Questions & Answers

Fire Alarm Technician

What can I expect from this course?

Course Description:

Designed for current field technicians looking to obtain their CFAA registration. Students work towards the CFAA certification process which allows them to legally work on fire alarm systems in Ontario and other provinces. Students who successfully complete this course/program with a 60% or higher will be able to work within this popular field. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of fire alarms and the skills that are required vital for immediate success.

What are the course descriptions?

Module #1 (Introduction to the Fire Alarm Industry)- The Canadian Fire Alarm Association is a nationally recognized association. This core course is the first credit for registration as a registered alarm technician. Specific topics will include an introduction to the history, future, challenges and technician training of the fire protection industry. Students will understand the Fire Safety Industry, their organizations and authorities and related applicable codes and standards. The course will focus on the nature of fire, elements of fire protection in building design, and the extinguishment process and methods. Additional topics will include types of fire alarm systems, testing requirements, procedures and responsibilities. Students will have understanding of contracts, contents, considerations, responsibilities and liens.

Module #2 (Communication Techniques for Fire Technicians & Inspectors)- This course concentrates on the fundamentals of grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary usage, sentence structure, paragraph structure, essay structure and essay writing. Students will be given an opportunity to develop and strengthen their writing skills, including planning, revising, proofreading, choosing words effectively and developing sentence variety. This course will also provide students with an opportunity to strengthen their listening, reading and thinking skills.

Module #3 (Basic Electricity for Fire Technicians & Inspectors)- This course is designed to educate the student in direct current electric circuit fundamentals.. The course provides theoretical concepts related to electricity and cover electrical fundamentals, batteries, basic circuitry, electromagnetism, transformers, inductance Ohm's law and electrical safety.

Module #4 (Basic Electronics for Fire Technicians & Inspectors)- This course is designed to educate the student in basic electronic devices applied in manufacturing fire protection and life safety equipment. This course provides an in depth theoretical exposure to diodes, transistors, power supplies, numbering systems, logic gates, signaling applications network applications, analog applications and digital applications.

Module #5 (Fire Alarm Systems)- This course is the continuation of the Canadian Fire Alarm Association core courses for certification. Student will examine the requirements for fire alarm systems, manual pull stations, and heat & smoke actuated fire detectors. Students continue to build knowledge on alarm signal and communications appliances, system operational principles, control equipment, microprocessor-based systems, installation, verification, maintenance, test and inspection.

Module #6 (Fire Alarm Lab/Practical)- This is NOT a required course for the CFAA. However, the practical training is extremely beneficial as a practice ground for novice and advanced technicians. The course provides hands on practical exposure to the operational methodologies of fire alarm equipment. Students will gain a deeper understanding of fire alarm functionality and operational principles on conventional and intelligent systems. The subject themes include practical, hands on learning of automatic fire detection, control panels, wiring methodologies, annunciation, voice communication, shooting and documentation. The course provides detailed and practical experience of testing and verification procedures required by the Ontario building and fire codes.

What are the entrance requirements/recommendations for the Fire Alarm Technician course?

-   Working (or worked) within the field technician field for a minimum of 6 months or more
-   Exceptional critical listening skills
-   Confident with the English language (both in written and verbal form)

Where does the course(s) taking place i.e. which campuses?

-   It can be offered at our Oshawa Campus
    o   2000 Simcoe Street North
        Oshawa, Ontario L1H 7K4
        T: 905.721.2000
        F: 905.721.3113
    o   Get driving directions with Google maps
    o   Oshawa campus parking map

How long is the course?

-   The entire course will be approximately 4-6 months

What day(s) a week does the course run?

-   Depending on the selected course each may run on 2 week day (evenings) over 7 weeks or on Saturdays and Sundays over 3 full weekends. (Dependant on the trainers schedule and room availability: exact days TBA)

What time is class?

- Depending on the selected course each may run 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on week nights or run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends. (Dependant on the trainers schedule and room availability: exact days TBA)

What are the materials and hardware I require to for this course?

- Each course requires its own textbook ranging from $80 to $290 ($290 will be used for 2 courses)
- Course #6 requires general hand tools such as terminal screw driver, multibit screw driver, multi meter, safety boots and eye protection.

What is the student vs. teacher ratio?

- 30 students to 1 professor for courses #1 through #5
- 12 students to 1 professor for course #6 (not a mandatory course however highly beneficial)

Is there an online course available?

- Unfortunately the curriculum is not suitable for an online delivery

Must I attend each class?

- Attendance and participation in class will be taken weekly by professor. Students are expected to participate and complete all necessary tasks in the time period given in each week. Students absent for more than 1 class/lab will not be eligible to take the final tests.

Is there homework in the course?

- Yes, assignments will be part of each course and has a direct correlation to student's success in the program.

What is the cost of the course?

- Each class is $599 (+ HST) x 5 courses which totals $3,384. (plus textbooks)

Are there any additional costs?

- Each course requires its own textbook ranging from $80 to $290 ($290 will be used for 2 courses)
    - **Module #1 textbook MUST be purchased within the School of Justice & Emergency Services Office - room F211 (this textbook will be used for both Module #1 and #5)**

How do I receive my assignments and view marks?

Link to DC Connect- https://durhamcollege.desire2learn.com/

- DC Connect is the name of Durham College's online course learning management system. DC Connect is the online tool used by faculty and students to develop and deliver course news,

content, grades, and feedback to students. Students typically use DC Connect to download course content, check grades and feedback, and communicate with their instructors and peers. Training and help documentation can be found by visiting the C.A.F.E. Web site. http://cafe.durhamcollege.ca/index.php/learning-technology/dc-connect

- It is mandatory that all registered students set themselves up through DC Connect prior to begin of the first class.
- Please watch how to use DC Connect: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmlC4LBw2xU&feature=youtu.be
- Login I.D.: Banner/Student I.D. #   (i.e., 100123456 found on your payment/receipt)
- Password for MyCampus & DC Connect password (default birthdate, durham or postal code)
- Accessed At: https://durhamcollege.desire2learn.com/

If I have problems with accessing DC Connect or the college system what do I do?

- Please contact the IT Service Desk at ext. 3333 and follow the prompts. Alternatively, you can send an e-mail to the IT Service Desk at servicedesk@dc-uoit.ca outlining your request. This e-mail address will be used for all requests going forward. You will receive a message acknowledging the request and the assigned request case number for follow up purposes.
- IT Service Desk Hours
    o Monday to Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday to Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Support Process – Telephone
    o Dial 905.721.2000, ext. 3333 Press 1 - IT Service Desk - general troubleshooting, log-in difficulties or password changes Press 2 - Media Services - overheads, flipchart usage or presenter issues Press 3 - Facilities Services - changes to room temperature and waste collection Press 4 - Classroom Hotline - printer issues, paper refills or jams, and Internet access issues during lectures
- For additional information on the many different Information Technology Services (ITS) resources available to support the academic success and the overall student experience, click on IT Service Desk Tips located in your welcome package.

Where do I park in order to attend class?

- At Durham College, we pride ourselves on providing adequate, safe and well-maintained parking facilities for students. Over the past few years, significant effort has gone into enhancing our parking facilities and systems. New lots have been created and we have refurbished many of our existing lots. There are a number of different parking fees based on individual needs. All students are required to pay for parking however the gates may be up during night classes or there is a reduced rate. Durham Region Transit and the GO bus both stop at the front door of the Oshawa Campus.

What mark must I achieve in order to pass this course?

- Each class requires a 60% to pass in order to move on to the next course.

What is the process to register after I pass the course?

- Each student who is successful within the course will be provided (via email) a certificate of qualification.

What if I fail the course, is there a rewrite?

- There will be no re-writes for the final examination. Students can however enroll again (if offered)

If I wish to withdraw from the course how is this done?

- http://www.durhamcollege.ca/academic-schools/school-of-justice-emergency-services/centre-for-integrated-justice-studies/withdrawal-policy
- Please see below for details on Centre for Integrated Justice Studies (CIJS) course cancellation and withdrawal policies.
    - If the CIJS deems it necessary to cancel a course, a full refund will be issued.
    - Withdrawals received 30 days prior to the seminar start will be issued a full refund.
    - Withdrawals received less than 30 days prior to the seminar start will be issued a full refund, minus a $75 administration fee.
    - Withdrawals received less than seven days prior to the seminar start will be refunded 50% of the seminar fee.
    - No refund will be given once the course begins.
- All refunds will be issued by cheque. Please allow three to four weeks for your cheque to arrive.
- Download the CIJS Request to Withdraw form from the link above.