



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Thomas A. Stith III

President

Public Safety Memo PS21-09

September 1, 2021

To: Senior Continuing Education Administrators
Continuing Education Registrars
Fire and Rescue School Directors
North Carolina Community College System

From: Tracy McPherson, Director, Public Safety Training Programs

RE: **Fire and Rescue Certification Course Updates**

This memo covers the following guidance related to Fire and Rescue (FIP) courses that lead to state fire certifications:

- 1) Please do not change course grading protocols for fire and rescue (FIP) courses tied to state certifications; however, course mapping as outlined in CC21-043 is fine.
- 2) Please ensure that your college is prepared to move fully to the new Fire Fighter I and II state standard, effective January 1, 2022, as numerous FIP course numbers will no longer be active because they will not be accepted for state certification after the end of this calendar year.

Additional details are found below; please share on your campus as appropriate. If you have questions, feel free to contact Kenny Weatherington, NCCCS Fire/Rescue and Emergency Management Training Specialist, at weatheringtonk@nccommunitycolleges.edu or email our team via email address publicsafetytraining@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

FIP Certification Course Grading Codes: Map Them but Don't Change Them

We have had questions this week about numbered memo CC21-043 *Workforce Continuing Education "Standard Reporting Grades* issued Friday, August 27, 2021, especially as it relates to grades used for certification-related Fire and Rescue (FIP) courses. A copy of this memo may be found at <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/numbered-memos/cc21-043>.

The guidance in CC21-043 does not require a change to local grading codes for Workforce Continuing Education courses; it merely requires the mapping or crosswalking of the college's grading codes to a standardized system. **The purpose of this memo is to confirm that college course grading codes should not be changed for Fire and Rescue (FIP) courses that are tied to the state certifications managed by the Office of State Fire Marshal (NCOSFM) for the NC Fire and Rescue Commission (NCFRC); however, they should be mapped and the mapping will have no adverse impact.** If the grading protocols are actually changed at the college level rather than mapped, it will prevent fire and rescue students from receiving appropriate credit for successful completion of courses, and this will directly impact the receipt of their state certification credit from OSFM.

(continued)

Reminder: All community colleges participate in an electronic transfer process that utilizes Colleague, specific FIP course numbers, and specific course grading protocols that allow student completion data to be transferred electronically to the students' records with the NC Office of State Fire Marshal. This standardized grading protocol has been used for decades and ensures that only those students who meet the very specific certification requirements of the NC Fire and Rescue Commission receive credit for successful course completion and are issued certification credit. Therefore, maintaining the current grading structure is imperative to this process, but mapping the grades will have no adverse effect on this.

New Fire Fighter I & II Certification Standard Effective January 1, 2022

The NC Fire and Rescue Commission is transitioning state certification from the 2013 edition of the Fire Fighter performance standard to the 2019 edition, as explained via the links below. Part of this process includes the transition from one set of FIP courses to another:

- **Course Numbers Going Away**

The 2013 edition courses listed via the link below will no longer be valid for certification after January 1, 2022, and, therefore, all approved delivery sites must stop using them as advised by OSFM:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/fire-rescue/training-certification/certifications/fire-fighter#2013-edition>

- **New Course Numbers to be Used**

A crosswalk/crossover list to the new courses may be found via the link below. Only the course numbers shown in the 2019 column on the right may be used for Fire Fighter certification as of January 1, 2022, unless colleges are offering alternative "block" courses as explained below. Please note that both the 2013 and 2019 edition courses have been available this year while the 2013 edition courses are being phased out. That phase-out is complete on December 31, 2021, and only the new edition courses may be used as of January 1, 2022.

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/fire-rescue/training-certification/certifications/fire-fighter#cross-over>

- **Alternate Block Course Options for the 2019 Edition Courses**

The NCFRC has approved 2019 editions of "block" courses that allow delivery sites to bundle the 2019 edition content into alternate blocks for delivery in high school programs and other situations where such options would be beneficial. These blocks are outlined on the NC Community Colleges website on the NCCCS "Blue Sheet":

https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sites/default/files/basic-pages/workforce-continuing-education/blue_sheet_2020_08_05_pdf.pdf

As always, please direct specific questions about NC Fire and Rescue certification to your NCOSFM regional specialists. Questions about community college policies and procedures that support fire and rescue certification and non-certification training should be addressed to Kenny Weatherington at (919) 291-6341 or weatheringtonk@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

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