

**ROUTING FORM FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO ACADEMIC POLICY, CURRICULUM CHANGES, STATUTES
EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE**

NAME OF POLICY/ PROPOSAL: Firefighter II Certification Acceptance

Attach a complete copy of the proposed change as acted upon by the APCC or Faculty Senate. If changes made to proposal prior to adopting, please note the person and governance body making the change on the proposal, initial and date the change. Copies of appropriate documentation should be attached to the form with each submission and should be retained at each level. Please indicate the type of proposal being submitted:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Course | <input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Changes to Degree Program Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deactivate Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Reactivate Course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Deactivate Degree Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Degree Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reactivate Degree Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutes Revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy Proposal. | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Revision | |

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (APCC)

Initiated and Submitted to APCC

[Signature] _____ Date 12/21/19

Dean Approval:

[Signature] _____ Date 12/13/2019

APCC Action: Approved Denied Returned Tabled

[Signature] _____ Date 1-17-2020

Comments: _____

APCC Chair submits to Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Action: Approved Denied Returned Tabled

[Signature] _____ Date 1/21/2020

Comments: _____

Faculty Senate President sends to EGSC President and to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Note: Revisions to EGSC Statutes require approval of President's Cabinet and must be submitted to Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel for routing to President's Cabinet and routing to President. Please indicate "EGSC Statutes revision" on this form.

President's (or designee's) Action: Approved Denied Returned Tabled

[Signature] _____ Date 01/22/2020

Comments: _____

Distribution By:

Signature _____ Date _____

President retains original **ACADEMIC POLICY/PROPOSAL ROUTING FORM**

President's Office Distributes Copies To:

Faculty Senate—President _____ Date _____

Academic Policies & Curriculum Committee—Chair/VPASA _____ Date _____

Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel _____ Date _____

Purpose of this Proposal

The purpose of this policy proposal is to provide credit for national certifications for Fire Fighter I and II earned by individuals applying to, or enrolled in, the AA-FESA program. The Fire Firefighter series of courses builds upon itself, meaning certification at the previous level is a prerequisite for the next level. Someone that applies for the Fire Fighter II certification must be certified at the Fire Fighter I level.

Many institutions within the state of Georgia, as well as outside of the state, offer credit hours for certifications that have been earned by fire and emergency services personnel in the course of their job assignments. At the present time, East Georgia State College does not provide this opportunity. In order to remain competitive with other institutions, and to recognize the hard work accomplished by these individuals, we must offer appropriate credit for national certifications that meet the same objectives of our FESA courses.

We are formally requesting that credit be allowed as outlined in this proposal for Fire Fighter I and II NPQ or IFSAC (explained below) national certifications.

Justification

The fire service profession in the United States uses professional standards to certify individuals in particular areas of expertise. Examples of these areas include Instructor, Investigator, Firefighter, and Fire Officer, to name a few. The purpose of these national standards is to certify that a Fire Fighter II in Georgia meets the same job performance requirements as a Fire Fighter II in Ohio or New Jersey. These professional standards are outlined in various consensus documents developed and adopted by the National Fire Protection Association. Each state has its own certification and testing entity for these professional certifications, which is accredited by at least one of two sources: Proboard International Accreditation for Fire Service Organizations (NPQ) or the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Georgia, for example, is a state that is accredited by Proboard and provides testing for National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) certifications through the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council.

One of the basic certifications that most fire fighters achieve is that of Fire Fighter I and II (NFPA Standard 1001). Presently these certifications are offered jointly through the Georgia Fire Academy (GFA) and Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council (GFSTC). GFA provides the face to face courses that meet the requirements of the standard that must be successfully completed before the Fire Fighter Candidate takes

the national exam through GFSTC. Alternatively, many fire departments offer Fire Fighter I and II courses in-house. These in-house programs must meet the requirements of NFPA Standard 1001, Fire fighter Professional Qualifications. The certification tests are then provided by GFSTC.

It is the proposal of the EGSC FESA director that EGSC create a policy whereby credit hours are given for Fire Fighter I and II national certifications to be applied toward the pursuit of an Associate of Arts degree in Fire and Emergency Services Administration.

These credit hours will be awarded in the form of course credit for Area F courses identified as FESA 2101 Principles of Emergency Services and FESA 2102 Fire Behavior and Combustion. This will provide the incoming student that is a nationally certified Fire Fighter II with six (6) credit hours for Area F.

Documentation to be Requested

In order to receive the credit hours as outlined above, the student would need to provide the following documentation:

1. Copy of the certificate from National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) or the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). A certificate of course completion will not be sufficient.
2. The certificate must be for Fire Fighter II to receive the full six (6) credit hours.

Conclusion

In order to remain competitive with similar fire and emergency services degree programs in this state and outside, East Georgia State College needs to recognize the value of national certifications. While not all training classes are acceptable for transfer credit, those that have a rigorous curriculum, evaluation, and testing criteria that meet a national standard should be considered. This will enable us to offer credit to our applicants that have worked hard for these achievements and enable them to continue on their pathway to a degree.