

How to Take an Online Course



Whether you are taking Continuing Education or completing your Certification, finding time, funds, and opportunities to complete training is becoming a lot harder. We have simplified the process. While all of our courses are instructor led, the key elements are the flexibility to the student. Our system works on any device that is web-enabled. This allows you to work on your courses no matter where you are. You are no longer location dependent or tied to a computer. Using a smart phone, tablet pc, laptop, or a desktop, if you device has a web connection you can take a course.

The second factor is time. Historically, you have had two options. First, you could commit to the traditional, 40-hour (or more) session, where you would spend eight hours a day in a lecture or class. Second, you could commit to eight or more weeks online trying to complete all of the components of an online class. This was an all or nothing commitment. To enable you to learn at your own pace, ensure you get proper attention from our instructors, and make training more affordable, we have modularized the certification process. You simply sign up for the modules that apply to you and your department, and upon completion of the module, you receive your certificate for such. Complete all the modules required for certification and we provide you with the associated certificate of completion for the certification level. We add modules as they become available to allow you to expand your knowledge.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *What is modularized learning?* Modularized learning is a process where course content can be broken down into smaller pieces. This allows you to focus on the specific material and ensures that you have a greater understanding of the content. Using this model you will find that your retention of the material is greater, you have a greater ability to apply it, and you will do better on certification assessments.
- *Can I get ProBoard or IFSAC certification?* Yes. To keep the process cost effective, we have negotiated relationships with most states. Therefore, you should be able to test within your state upon completion. Should we not have a relationship with your state, or the certification level is not available, we have a number of "open testing" certification agencies you can work with. These agencies will provide testing at your facility or department. Your instructor can assist you with setting that up when you are ready.
- *Are the courses instructor led or self-pace?* Instructors lead all courses, however, they will work with you at your pace and schedule. Throughout all of your modules and classes, you will work closely with your instructor to ensure you gain the knowledge and are able to apply it to your department.
- *How long are the modules?* The timeframe of the modules will vary considerably depending on the material. Each will have the average time commitment in the description. Most do not have a start or end date, so you can adjust with your other time commitments.
- *How do I get started on the certification courses?* It is highly recommended that you first begin with the orientation module. This tells you how to proceed through the modules, which ones are required, and how you complete the overall process. Basically, it is the nuts and bolts of how it all works.
- *How do I get started on the CE courses?* All modules can be applied towards CE and training requirements. Simply complete the modules you are interested in and you will receive your certificate. The certificate will reflect the hours and CEs allowed. It is highly recommended that you check with your state for specifics on how many CEs qualify.
- *I have further questions.* While we will be adding to this regularly, you may find that you have questions that are more specific. You can either message the instructor for the course you are interested in, or email admin@openfireacademy.org. We will gladly help.

Coming Soon: Homeland Security & Law Enforcement courses