

FIRE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY / FIRE ACADEMY

Program Review
Follow-up Report
Spring 2009

A task force was assembled in the Spring Term of 2008 to conduct a review of the HCC Fire Science Technology Program and the HCC Fire Academy. Listed below are the task force recommendations followed by a brief report of progress toward implementation. This report will be followed by a progress report one year following the review. Recommendations that have been achieved within 12 months will be incorporated with the biennial objectives of this program to ensure a continued focus on their attainment.

Recommendations – Fire Science Technology Program

1. Create college level certificates for Fire Science degree classes grouping category completion to document completion of the various subgroups within the degree.

Status of recommendation: *The Florida Department of Education in the spring of 2009 has approved our first college level credit certificate titled “Fire Company Management”.*

2. Work with the marketing area to develop a more comprehensive set of marketing tools to promote and create interest in the program courses and the new training facility of the college. Create a flyer to send to prospective students to on the fire academy waiting list and visit in-progress fire academy classes to promote the college level credit certificates and degree program.

Status of recommendation: *Regularly scheduled presentations to the fire academy on fire science degree opportunities/classes and distribution of flyers. Promotion of the new training facility has been accomplished through participation of the Great American Teach In and exposure on the fire academy website.*

3. Work with HCC counseling staff to increase their knowledge of the programs available and where they can find information on the program. Seek guidance from other programs on best practices when providing faculty-based counseling and guidance to students.

Status of recommendation: *We have created the fire science technology website to guide students through the process of obtaining their degree and working in conjunction the HCC counseling staff.*

4. Coordinate with HCC Institutional Research Department on the development and implementation of a student exit survey.

Status of recommendation: *Institutional Research Department is developing a questionnaire for exiting students and we will apply that to the fire science technology courses.*

Recommendations – Fire Academy

1. Hire a full-time Fire Academy Coordinator as well as full or part time clerical staff to handle the workload needed to maintain compliance with the requirements of state statutes and national standards as well as oversee academy functions. The cost factor for accomplishing this is approximately \$50,000 annually for a full-time coordinator.

Status of recommendation: *Pending*

2. Currently, construction is under way on a state-of-the-art training center that will comply with all applicable standards and be certifiable by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. Continued pursuit and completion of this project will provide HCC with the facilities and tools to continue training firefighters for many years to come. To date, expenditures for the facility have totaled approximately \$5,935,000.00 bringing the center to a stage of near completion.

Status of recommendation: *The HCC Fire Training center at Columbus Drive was certified in May 2008 by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training as acceptable for firefighter training. The first classes began in June 2008 and the center has been operating at capacity since that time. Scheduled renovation in FY 2010 will bring much needed upgrades to these facilities and allow for increased student capacity.*

3. Develop specific recruitment strategies to target under utilized classes for recruitment into the HCC Fire Academy and the fire service. Work closely to foster relationships with the local municipalities to identify possible candidates in these classes and promote their attendance in the program.

Status of recommendation: *Initiated an on-going series of presentations at both college and non-college public functions as well as on-site tours of the HCC Fire Training Facility in order to increase public awareness of the available programs.*

4. The relevance of student exit surveys has, to date, lacked effectiveness because many of the issues identified has been out of the control of HCC due to the lack of control of the training facility by the leasing agency (Tampa Fire Rescue). The opening of the facility owned and controlled by HCC will allow these concerns to be effectively addressed (Reference item #2 above). Student surveys will be required for each class with appropriate monitoring and follow-up of problems to be addressed.

Status of recommendation: *A standardized exit survey has been developed which is completed by students at the completion of each class. Items that can be resolved are addressed with appropriate follow-up. A record of items that cannot be corrected (i.e. renovations issues) is maintained as goals for future planning.*

5. Communicate and coordinate with the Fire Science Degree Program coordinator to channel Fire Academy graduates into degree seeking programs.

Status of recommendation: *Regularly scheduled presentations by the Fire Science degree coordinators' office, along with the ability of the two programs to interact at the training facility are serving to resolve this issue.*