



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

FIRE INVESTIGATOR II

SYLLABUS

FSC 242

40 CLOCK HOURS

Prerequisite(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Pro Board or IFSAC) Certified Fire Investigator • 18 years of age • High School Diploma/GED
Course Description	<p>This course targets Fire Investigators, Fire Marshals, and Law Enforcement Officers with a need to go beyond “what” caused the fire and “where” it started. The course instructs the attendees on how to continue the investigation and discover “who” caused the fire. Students will obtain the skills and knowledge to continue and complete an investigation. Students planning to attend this course should be prepared for an intense week of training and practical skills application. Topics covered include Investigative Techniques, Crime Scene Photography, Evidence Collection and Analysis, Interviewing Techniques, and Court Procedure and Testifying.</p>
Student Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand arson and explosive statutes. • Discuss the Criminal Justice System as it pertains to arson and investigations. • Demonstrate report writing. • Explain arson and explosive scene photography. • Describe videography at crime scenes. • Discuss sketching the scene. • Identify process of evidence collection. • Recognize methods of contamination of evidence. • Define Chain of Custody issues. • Recognize fingerprint types and DNA evidence collection methods. • Discuss accelerant detection canines. • Understand the arsonist’s signature. • Explain how to solve the associated crime. • Perform interviews and interrogations. • Describe use of exculpatory statements. • Define “Juvenile Suspects”. • Define “Polygraphs”. • Explain “Canvassing”. • List insurance information. • Recognize the importance of social media use in the investigation. • Identify assisting agencies. • Discuss trash pulls. • Explain pretext telephone calls. • Perform offline searches. • Understand Affidavits and Search Warrants. • Describe electronic media storage devices. • Describe technical surveillance and tracking devices. • Define “Explosive Incident Investigations”. • Discuss vehicle fires and how to investigate them. • Identify exotic accelerants. • Recognize importance of media relations.
Required Textbook and Course Materials	<p><u>Fire Investigator :Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033, 4th Edition</u> <u>Fire Investigator II Student Manual</u> Other Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing suitable for fire scene investigation – hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, work boots, long pants, and respiratory protection • High-resolution flash camera with SD card • Flashlight

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 101: Life Safety Code (optional) • Copy of NFPA 921 • Laptop • State Criminal Code from Student's Jurisdiction
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-.02: Requirements for Certified Fire Investigator II
Certification Requirements	To be issued certification, the candidate will: <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: Arson and Explosive Statutes, The Criminal Justice System, Report Writing, Arson and Explosive Scene Photography, Crime Scene Videography, Sketching the Scene</p> <p>Day Two: Evidence Collection, Chain of Custody Issues, Contamination of Evidence, Fingerprints and DNA, Accelerant Detection Canines</p> <p>Day Three: The Arsonist's Signature, Solving the Associated Crime, Interviews and Interrogations, Use of Exculpatory Statements, Juvenile Suspects, Polygraphs, Canvassing</p> <p>Day Four: Use of Social Media in your Investigation, Assisting Agencies, Trash Pulls, Pretext Telephone Calls, Off Line Searches, Affidavits and Search Warrants</p> <p>Day Five: Electronic Media Storage Devices, Technical Surveillance and Tracking Devices, Explosive Incident Investigations, Vehicle Fires, Exotic Accelerants, Media Relations Review, Survey, Certification Examination</p> <p><i>The schedule is subject to change.</i></p>