



Research Brief

Crafton Hills College Fire Academy Spring 2015 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 would recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend.
- 70% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the CalFire location was conducive to their learning experience.
- 57% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they received the same quality education at CalFire as they would have received on-campus.
- 73% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt connected to the CHC community.
- 29 of 30 respondents mentioned the reputation as their deciding factor for choosing the CHC Fire Academy.
- 25 of 30 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 thirty-one 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 April 22, 2015. There were thirty responses for a 100% response rate. The survey included seven 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 two 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. Seventy percent of respondents took their Fire Academy pre-requisites at CHC, and 100% would recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend. Ninety-seven percent of respondents would recommend taking the fire technology courses at CHC, and 73% 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?	21	70.0	9	30.0
Have you taken any other classes at CHC?	22	73.3	8	26.7
Would you recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend interested in becoming a firefighter?	30	100.0	0	0.0
Would you recommend to your friends to take FIRET 100 and FIRET 101 at CHC?	29	96.7	1	3.3

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

Cal Fire location was conducive to their learning experience, and 69% either agreed or strongly agreed that the other off-site locations were conducive to their learning experience. Additionally, 70% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that traveling to different **did not** negatively impact their ability to learn, and 57% agreed or strongly agreed that they received the same quality education at CalFire as they would have received on-campus. Seventy-three percent of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt connected to the CHC community, and 60% disagreed or strongly disagreed that college support services were readily available to them. Lastly, 63% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that given the opportunity, they would have been interested in taking their prerequisite courses online.

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.	6	20.0	15	50.0	6	20.0	3	10.0
The other off-site locations were conducive to my learning experience.	9	31.0	11	37.9	9	31.0	0	0.0
I felt connected to the Crafton Hills College community.	1	3.3	7	23.3	7	23.3	15	50.0
College support services were readily available to me at the Cal Fire San Bernardino location.	2	6.7	10	33.3	9	30.0	9	30.0
Traveling to different locations did not negatively impact my ability to learn the training's objectives.	2	6.7	7	23.3	8	26.7	13	43.3
I received the same quality education being at Cal Fire San Bernardino as I would have received being on-campus.	6	20.0	11	36.7	8	26.7	5	16.7
Given the opportunity, I would have been interested in taking FIRET-100 and FIRET-101 as online courses.	11	36.7	8	26.7	7	23.3	4	13.3

All thirty respondents provided comments regarding the impact of the Fire Academy being temporarily relocated to CalFire. Twenty-five comments addressed the logistical, cost, and time burden of moving between various locations while 4 respondents believed being among career firefighters at Cal Fire was enriching to their learning. While 4 respondents praised the instructors, 2 respondents felt disconnected from Crafton Hills. The comments are included below:

- I believe that the learning part was extremely well done. However, the logistics part behind the academy was a nightmare. I feel that the new training building at Crafton will greatly improve the academy.
- Commuting to numerous locations was not good for us. The logistical aspect of it, being off campus, was a nightmare.
- It was very difficult being offsite, a better system must be in place for future academies that are offsite.
- Being off campus had a negative impact on the quality of training and needs to be fixed.
- My negative experience was having to pay \$150 a week on gas cars traveling from site to site.
- N/A
- The only bad part was having to move everything all the time.
- Positives, I learned a lot from really great instructors. Negative, how much we had to drive, I didn't really like that.
- Positives experience was being around professional firefighters every day, negative would be not feeling connected with the college.
- It was good to be a CAL-FIRE Headquarters to see the actual open actions of an institution like that. Also the exposure to the CAL-FIRE personnel was a positive experience.
- Multiple locations were not good.
- Being at Cal-Fire was a major disadvantage as we spent a great deal of time sorting experiment, loading vehicles, and driving instead of learning.
- Having to travel to Cal-Fire San Bernardino everyday was not a great thing, I think once the building will be done the cadets will be able to appreciate the academy more.
- There were firefighters around to learn from.
- Off campus was a pain. CHC did not supply a lot of needed materials.
- All the different locations for classes was a bit rough.
- Driving without compensation was hard financially.
- Positive: Instructors were very knowledgeable. Negative: Traveling to different locations was very important.

- Cal Fire is a great location however I didn't like one of the cadet's car got graffitied.
- It was a bit disorganized.
- Even though the Cal Fire location was very accommodating, being offsite and having to travel to different locations made things more difficult. Compared to now they would be if everything was at one location.
- The academy was one of the best experiences in life I've had.
- The Cal Fire headquarters was quite the inconvenience. The commuting between locations was not favorable amongst the cadets. Please provide a more streamline option for future academies.
- Too much traveling to off-site locations
- Being off campus made it difficult for me financial wise. Having to drive to various locations each week, sometimes daily took a toll on my vehicle and bank account that I had not played for.
- The transit around to different places was inconvenient.
- Chief Alder made every attempt to accommodate the academy being off site. However the academy lacked due to the amount of travel involved having an academy out of various boxes is not a conducive learning experience.
- I didn't mind traveling to other places for certain events like Auto X and fire control 3A, 3B but to travel just because our classroom was booked sucked! If we had our own place it would have avoided a lot of confusion.
- The drive was really a hit on my expenses.
- It's pathetic Crafton Hills won't finish the fire academy building. Liberals, what else...Traveling all over sucks!

All 30 respondents provided comments regarding the deciding factors used in choosing the CHC Fire Academy. Twenty-nine respondents named the reputation as the reason for attending the CHC Fire Academy. The comments are included below:

- The years of expertise behind the teaching program, the great firefighters they have put out into the field, and the dedication that is put into the program by everyone at the college.
- The reputation it upholds as an academy.
- Heard good things about the program.
- I heard it was the best academy.
- It's the best around.
- CHC have the best fire academy. Instructors are awesome!! Learning from the best instructors.
- CHC fire academy is known as one of the best ones around if you want to be the best you train with the best.
- Best decision I ever made.
- The reputation of the academy and the wild land portion.
- It was local and I have always heard that Crafton had the best fire academy.
- The reputation
- Reputation.
- It was close to home, I was already attending Crafton for other classes, and it is well known around the Inland Empire for being the best academy.
- Old traditions and my dad went here.
- The respect it comes with CHC Fire Academy.
- The reputation of the academy.
- I heard it was one of the best in the nation and it was close to home.
- Great reputation, lots of history, and has had friends who were previous cadets of the academy who have all had great experiences with CAL Fire academy.
- It is the best academy around with a great reputation.
- Tradition & Reputation.
- I have attended CHC for everything else: EMT, fire tech, etc. I believe CHC is one of the best programs available.
- If I could do it over again I would, that's how much I liked it.
- The reputation and standard that is upheld here.
- Reputation.
- Good Reputation.
- They have the best fire academy around.
- The name and reputation of the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy.
- The Fire Academy staff.
- Reviews
- It was close to home (so I thought) and has a good reputation. Unfortunately CHC does not take the program as seriously as future firefighters do.

Any questions regarding this brief can be directed to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning at (909) 389-3390 or you may send an email to bgambo@craftonhills.edu; RRN 1114 Fire Academy Exit Surveys SP15.docx; snFireAcademyExitSurvSp15.sav.