



**FIRT-1450-001IN-FA25 (4375)**  
**Fire Investigator**  
**Time and Days of Course: Online**  
**Skills Labs: As Per Course Schedule**

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Marc Faber  
Email: 801mfd@sbcglobal.net  
Phone: (713) 907-8256

**Student Hours:** Virtually by Appointment on Collaborate

**Director Information:**

Name: Gary Staudt  
Email: GStaudt@com.edu  
Phone: 409-933-8378

**Student Hours:**

Office Hours: 0900-1500  
Location: PSC 110

**Communicating with Your Instructor:** All electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. The instructor will respond to messages within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends or holidays.

**Announcements:** Upon opening the course, Blackboard will default to the Announcements page. This page will include announcements regarding any changes to the schedule, reminders of skills labs, major exams, TCFP course activities, and any other pertinent information regarding the course. It is extremely important that students review announcements every time they enter the course.

**Collaborate:** Students may make an appointment to meet with the instructor virtually on Collaborate. Collaborate may be utilized to review curriculum, skill assignments, and exams. Scheduled sessions will be posted in Announcements. Students may access Collaborate from the Course Menu.

**Brightspace Help:** Should students have a difficulty with the Brightspace, they must utilize DE support request under the course resources menu. Complete a ticket request.

**Required Textbook:** NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations (2021 ed.) Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association. NFPA Publications. ISBN-13: 978-1455926466

### **Recommended Resources**

Certification Curriculum Manual, Chapter Five, Fire Investigator, 2014 Edition, Texas Commission on Fire Protection (provided in course).

NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator 2014 Edition, National Fire Protection Association, NFPA Publications.

Fire Investigator: Principles and Practices Fourth Edition, Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Kirk's Fire Investigation, John DeHaan, Eighth Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall Publishing.

Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement, Eighth Edition, Stillwater, OK, Fire Protection Publications, International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA).

Fire Investigation, First Edition, Delmar Publishing.

**Course Description:** This course meets curriculum requirements of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) for Fire Investigator Certification. Topics include competencies set forth in the TCFP Curriculum Manual, Chapter 5, Fire Investigator. Students successfully completing this course will be eligible to take the TCFP Certification Examination for Fire Investigator, provided they satisfy TCFP testing requirements. TCFP testing and certification fees are the responsibility of the student.

### **Fire Investigator Competencies**

1. Demonstrated the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to conduct, coordinate, and complete a fire investigation.
2. Employ all the elements of the scientific method as the operating analytical process throughout an investigation.
3. Competently determine the origin and cause of a fire and master all the job competencies.
4. Perform requirements of NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
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1. Scene Examination	Critical Thinking, Empirical/Quantitative Skills, Teamwork	Skills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
2. Scene Documentation	Critical Thinking, Teamwork	Skills 9, 10, and 11
3. Evidence Collection/Preservation	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork	Skills 12, 13, and 14
4. Interviewing	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility	Skills 15, 16, and 17
5. Post incident	Critical Thinking, Empirical/Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility	Skills 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22
6. Case Presentation	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility	Skills 23, 24, and 25

**Course Requirements:** This is an Internet course with weekly study material and testing provided online through Blackboard. Additional skill exercises will be required as listed below. The student is expected to log into the course website two to three times per week to keep abreast of any changes or additional information. Notification of course changes will be through the Announcement section as well as e-mail.

**Skills Labs:** The course will include approximately 18 - 22 hours of skills exercises, during which the student will be exposed to hands-on instruction in fire investigative techniques. TCFP skill sheets will be used for evaluation, and the average of all exercises will count for 25% of the final grade. Exact dates and times for these exercises are noted in this syllabus.

In order to obtain a passing grade for this course, Skill Assignments must be completed regardless of whether or not students are seeking Fire Investigator certification with the TCFP. Skills Assignments are graded utilizing applicable TCFP Skill Evaluation Sheets, which are provided in the course.

Students must receive a satisfactory rating for all items on the Skills Evaluation Sheet. Grades for skills are Pass or Fail, i.e., if one item of the skill is not completed successfully, the overall grade for the skill is Fail. Students must correct the item(s) and resubmit the skill to obtain a Pass grade. It is extremely important to review the skill sheet to ensure that each item of the skill has been satisfactorily addressed in your response.

**Weekly Quizzes:** There will be weekly chapter quizzes for the course. Each quiz will be available through the weekly content section of the course website and will cover the chapter material noted in this syllabus for that week. Quizzes are generally due on Mondays at 0800. An average of all quizzes will count for 25% of the final grade.

**Major Exams:** There will be three major exams given before the final exam. Each exam will cover the material through that week (i.e., Exam 1 covers all of the material through week four, Exam 2 covers the material from weeks five through eight). The Exams will be available in the same online format after the successful completion of the previous quizzes. The average of the Major Exams will count for 25 % of the final grade.

**Final Exam:** A comprehensive Final exam will be given at the end of the course. **The Final exam will be given on Monday, May 8, 2024.** The Final Exam will count for 25% of your final grade.

**Note:** *In order to be eligible for the Final Exam, students must have successfully completed all assignments, i.e. Quizzes, Major Exams, and Skill Exercises.*

**Note:** In accordance with 37TAC§427.305, the TCFP requires the final test must be conducted in a proctored setting. For purposes of this section, a proctor can be an approved TCFP Field Examiner, or a member of a testing center of an educational institution. A passing score of 70% must be achieved. Students will be required to schedule a time to take the exam with the instructor. Dates for Final Exams are listed in the Course Schedule. If the student needs to have their final exam or skills sessions/exam proctored away from College of the Mainland, arrangements with the instructor & director of fire technology will need to be made early in the semester. This will require the student to get a current TCFP skills examiner to proctor the final exam on that date and time of the final as listed in the syllabus/calendar.

**Determination of Course Grade:** Students will be graded on an average of grades for each of the following categories. A grade of C or above is considered acceptable. Grades are not rounded up. **Note:** Grades are not rounded up.

Project	Grading Weight
Skill Exercises	25%
Weekly Exams	25%
Major Exams	25%
Final Exam	25%

### Grading Scale

90 - 100 points = A  
80 - 89 points = B  
75 - 79 points = C  
70 - 74 points = D  
0 - 69 points = F

**Attendance Policy:** Students are required to login to the course at least weekly. Students failing to login to the course and progressively complete assignments may, after notification, be dropped from the course.

**Late/Makeup Policy:** Chapter tests, skill assignments, and exams are generally due on Mondays at 0800. Students may submit tests, skills assignments, and exams after the due date and receive a grade. **However, grades for tests, skills assignments, and exams submitted after the due date and time will receive a maximum grade of 75%.**

### Fire Investigator Schedule, SP23

Week	Topics	Assignments	Due Date
Week 1	<b>Orientation,</b> NFPA 921, Chapters 1-3 Rules & Regulations, Definitions	C3 Test	8-22-25 1700 hrs
Week 2	NFPA 921, Chapters 4-5 Basic Methodology, Basic Fire Science	C4, C5 Test	8-29-25 1700 hrs
Week 3	NFPA 921, Chapters 6-7 Fire Patterns, Building Systems	C6, C7 Test	9-5-25 1700 hrs
Week 4	NFPA 921, Chapters 8-9 Active Fire Protection Systems Electricity & Fire <b>Exam 1, Chapters 3-9</b>	C8, C9 Test  <b>Exam 1</b>	9-12-25 1700hrs  <b>9-13 1700 hrs</b>
Week 5	NFPA 921, Chapters 10-11 Building Fuel Gas Systems Fire-Related Human Behavior	C10, C11 Test	9-19-25 1700 hrs
Week 6	NFPA 921, Chapters 12-13 Legal Considerations, Safety	C12, C13 Test	9-26-25 1700 hrs
Week 7	NFPA 921, Chapters 14-15 Sources of Information Planning the Investigations	C14, C15 Test	10-3-25 1700 hrs
Week 8	NFPA 921, Chapters 16-17 Documentation of the Investigation Physical Evidence <b>Exam 2, Chapters 10-17</b>	C16, C17 Test  <b>Exam 2</b>	10-10-25 1700 hrs  <b>10-11 @ 1700 hrs</b>
Week 9	NFPA 921, Chapters 18-19 Origin Determination, Fire Cause Determination	C18, C19 Test	10-17-25 1700 hrs
Week 10	NFPA 921, Chapters 20 Analyzing the Incident for Cause & Responsibility	C20 Test	10-24-25 1700 hrs
Week 11	NFPA 921, Chapters 21-22 Failure Analysis & Analytical Tools, Explosions	C21, C22	10-31-25 1700 hrs
Week 12	NFPA 921, Chapters 23-24 Incendiary Fires, Fire & Explosions Death & Injuries <b>Exam 3, Chapters 18-24</b>	C23, C24  <b>Exam 3</b>	11-7-25 1700 hrs  <b>11-11 @ 1700</b>
	<b>Skills Lab, Friendswood VFD drill field – scene survey</b>		<b>11-17–19-25 Sched w/me</b>
Week 13	NFPA 921, Chapters 25-26 Appliances, Motor Vehicle Fires Skill #4, Vehicle Fire Investigation	C25, C26 Test Skill#4	11-14-25 1700 hrs
	<b>Skills Lab, Friendswood VFD drill field – witness interviews</b>		<b>11-24–26 Sched w/me</b>

Week 14	NFPA 921, Chapters 27-28 Wildfire Investigations Management of Complex Investigations	C27-28	11-21-15 1700 hrs
	<b>Skills Lab, Case presentation location agreed upon by instructor and student.</b>		<b>12-1–3-25 Sched w/me</b>
Week 15	NFPA 921, Chapter 29 Marine Fire Investigations	C29 Test	11-30-25 1700 hrs
Week 16	<b>Final Exam, Comprehensive Testing Center</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	0900 1--3-12-25
	<b>TCFP Designated Skills Test, PSC</b>	<b>Cannot be taken on same day as final</b>	0900 3–5-25
	<b>TCFP Fire Investigator Exam Scheduled online</b>		

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions, concerns, or issues about any aspect of this course, please contact the Lead Instructor, using the contact information previously provided. If after discussing your concern with the instructor, you continue to have questions, request a meeting through the Lead Instructor with the Director. If after your meeting with the Director, you still have questions, request a meeting through the Director with Gary Staudt, Public Service Careers Department Chair 409-933-8934 or [gstaudt@com.edu](mailto:gstaudt@com.edu).

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## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

### **Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### **Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.