



Research Brief

Crafton Hills College Fire Academy Fall 2014 Exit Survey Results

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Purpose of Brief

This brief describes the results of the Fire Academy exit survey which attempted to measure the impact of temporarily relocating the CHC Fire Academy to the CalFire San Bernardino Unit.

Summary of Findings

- 100% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the CalFire and other off-campus locations were conducive to their learning experience.
- 100% of respondents would recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend.
- 91% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they received the same quality education at CalFire as they would have received on-campus.
- 90% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt connected to the CHC community.
- 19 respondents mentioned the reputation as their deciding factor for choosing the CHC Fire Academy.
- 12 respondents described traveling between various sites for instruction as a burden on learning, time, and financial resources.

Overview

The CHC Fire Academy training was temporarily relocated to the CalFire location in San Bernardino in Fall 2013 due to the demolition of the Occupational Education Building #2 (OE2). Fire Academy faculty contacted the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning (OIERP) to conduct an exit survey of the twenty-three cadets to measure whether the temporary relocation impacted the cadets' perceptions of the training and their general college experience.

Methodology

In conjunction with the OIERP, the Fire Academy faculty developed a paper survey administered to cadets on November 18, 2014. There were twenty-three responses for a 100% response rate. The survey included six Likert-scale questions which measured the respondent's level of agreement with various statements regarding the respondent's perceptions and experiences. There were two dichotomous questions on academic background at CHC, and two dichotomous questions on whether the respondent would recommend the CHC fire program. The survey had three open-ended question to elicit responses. Lastly, the survey asked for the respondent's name and student ID number.

Findings

Table 1 illustrates the responses to the four dichotomous questions. Eighty-seven percent of respondents took their Fire Academy pre-requisites at CHC, and 100% would recommend taking the fire technology courses at CHC. Ninety-six percent of respondents would recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend, and 78% stated they took other classes at CHC.

Table 1. Responses to dichotomous questions

Question	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
Did you take your pre-requisites at Crafton Hills College for the CHC Fire Academy?	20	87.0	3	13.0
Have you taken any other classes at CHC?	18	78.3	5	21.7
Would you recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend interested in becoming a firefighter?	23	100.0	0	0.0
Would you recommend to your friends to take FIRET 100 and FIRET 101 at CHC?	22	95.7	1	4.3

Table 2 illustrates respondent's level of agreement with various statements regarding their training with the CHC Fire Academy. One hundred percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the

Cal Fire location was conducive to their learning experience. Conversely, 90% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt connected to the CHC community, and 86% disagreed or strongly disagreed that college support services were readily available to them. Lastly, 83% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that traveling to different **did not** negatively impact their ability to learn, and 91% agreed or strongly agreed that they received the same quality education at CalFire as they would have received on-campus.

Table 2. Responses to Likert-scale questions

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The Cal Fire San Bernardino location was conducive to my learning experience.	14	60.9	9	39.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
The other off-site locations were conducive to my learning experience.	13	56.5	10	43.5	0	0.0	1	4.8
I felt connected to the Crafton Hills College community.	2	8.7	0	0.0	14	60.9	7	30.4
College support services were readily available to me at the Cal Fire San Bernardino location.	2	9.1	1	4.5	11	50.0	8	36.4
Traveling to different locations did not negatively impact my ability to learn the training's objectives.	7	30.4	12	52.2	2	8.7	2	8.7
I received the same quality education being at Cal Fire San Bernardino as I would have received being on-campus.	10	43.5	11	47.8	2	8.7	0	0.0

No comments were received regarding whether respondents would recommend others to take fire technology courses at CHC. Twenty-two respondents provided comments regarding the impact of the Fire Academy being temporarily relocated to CalFire. Twelve comments addressed burden of cost and time moving between various locations while 4 respondents thought moving to different locations was beneficial. Seven respondents believed being among career firefighters at Cal Fire was enriching to their learning. While 5 respondents praised the instructors, 4 respondents felt disconnected from Crafton Hills. The comments are included below:

- Being off site was logistically challenging but it also gave the academy great experience going to different places.
- I liked the part that we got to train at many different locations. The only negative part of the academy was not being part of the college.
- The academy and instructors were very helpful and caring about my future.
- I firmly believe that this academy was the best around. It had its benefits being off campus but the gas cost out of pocket and extra time made it more miserable.
- Positive was being around fire fighters all day. Negative was driving to different locations.
- Being at Cal Fire San Bernardino was a positive experience because we were able to meet the career fire fighters and have them watch us, but we were disconnected from the school.
- Positive: Meeting different instructors and met various fire department personnel. Negative: Traveling and ensuring equipment was transferred.
- Driving to multiple locations in one day made it tough with gas.
- The fire academy had a great group of instructors that truly cared about the cadets and the program. Which makes me want to recommend this academy to anyone who is interested in a fire fighter career.
- The negative experience I had, was having to drive back and forth between locations.
- Having the academy at Cal-Fire shortened my driving by half, which was awesome.
- Instructors were very good and positive; it was costly to travel for gas.
- I do think we felt a little disconnected to the college but at the same time traveling to different sites helped.
- I do feel like the extended amount of travel as well the various other locations impacted time spent on learning.
- Being at Cal Fire headquarters was beneficial to learning how fire departments are run.
- Being at Cal Fire was good to meet career personnel but I felt disconnected and no support from the school.
- I did not feel any connection to the Crafton Hills campus while at Cal Fire. Also, the amount of driving was not beneficial to my learning experience.
- Great learning environment, very real life. I like how the Academy was ran like an actual fire department. Great Physical training program in the morning.

- The only negative was all the time it took to travel to off-site locations.
- Great instructors and I learned a lot of new skills.
- The gas it took to shuttle around equipment and personnel.
- Positive: More exposure to real life fire service, a lot of knowledgeable people around. Negative: A lot of time wasted traveling, transport resources limited.

All 23 respondents provided comments regarding the deciding factors used in choosing the CHC Fire Academy. Nineteen respondents named the reputation as the reason for attending the CHC Fire Academy. The comments are included below:

- Hearing how challenging it was and how good the instructors were from passed cadets.
- It is the best academy and they make you work hard in this academy.
- The amount of certificates received and time available.
- I had heard nothing but great things from everyone else.
- I took my pre-requisites at CHC and I have heard really good things about CHC fire academy.
- The reputation.
- The opportunity to attend the fire academy and becoming a part of Crafton Hills College.
- It was closest to home and seemed to be the most disciplined.
- Reputation, quality of instructors.
- I have taken all my courses in Crafton so my loyalty was to the Crafton Hills Fire Academy.
- My deciding factor in choosing Crafton Hills Fire Academy was the reputation of the academy.
- Its reputation, I have heard from many people that the best cadets came from CHC fire academy.
- I heard it was the best.
- I heard it was the best from previous graduates.
- CHC Fire Academy has a long standing history of excellence.
- Wanted to start a career.
- The reputation.
- The legacy of the Crafton Hills Fire Academy drew me to Crafton.
- Reputation.
- The reputation of Crafton Hills Fire Academy.
- Very well respected program. Smaller class so more student and instructor time. Closer to my house.
- I believe in Chief Alder.
- I have heard many great things about this academy from many firefighters and other people and I decided to do this academy because of it.