



Odessa College Basic Fire Academy

Admissions Guide

Contact Information:

Director: Bobby Valles, EFO, BAAS, AAS, LP

Senior Dean: Dr. Eric Yeager

The admissions process for the Basic Fire Academy is competitive and applicants must meet all minimum criteria in order to be eligible for ranking. Ranking points are obtained from the most recent Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) V (AH-Category G) or Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) is an option and an interview using Job Fit. Official TEAS V test scores are valid for five (5) years and only the most recent test score will be used. Official TSI assessment scores are valid for five (5) years and only the most recent test score will be used.

General Requirements

Basic Fire Academy applicants are required to complete and pass the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) V (AH-Category G) or Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) is an option during the application/ranking process. Students who have not completed this requirement during the initial application deadline will be placed on a waiting list pending proof of completion and students are responsible for updating information with the program. Incomplete applications will not be ranked until all general requirements are met.

Applicants for the Basic Fire Academy must satisfy minimum criteria in order to be eligible for consideration of ranking.

Basic Fire Academy Program applicants are required to meet all the following:

- Enrolled at Odessa College as a Credit Student
- TEAS V (AH-Category G) or TSIA compliant
- Interview with Fire Academy Faculty using Job Fit

Completed Program Specific materials should be brought in person during the Application acceptance time period to:

Odessa College Fire/EMS Department
2460 Kermit Hwy
Odessa, TX 79764
Fire Technology Training Center, Room 102
Phone: 432-335-6841

Assessment Thresholds

Minimum required TEAS V (AH-Category G) scores for Basic Fire Academy. The TEAS V (AH-Category G) testing requirements and fees are provided by the Odessa College Testing Center at 432-335-6620. TEAS V (AH-Category G) scores below the minimum requirements may result in additional developmental course requirements and/or TEAS V (AH-Category G) retesting requirements. Three attempts are acceptable following the testing center guidelines.

- Reading 62
- Math 57
- English 54

Minimum required TSI Assessment scores for Basic Fire Academy. The TSIA testing requirements and fees are provided by the Odessa College Testing Center at 432-335-6620. TSIA scores below the minimum requirements may result in additional developmental course requirements and/or TSIA retesting requirements. Three attempts are acceptable following the testing center guidelines.

- Reading 351
- Math 350
- Writing 340

Ranking Protocols

Ranking using TEAS V (AH-Category G) or TSIA and an interview is a good measure in which performance most reliably predicts future ability to perform successfully in the program.

Deadlines for Completing Specialized Admissions Requirements

Initial application period is ***October*** for the following Spring semester and ***May*** for the following Fall semester. If spots are available, a second application period will be conducted in January prior to the start of the Spring semester for incomplete applications submitted after the October application period. If spots are available, a second application period will be conducted in July prior to the start of the Fall semester for incomplete applications submitted after the May application period.

Pre-program Specific Requirements

Applicants for the Basic Fire Academy must also meet all pre-program specific requirements prior to qualifying for ranking. The following is required for all applicants:

- Must complete the OC Admissions Application and gain acceptance to the college before applying to the program
- Completed the application Health Form
- Completed physical exam
- Provide proof of health insurance which must be maintained throughout the program
- Background Check Background Check (applicant with a criminal history requires an early review of eligibility for certification sent to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection for review prior enrolling in a Fire Academy education course)

Additional Information

- Program Start Dates: Spring (January) and Fall (August)
- Maximum Students Admitted: 24 students/cohort
- A student has one semester to complete the Basic Fire Academy. A student who does not have a “C” or better in each required course in the program will not continue in the program, thus will have to repeat the entire program again for course completion.
- Upon successful completion of all Level I-Basic Firefighter FIRS courses with a minimum grade of “C” in each course, the student will receive a Fire Technology department approved course completion certificate issued by the TCFP approved Program Director and Coordinator which is required for eligibility to test for certification with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.
- Students will be expected to pay the fees that are associated with program requirements.

Post Admissions Requirements

Students are responsible for the following requirements **AFTER** accepting a seat in the program:

PROGRAM ORIENTATION: one day **in person** orientation.

Must adhere to the Odessa College EMSP uniform policy.

Point Ranking System

As part of the admission criteria, the point values for all Basic Fire Academy applications will be totaled. A rank ordered list of Basic Fire Academy applicants by point total will be developed. The applicants with the highest number of points will be accepted into the Basic Fire Academy until all available spots are filled. If two or more students have the same scores for the last remaining seat(s), the highest interview scores will be used to determine their final ranking. Each accepted applicant will receive an email confirmation from the Program Director and immediately be registered for the Basic Fire Academy courses after the background check is completed and reviewed.

Points are calculated based upon the following criteria:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| TEAS or TSIA Test | up to 30 points |
| Interview using Job Fit | up to 20 points |
| Total | up to 50 points |

NOTE: Five Program Points will be awarded to the total points for any student who successfully completed the EMT-Basic program at Odessa College within 1 year of application.

TEAS V (AH-Category G) test scores are valid for five (5) years and only the most recent test score will be used.

| SCORE (AH-G) | Points Awarded (Reading) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 77-81 | 10 |
| 72-76 | 8 |
| 67-71 | 6 |
| 62-66 | 4 |
| SCORE | Points Awarded (Math) |
| 72-76 | 10 |
| 67- 71 | 8 |
| 62- 66 | 6 |
| 57-61 | 4 |
| SCORE | Points Awarded (English) |
| 69-73 | 10 |
| 64-68 | 8 |
| 59-63 | 6 |
| 54-58 | 4 |

Official TSI assessment scores are valid for five (5) years and only the most recent test score will be used. Students with exemptions/waivers approved by Odessa College will be awarded 4 points.

| SCORE | Points Awarded (Reading) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 380-390 | 10 |
| 370- 379 | 8 |
| 360-369 | 6 |
| 351-359 | 4 |
| SCORE | Points Awarded (Math) |
| 380-390 | 10 |
| 370- 379 | 8 |
| 360- 369 | 6 |
| 350-359 | 4 |
| SCORE | Points Awarded (Writing) |
| 379-390 | 10 |
| 366-378 | 8 |
| 353-365 | 6 |
| 340-352 | 4 |

Interview Process

Up to 20 points based on applicant interview using Job Fit.

Students will be informed of their final acceptance following the receipt of the background results.

This document is for informational purpose only and is not to be construed as a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised on September 1, 2016, and is subject to change without prior notice. This document is intended to be used with the College Catalog and Fire Academy Handbook which provide complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures.

The Odessa College Basic Fire Academy program is approved by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.