



The FESHE Story

For too many years, the call for a standard fire science curriculum that was national in scope went unheeded. By the second annual FESHE conference in 2000, the attendees continued the call and advocated the development and adoption of just such a curriculum by the FESHE programs.

In 2001, the National Fire Science Curriculum Committee (now called the National Fire Science Programs Committee or NFSPC) was formed to develop standard titles, descriptions, outcomes, and outlines for each of the six core courses. In 2002, the FESHE IV conference attendees approved the model curriculum outlines and the major fire textbook publishers committed to writing texts for some, if not all, of these courses. Fire science associate degree programs are encouraged to require these six courses as the "theoretical core" on which their major is based. The course outlines address the need for a uniformity of curriculum and content among the fire science courses delivered throughout the country. Many schools already offer these courses in their programs, while others are in the process of adopting them. Once adopted, these model courses address yet another need: problem-free student transfers between schools. Furthermore, they promote crosswalks for those who apply their academic coursework in preparation for NFPA and EMS standards and certifications.

FESHE at PBCC

At the Fire EMS Partnership council held in July of 2009, the membership voted unanimously to adopt the FESHE curriculum for the Fire Science AS degree. The new curriculum was changed by the addition of an Area III math class to the general education requirements, three new classes: Fire Behavior and Combustion, Principles of Emergency Services, and Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival to the core requirements. Private Fire Protection, Codes and Standards, and Blueprint Reading were moved from elective to core requirement. Haz Mat I, Public Personnel Management, Course Delivery, and Fire Administration were moved to electives.

Once the student has completed the core requirements they will have completed the coursework for Fire Inspector, Special Fire Safety Inspector, and five classes towards the Fire Officer I certification. This new curriculum will start August 23, 2010, and it is our desire to have some of these classes offered as Hybrid Online or Totally Online by this date. Those wishing to complete the current AS degree coursework will be given to the August start of the Fall term in 2012 to finish.

New FESHE curriculum: http://www.pbcc.edu/Documents/Fire_Science/FESHECurriculum.pdf