required prior to academy orientation)	\$ 200.00
Class B Uniform and Boots *Approximately*	\$ 350.00

Each recruit will be required to have the appropriate uniforms and personal protective equipment prior to the start of the Academy. Once accepted to the Academy, each recruit will receive detailed information on the specifications and type of uniforms and safety gear. These costs will be paid by the student directly to the vendor.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Submit Application by 10/31/2025 deadline:** If your application is approved, you will be selected for an interview with academy personnel.
- **Interview:** Each *Open Enrollee candidate* must pass an oral Interview Board. Interviews will be held virtually, via Zoom. Interviews will last approximately thirty minutes.
- **Medical Examination:** If accepted, information will be provided to each candidate.
- **Mask Fit Test.** All mask fit tests will be completed during academy orientation.
- **Physical Abilities Test:** Candidates must have a valid CPAT card *dated no older than 12 months before the academy start date*. See <http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/cpat/> for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

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| ➤ October 31 st 2025 | Applications Close |
| ➤ November 11 th to 14 th 2025 | Academy Interviews |
| ➤ November 17 th 2025 | Acceptance notifications sent via email |
| ➤ November 20 th 2025 | Initial deposit due (<i>payment plans available</i>) |
| ➤ December 8 th 2025 | Academy Orientation – 0700hrs |
| ➤ December 19 th 2025 | Prerequisites due |
| ➤ January 12 th 2026 | First Day of Academy - 0700hrs |

CONDUCT

The Academy is conducted in a paramilitary format and every effort will be made for the success of all candidates. Candidates are expected to adhere to all rules of conduct which include appropriate appearance and grooming standards

PHYSICAL TRAINING

Physical Training is an important component of the Academy. All candidates must be in good physical condition before entering the Academy. *At a minimum, a candidate should be able to perform to the following standards on the first day of the Academy:* 2 mile run / 5 story stair climb with 25lbs on each shoulder / 25 Pushups in one minute / 30 Sit-Ups in one minute / 5 pull-ups / 5 chin-ups / 50 yard farmer carry with 40lbs in each hand

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN SCHEDULE:

- *November 20th 2025 – First payment of \$700.00 due (20%)*
- *December 20th 2025 – Second payment of \$700.00 due (20%)*
- *January 20th 2026 – Third payment of \$700.00 due (20%)*
- *February 20th 2026 – Final payment of \$700.00 due (20%)*
- *March 20th 2026 – Final payment of \$700.00 due (20%)*