

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4):
SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the attached “**Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4): SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters,**” with an effective date of February 1, 2023, pending approval of a related revision to 1D SBCCC 300.4 Program Management, as found in the January 2023 SBCC agenda attachment PROG 02.

If approved, the list will be issued to, and will be binding to, all System colleges and will be maintained for reference in the System’s [*Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*](#).

Additionally, the State Board is asked to approve the following process for making future additions or revisions to this list:

- The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) delegates to the System President the authority to approve any changes to this list using the process outlined below:
 - The Public Safety Training Team of the System Office will review requests for additions or revisions and will make recommendations to the System President through the team’s organizational chain.
 - If approved by the System President, the revisions will be made to the list and will be maintained in the NCCCS *Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*.
 - An updated list will be presented to the State Board for information on an annual basis as part of the regular update of the “Specialized Course List for Public Safety Waivers,” which is also maintained in the NCCCS *Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*. (Note: The annual update related to public safety waivers list was originally approved by the SBCC on September 18, 2015.)

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal #4 Economic and Workforce Development: Provide education, training, and credentials to develop the most competitive and agile workforce in the nation.

Background:

- This request references the following General Statutes:
 - [**G.S. 115D-20\(4\)**](#) - Community Colleges – Powers and Duties of Trustees - **Serving Minors**
 - [**G.S. 95-25.5\(n\)**](#) - Dept. of Labor and Labor Relations – **Youth Employment**
 - [**G.S. 115D-5\(b\)\(2\)**](#) - Community Colleges – Administration of Institutions - **Public Safety Fee Waivers**

- In support of volunteer firefighter recruitment and training, [Session Law 2022-69](#) House Bill 661, approved on July 8, 2022, authorized the enrollment of “qualified youth 15 years and older” in community college fire training courses, as authorized in G.S. 115D-20(4)e, pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n), and on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2).
- Since previous laws and SBCC Code allowed for the enrollment of minors 16 and older, **this new law now effectively allows for the training of 15-year-old firefighters under the circumstances specified in the Session Law.**
- The attached list is provided to the Board for review and, if approved, will constitute the courses “on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2)” that is referenced in the Session Law.
- In order for colleges to enroll 15-year-old firefighters in any courses, the State Board also had to initiate rule-making changes to 1D SBCCC 300.4 Program Management to revise language related to enrolling minors. That process, initiated via [CC22-053](#), is underway and is reported to the Board in agenda attachment PROG 02.
- Because this course list is tied to the SBCC Code revision of 1D SBCCC 300.4 Program Management, it is requested that the effective date of the attached course list align with the effective date of the code change, which is proposed as February 1, 2023.

Summary of Report: The attached “**Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4): SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters**” has been vetted by the NC Community College System Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee and lists courses recommended for 15-year-old firefighters as authorized by [Session Law 2022-69](#).

Colleges may not earn FTE for 15-year-old firefighter students unless they are enrolled in courses on this list approved by the State Board.

Additional References:

[Session Law 2022-69](#) (House Bill 661), approved July 8, 2022:

SECTION 1.(a) [G.S. 115D-20\(4\)](#) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:
"e. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, qualified youth 15 years and older may be permitted to enroll in courses, including certification-eligible courses, in fire training pursuant to [G.S. 95-25.5\(n\)](#) and on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with [G.S. 115D-5\(b\)\(2\)](#)."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 95-25.5(n) reads as rewritten:

"(n) Nothing in this section prohibits qualified youths under 18 years of age from participating in training through their fire department, the Office of State Fire Marshal,

or the North Carolina Community College System. As used in this subsection, the term "qualified youth under 18 years of age" means an uncompensated fire department or rescue squad member who is at least the age of 15 and under the age of 18 and who is a member of a bona fide fire department, as that term is defined in ~~G.S. 58-86-25~~, **G.S. 58-86-2(4)**, or of a rescue squad described in ~~G.S. 58-86-30~~. **G.S. 58-86-2(6)**. **A qualified youth under 18 years of age under this subsection may be permitted to enroll in courses, including certification-eligible courses, in fire training at a community college on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4)e."**

Contact(s):

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**Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4):
SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters**

Background:

Session Law 2022-69 House Bill 661, approved on July 8, 2022, authorizes community colleges to enroll 15-year-olds in fire training courses, as authorized in G.S. 115D-20(4)e, pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n), and on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2). The following courses, along with specific caveats, are approved for this purpose.

Caveats to Enrollment of 15-Year-Olds in Any Community College Fire Training Course:

- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course that includes live fire training.
- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course that contains content that would require the student to possess a valid North Carolina driver's license.
- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course governed by an outside entity, including but not limited to the NC Office of the State Fire Marshal which governs the fire certification program under the authority of the NC Fire and Rescue Commission; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its divisions; and the NC Department of Labor (NCDOL), if/when enrollment of 15-year-olds is prohibited by the outside entity.
- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any Career and College Promise (CCP) course if they do not meet all CCP requirements.
- **Enrollment of 15-year-olds is limited to** the Workforce Continuing Education course ID numbers/prefixes from the NCCCS Combined Course Library listed below and must not violate any of the other caveats above.
- Registration fee waivers authorized for public safety responders may be issued to 15-year-old firefighters enrolling in courses on this approved list, provided that they meet the fire department affiliation parameters outlined in the Fire Departments section of the *NCCCS Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*.

State-Certification-Related Fire Courses Approved for 15-Year-Old Community College Students

Note: Enrollment of 15-year-old firefighters must comply with the associated caveats listed above.

FIP-3031	Firefighter 2019 - Block 01	FIP-5720	TR MAG Machinery-Ag Block
FIP-3032	Firefighter 2019 – Block 02	FIP-5721	TR MAG-Rescue Ops Machine/Ag
FIP-3033	Firefighter 2019 - Block 03	FIP-5722	TR MAG-Stabilize/Extricate
FIP-3040	FF General and Comm (FF 2019)	FIP-5723	TR MAG-Large Machine/Ag Equip
FIP-3041	FF Fireground Ops 1 (FF 2019)	FIP-5724	TR MAG-Victim Management
FIP-3042	FF Fireground Ops 2 (FF 2019)	FIP-5800	TR Ropes Block
FIP-3043	FF Fireground Ops 3 (FF 2019)	FIP-5801	TR Ropes Rescue Operations
FIP-3044	FF Fireground Ops 4 (FF 2019)	FIP-5802	TR Ropes Anchors
FIP-3045	FF Fireground Ops 5 (FF 2019)	FIP-5803	TR Ropes Mechanical Advantage

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FIP-3046	FF Fireground Ops 6 (FF 2019)	FIP-5804	TR Ropes Fixed Ropes Systems
FIP-3047	FF Fireground Ops 7 (FF 2019)	FIP-5805	TR Ropes Lowers & Raises
FIP-3048	FF Fireground Ops 8 (FF 2019)	FIP-5806	TR Ropes High Lines
FIP-3050	FF Rescue Ops 1 (FF 2019)	FIP-5807	TR Ropes Victim Management
FIP-3051	FF Fire and Life Safety Initiatives (FF 2019)	FIP-6300	TR Wilderness Block
FIP-3555	HM Awareness	FIP-6301	TR Rescue Operations
FIP-3556	HM Ops	FIP-6302	TR Rescue Rigging
FIP-3557	HM Ops MSC (6.2)	FIP-6303	TR Navigation and Tracking
FIP-3558	HM Ops MSC (6.3/6.4)	FIP-6304	TR Victim Management
FIP-3559	HM Ops MSC (6.7)	FIP-6413	Mayday/Safety & Survival
FIP-3560	HM Ops MSC (6.8)	FIP-6500	TR Technical Rescuer Block
FIP-3561	HM Ops MSC (6.5/6.9)	FIP-6501	TR Rescue Operations
FIP-3562	HM Ops MSC (6.6)	FIP-6502	TR Anchors & MAS
FIP-3716	Fire Chief 101	FIP-6503	TR Fixed Rope Systems
FIP-3717	Fire Chief 101 Update	FIP-6504	TR Health and Wellness
FIP-3718	Fire Officer I	FIP-6505	TR Helicopter Transport
FIP-4630	FLSE Educator Level I	FIP-6506	TR Horizontal Systems
FIP-4631	FLSE Educator Level II	FIP-6507	TR Lowers and Raises
FIP-4632	FLSE Educator Level III	FIP-6508	TR Personal Protective Equip
FIP-5710	TR VR Vehicle Rescue Block	FIP-6509	TR Rescue Equipment
FIP-5711	TR VR Rescue Ops/Vehicle Rescue	FIP-6510	TR Rope Basics
FIP-5712	TR VR Vehicle Anatomy/New Tech	FIP-6511	TR Victim Management
FIP-5713	TR VR Stabilization/Extrication	FIP-6900	Rescue Officer
FIP-5714	TR VR Large Vehicle Rescue	FIP-7000	Traffic Incident Management
FIP-5715	TR VR Victim Management	FIP-7001	FF/TR Emergency Medical Care

Non-Certification-Related Fire Training Courses Approved for 15-Year-Old Community College Students

Non-certification related courses approved for 15-year-olds **must meet all of the following criteria:**

- Must have a Workforce Continuing Education course ID from the Combined Course Library that has an FIP prefix;
- Must have content **specific to and limited to** topics that align with training topics of one or more of the certification-related courses specified in the approved certification-course list above; and
- Must not violate any of the caveats above.