



## Firefighter Program: Steps to Enroll

Thank you for your interest in Florida Gateway College's Firefighter program at the Public Safety Training Center. The following steps of Admission to FGC and Testing Requirements must be completed prior to submitting the Firefighter Program Application:

### Admissions:

The first step to becoming a firefighter through Florida Gateway College (FGC) is to visit the FGC website at <https://www.fgc.edu> and select Apply in the top right menu. This will open the page to begin the application to become an FGC student. In addition to the application, the following is required to be submitted to FGC's Office of Enrollment Services (149 SE College Place, Lake City, FL 32025 or [enrollment.services@fgc.edu](mailto:enrollment.services@fgc.edu)) to become an admitted student:

- Official high school transcript or GED
- Official transcripts from all previously attended colleges

Proof of Florida Residency is not required for admission, but it is highly recommended you complete this step as early as possible. Proving residency allows you to be considered for in-state tuition, which is 70% less than the non-resident rate. Find the form at [www.fgc.edu/residency](http://www.fgc.edu/residency).

Visit <https://www.fgc.edu/fire> to view information about the program. You will find a program overview, testing requirements, fees, and other information. On this page, there is also an Apply Now link that will also take you to the FGC application.

### National Fire Service Inventory (NFSI) and Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) test:

The next step is to contact FGC's Test Center at (386)754-4333 to schedule the NFSI test. The Test Center will tell you the exam cost and confirm the time/date on which you are scheduled. You may also schedule through the FGC website at the link below. After clicking on the link, select Public Service for Group and NFSI will show in drop down for exam. <https://www2.registerblast.com/fgc/Exam/List>.

A TABE test or exemption is also required. Exemptions include:

- If you started 9<sup>th</sup> grade at a Florida public high school in or after 2003 AND graduated from a FL public high school with a standard diploma, you will be determined exempt upon review of your transcript.
- If you have previously completed college-level math and English, you may be exempt. Check with your advisor.

Schedule the TABE test at the link above. Select TABE-FGC Students for the Group and complete the remainder of the form.



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### **Firefighter Application:**

You may also apply online through the FGC website or by picking up an application packet from Building 1 on the Olustee campus located at 25030 US Highway 90 West, Olustee, FL. 32072. This is about seven miles west of the Main campus and about one mile on the Baker County side of the Baker/Columbia County line. This online application or the printed application packet must be submitted no later than the physical abilities test and class orientation day. For the printed packet, please include a cover letter that introduces you and explains why you chose the FGC Fire Program, and why you want to become a Firefighter. Also include any experience you may have in fire, EMS, or other public safety-related areas. The online Fire Program Application form will have a section for you to enter a response to those prompts.

### **Physical Abilities Test and Orientation:**

Once you have been admitted as a student to FGC, completed the appropriate testing requirements, and completed the Fire Program application (including all required documents and cover letter), you may contact the program coordinator to register for the physical abilities test.

**\*\*\* You must have the completed medical form (DFS-K4-1022) signed by a physician before you will be allowed to participate in any physical activity, including the physical ability test. This form is included in your application packet. \*\*\***

The physical abilities test (PAT) and orientation is scheduled for **November 28 and 29, 2023 at 0900**. You only need to attend one day, and you **must register** for the day you wish to attend by contacting the Fire Program Manager. A mandatory orientation will also be held each day following the PAT to provide information about the program and answer questions.

The PAT consists of two parts:

- ½ mile run. You must complete ½ mile in eight minutes or less.
- Firefighter Physical Abilities Test (FPAT). This consists of 13 stations that include carrying weights, simulated forcible entry, simulated ladder climb, crawling, dragging a sled, and simulated ceiling breach pull/push. All of these tasks will be done while wearing a weighted vest and must be completed in 8:30 or less. More information about the FPAT can be found at <https://firesledfitness.com/fpat/>. Practice time on the equipment is available by scheduling with the Fire Program Manager.

Both the ½ mile run and the FPAT must be passed within the allotted time. If either cannot be completed in the time, you will be disqualified. This course is physically demanding, and it is suggested you prepare by doing cardiovascular and strength training.



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You will not be allowed to register for Fire Program classes until you have completed the PAT and scheduled your drug screening (new FGC students only). Upon successful completion of the PAT and orientation, the advisement hold will be lifted and you may register for fire classes.

## **Class Schedule:**

**The spring classes begin January 10 (A) and 11(B).**

- “A” class is one day on/two days off for Fire 1 and on March 1 switches to two days on/one day off for the remainder of the course.
- “B” class is two days on/one day off for Fire 1 and on March 3 switches to one day on/two days off for the remainder of the course.

You will be placed in either “A” or “B” class based on available spots and class needs. These classes are scheduled **0900-1900** each day and run every day that your class falls on (including weekends). See the calendar view of the Spring Schedule [here](#).

For information on estimated program cost, please review the [Fire Program Cost Sheet](#).

Thank you for choosing Florida Gateway College. We look forward to having you in our program and your advancement toward your career in public safety! If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tracey Higdon

Fire Program Manager

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