



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

FIRE INVESTIGATOR I

SYLLABUS

FSC 241

40 CLOCK HOURS

Prerequisite(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years of age • High School Diploma/GED
Course Description	<p>This course is based on NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator and may lead to Pro Board and IFSAC certifications. This course targets Fire Investigators, Police Officers, company-level Officers, Private Cause and Origin Investigators with a desire to learn more about determining the origin and cause of the fire. Students wishing to attend this course should be prepared for an intense week of training and practical skills application. Topics covered include: Determining the Point of Origin, Burn Patterns, Evidence Collection and Analysis, Interviewing Techniques, and Court Procedure and Testifying.</p>
Student Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the fire ground • Conduct an exterior survey • Conduct an interior survey • Interpret and analyze burn patterns • Examine and remove fire debris • Reconstruct the area of origin • Inspect the performance of building systems, including detection, suppression, HVAC, utilities, and building compartmentation • Discriminate the effects of explosions from other types of damage • Diagram the scene • Photographically document the scene • Construct investigative notes • Utilize proper procedures for managing victims and fatalities • Locate, collect, and package evidence • Select evidence for analysis • Maintain a Chain of Custody • Dispose of evidence • Develop an interview plan • Conduct interviews • Evaluate interview information • Gather reports and record • Evaluate the investigative file • Coordinate expert resources • Establish evidence as to motive and/or opportunity • Formulate an opinion concerning origin • Prepare a written report • Express investigative findings verbally • Testify during legal proceedings • Conduct public informational presentations
Required textbook and Course Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033, 4th Edition</u> <p>Other Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing suitable for fire scene investigation – hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, work boots, long pants • Flashlight • NFPA 101: Life Safety Code (optional) • Copy of NFPA 921 (A link is supplied in Moodle)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laptop
Reading Prior to Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook material suggested
Daily Activities and Class Participation	This course will involve discussion, questions and answers on the materials, and case studies. Class participation is expected from all students.
Basis	Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission, Administrative Code, Chapter 360-X-5-.01: Requirements for Certified Fire Investigator I
Certification Requirements	<p>To be issued certification, the candidate will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide documentation of prerequisites. complete required training hours including skills training. successfully complete cognitive written exam. successfully complete practical exam.
Grade Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Examination: Perform to a minimum 70% competency on the examination, calculated at 50% of the final score for the course. (One retest is allowed after 30 days but within one year of course end date.) Practical Examination (if applicable): Successfully complete a skills/project evaluation to a minimum of 70% competency and successful completion of all critical points. Evaluators will test at least 25% of the skills for each level of skill sheets. Skill sheets will be randomly selected by AFC Certification Unit for this practical examination. The Practical Examination portion is calculated at 50% of the final score. (One retest is allowed after 30 days but within one year of course end date.) <p>Example:</p> <p>Written examination - 70/100 possible points 70 x 50% = 35 points awarded for written exam portion</p> <p>Practical/project - 40/100 possible points 40 x 50% = 20 points awarded for practical portion</p> <p>Total Points = 55 points (student awarded F, score not 70%>)</p>
Accreditation	Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission maintains accreditation with Pro Board and IFSAC. Each student will automatically receive national registration and certification upon successful completion of all requirements for certification.
Contact Information	<p>Link: Alabama Fire College Website 1-800-241-2467</p> <p>Link: Alabama Fire College Bookstore Website 1-866-984-3545</p>
Academic Misconduct	Academic misconduct or dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, is not permitted in class. Suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Executive Director. Conduct detrimental to the fire service, on or off campus, will not be tolerated. AFC will investigate any complaints. If a complaint is valid, the student will be dismissed and his/her agency will be notified.
Attendance Policy	<p>Attendance will be recorded at every class or lab meeting at the beginning of class and after long breaks for required hours. For a week-long certification course, students are required to attend all sessions to obtain certification. For VA students, it is especially important because they will receive benefits only for those days in attendance.</p> <p>Special Policy: Fire Fighter I/II: Students are expected to attend all classes. Failure to appear in class for a scheduled activity will be considered an absence unless prior permission is received from the instructor. For any absence to be excused and makeup work allowed, it must be accompanied by a written description of extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>No-Show: Students who have registered for a fee-waived or stipend course and fail to withdraw according to Alabama Fire College withdrawal policy will not be allowed to register for another fee-waived or stipend course for a period of one year.</p> <p>Department Delivery: In order to qualify for department delivery courses, students must be an Alabama resident or a member of an Alabama fire department.</p>
Tardiness	Students must adhere to class schedules. Students are required to be punctual for all classes and class activities. Classes will begin promptly at the scheduled time unless specific instructions are given otherwise.

Safety	Safety of the students is the top priority for Alabama Fire College. Students must adhere to safety regulations while attending a class at the Fire College. Safety instructions are posted in every classroom, as well as escape routes and tornado actions.
Quality Enhancement Plan	An evaluation form will be provided for each student at the end of the course. Students may use this evaluation form as a means of communicating their opinion of the overall course, course content, instructor, and facilities.
Course Schedule	<p><i>Suggested Course Schedule</i></p> <p>Day One: Registration; Introductions; Chapters 1-5</p> <p>Day Two: Chapters 10-14</p> <p>Day Three: Chapters 15-20</p> <p>Day Four: Chapters 21-23; Burn scenario</p> <p>Day Five: Chapter 27 and Presentations; Skills Exam; Survey; Certification Examination</p> <p><i>The schedule is subject to change.</i></p>