

Fire Academy Exit Survey Assessment
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Purpose of Brief

This brief describes the results of the Fire Academy exit survey, which evaluated the Cadet's experience of the program upon their program completion.

• **Summary of Findings**

- 100% of respondents agreed they would recommend the Fire Academy program to a friend.
- 92% of respondents like having the sessions four days a week instead of the five days a week.
- 92% of respondents would recommend their friends taking the FIRET-100 and FIRET-101 at CHC.
- 83% of respondents agreed they would have taken the three unit "Firefighter Agility Preparation" class prior to starting the program to be better prepared for the program.
- 96% of respondents felt connected to the Crafton Hills College community.

Overview

Fire Academy faculty contacted the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning (OIERP) to conduct an exit survey of the twenty-four cadets to measure their training and general college experience.

Methodology

In conjunction with the OIERP, the Fire Academy faculty developed a paper survey administered to cadets in Spring 2018. The survey included six Likert-scale questions that measured the respondent's level of agreement with various statements regarding the respondent's perceptions and experiences. Additionally, the dichotomous questions asked the participants about their academic background at CHC and whether or not they would recommend the CHC fire program to other people. The survey had three open-ended question to elicit responses about their preference of four days for the program, suggestions for improvements, and their deciding factor for choosing to attend the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy.

Findings

Table I illustrates the responses to the dichotomous questions. Fifty-four percent of respondents took their Fire Academy prerequisites at CHC, and 100% would recommend taking the Fire Technology courses at CHC. One hundred percent of respondents would recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend, and 83% stated they would take the three-unit, semester-long “Firefighter Physical Agility Preparation” course before attending the Fire Academy to have been better prepared for the program.

Table I. Responses to dichotomous questions

Question	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
Did you take your prerequisites at Crafton Hills College?	13	54.2	11	45.8
If you had the opportunity to be enrolled in the 3-unit semester, long course-“Firefighter Physical Agility Preparation” prior to attending the Fire Academy, would you have enrolled to be better prepared physically during the academy?	20	83.3	4	16.7
Do you think that the Fire Academy is too expensive to attend for most Cadets who attend?	22	91.7	2	8.3
Do you like having a Fire Academy that is in session 4 days a week instead of 5 days a week?	22	91.7	1	4.3
Have you taken any other classes at CHC?	15	62.5	9	37.5
Would you recommend the CHC Fire Academy to a friend interested in becoming a firefighter?	24	100.0	0	0.0
Would you recommend to your friends to take FIRET 100 and FIRET 101 at CHC?	22	91.7	1	4.3

Table 2 illustrates the respondent's level of agreement with various statements regarding their training with the CHC Fire Academy. Seventy-three percent of respondents strongly agreed that the Public Safety Allied Health facility was conducive to their learning experience. Ninety-six percent either strongly agreed or agreed that use of the online software program, EVALS, was conducive to their learning experience, and 96% of the participants either strongly agreed or agreed that they felt connected to the CHC community. Additionally, 67% strongly agreed or agreed that, given the opportunity they would be interested in taking FIRET-100 and FIRET-101 as online courses.

Table 2. Responses to Likert-scale questions

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The Public Safety Allied Health facility at Crafton Hills College was conducive to my learning experience.	19	72.9	5	20.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
The <u>use</u> of the online software program, EVALS, was conducive to my learning experience.	17	70.8	6	25.0	1	4.2	0	0.0
I felt connected to the Crafton Hills College community.	12	50.0	11	45.8	1	4.2	0	0.0
Given the opportunity, I would have been interested in taking FIRET-100 and FIRET-101 as online courses.	12	50.0	4	16.7	7	29.2	1	4.2

Students were asked which days of the week they would want a 4-day a week Academy held. In response to this open-ended prompt, 71% of students wished to see courses offered during Tuesdays-Fridays. All 24 comments are listed below:

- Monday-Thursday (n=6)
- Monday-Thursday; Tuesday-Friday
- Tuesday-Friday (n=17)

The following statements are the participant responses to the open-ended question, “How can Crafton hills college improve services and learning for cadets in the Fire Academy?”

- Bunker gear dryer.
- Give us a dumpster!
- Going over more IF SAC skills sheets.
- Hot water in the breakroom and shower.
- I feel like it could be beneficial to extend the Academy a week or two to spend additional time on subjects like ventilation/autox and include inter-departmental training exercises with EMS.
- I would have liked more time spent on certain subjects such as firefighter survival, forcible entry, and ventilation.
- Maybe better grading scale with regards to manipulative/academic scores.
- Pre-fitness class for the Academy.
- Provide showers, warm water in the break area, and a break room with enough power to run more than 1 microwave at once.
- Providing a mandated two-week boot camp prior to the Academy.
- So far, it has been a good experience, I believe EVALS quizzes could be tweaked a bit.
- Tough PT.
- Weekly quizzes AT the Academy, and fitness classes beforehand (at the Academy). Also, shower accessibility.

The following statements are the participant responses to the open-ended question, “Lastly, what was your deciding factor in choosing to attend CHC Fire Academy?” Not all responses are identical, but most of the responses compliment the reputation of the Fire Academy as their reason for choosing the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy.

- Best Fire Academy around.
- CHC Fire Academy is one of the best known academies in the country. I wanted to attend CHC Fire Academy because it’s the best there is.
- I researched respected academies in the Southern California area.
- It was a reputable academy and recommended by a friend.
- It was easy to apply to and easier than other community colleges to communicate with.
- It’s the best.
- Its high reputation.
- Its reputation sold me. I’ve heard nothing but positive feedback of instructors and the way the Academy is run.
- Less prerequisites than most other places. Good word of mouth reviews from friends/co-workers. I went here for EMT/Paramedic and loved it.
- Location and reputation.
- Location, professionalism.
- Location; what Crafton had to offer.
- Reputation.
- Reputation and schedule.
- Reputation was the most critical factor. Second was housing nearby.
- The reputation that the CHC Academy holds was by deciding factor. When I tell captains and chiefs that I attend it, they are immediately interested in me.
- The reputation of the Fire Academy.
- The school’s reputation and the staff’s reputation, location, and schedule.
- Twas the best Academy in all the land.
- What made me choose CHC Fire Academy over other schools was the 4-day a week classes.
- Word of mouth through friends, reputation.