

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Academic Year:	2026-2027
Credential:	Ontario College Certificate
Program Delivery:	Full-Time
Duration:	1 Year
Length:	3 Semesters
Program Code:	T085 - Timmins Campus (PC)

DESCRIPTION

Train with the best at Ontario's premier firefighting facility. Northern's Pre-Service Firefighter program is in a class of its own. Thanks to our state-of-the-art training facilities and unique partnership with Timmins Fire Department, you'll have access to all the infrastructure and equipment of a working fire station. Plus featuring a blend of labs, field placements, and vocational courses — you'll graduate from this one-year program in peak performance and prepared to take on any challenge.

From rope rescues and breaking down doors to complex live-burn scenarios in our own burn building, the curriculum continuously tests your composure and stretches your adaptability. You will strategize plans of attack, and function as part of a multi-disciplinary team. You can even practice as a volunteer firefighter in the real world. And finally, master all your new skills during an immersive six-week hands-on program featuring fire and rescue evolution training.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

As a graduate of this program, you may get hired to work in municipality/city firehalls, military, industry, nuclear plants, or natural resources-ministry forest fire fighting services, at airports, or any type of emergency based firefighting services.

VOCATIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate the culminating role performances in the following areas: fire suppression, community education and fire prevention, firefighter emergency patient care, environmental protection, and special rescue operations.
2. Identify and use the personal and professional development resources/activities that promote growth and contribute to lifelong learning.
3. Meet the ethical, legal, and safety requirements of professionals in the fire service.
4. Use safe practices and techniques with fire department apparatus, tools and equipment.
5. Communicate effectively using verbal, non-verbal, written, or electronic methods including recognized and appropriate fire service terminology.
6. Interact with others in a variety of emergency and non-emergency situations in a manner that demonstrates confidence, professionalism, and sensitivity to others and the situation.
7. Demonstrate respect when communicating effectively with diverse communities and their members.
8. Use effective and appropriate problem-solving and decision-making skills in emergency and non-emergency situations.

9. Work effectively with other members of the fire service team, pre-hospital emergency care providers, and other emergency service-related groups to provide comprehensive service in emergency and non-emergency situations.

PROGRAM COURSES

The following reflects the planned course sequence for full-time offerings of the program. Programs at Northern College are delivered using a variety of instruction modes. Courses may be offered in the classroom or lab, entirely online, or in a hybrid mode which combines classroom sessions with virtual learning activities.

Semester 1		Hours
CM1323	Professional Communications	42
GN1443	Indigenous Culture and Awareness	42
FF1013	Fitness for Firefighters I	42
FF1022	Emergency Patient Care	28
FF1041	Emergency Patient Care Practice	28
FF1123	Fire Service Orientation	28
FF1061	Fire Behaviour & Building Construction	14
FF1213	Firefighter I	182
FF1501	Firefighter I – Practical	14
MA1053	Mathematics Fundamentals I	42
Semester 2		
EM2073	Life Safety Education	42
FF2005	Technical Rescue & Maintenance	70
FF2013	Fitness for Firefighters II	42
FF2021	Advanced Emergency Patient Care Practice	28
FF2032	Advanced Emergency Patient Care	42
FF2044	Hazmat Awareness & Operations	56
FF2103	Incident Management	42
FF2104	Firefighter II	56
FF2501	Firefighter II Practical	14
Semester 3		
FF2110	Practical Fire & Rescue Evolutions	350
FF3041	Technical Rescue Practical Testing	70

PROGRAM PROGRESSION

The following reflects the planned progression for full-time offerings of the program.

Fall Intake

Sem 1: Fall 2026

Sem 2: Winter 2027

Sem 3: Summer 2027

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)
- Grade 12 English (C, U)
- Or equivalent

While the Pre-Service Firefighter program does not require a math course as an entrance requirement, employers may require additional tests that include mathematical skills and reasoning. It is strongly recommended that applicants take a senior high school math credit prior to enrolling in the Pre-Service Firefighter program.

Academic prerequisites for this program may be obtained free of charge through [Academic Upgrading](#).

Applicants who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent and will have reached the age of 19 years on or before the start of the program must undergo academic testing and may be required to complete [Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) process to demonstrate equivalency of admission requirements prior to admission into a program.

For more details, please contact the Admissions Office at 705-235-7222 or admissions@northern.on.ca.

Applicant Selection Criteria: Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the available spaces in the program, the Applicant Selection Criteria will be:

- a) Permanent Residents of Ontario.
- b) Receipt of Application by February 1st.
- c) Achievement in the Required Academic Preparation*

Note: Grade and course requirements are used in the selection process. If applicants are enrolled in Grade 12 required subjects (as indicated above), in the second semester (February to June), grade 11 marks will be used to assess admission eligibility.

Additional Requirements for International Students

In addition to the admission requirements, international students must have proof of [English Proficiency](#) and meet the requirements below.

1. Proof of Senior High School Diploma/Certificate
2. English Proficiency (we will require one of the following):
 - IELTS Academic International English Language Testing System: a minimum overall score of 6.0 must be achieved with no individual band score under 5.5
 - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) – Internet Based Test (iBT) overall minimum score of 79
 - PTE (Pearson Test of English) Academic: Graduate Diploma: 58+
 - Duolingo: 105+

If your country of citizenship has English as its official language, we may accept alternate proof of English Proficiency. All educational documents must be submitted in English and will be dependent on the country of citizenship. For more information, please contact admissions@northern.on.ca.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the program page for [Pre-Service Firefighter Pre-Admission Requirements](#) documentation.

- Current Basic Cardiac Life Support Certificate (C.P.R. – HP content) is recommended prior to the start of the program.
- Standard First Aid Certificate, or equivalent must be obtained prior to the start of the program.

Criminal Reference Check: A recent criminal reference check – (within 3 months) is required prior to the end of the first week of classes in September. Any costs for these checks will be the responsibility of the applicant. Candidates for the program must be free of criminal offenses in order to be allowed in the field setting. An unpardoned criminal record will result in inability to participate in clinical practice courses and will prevent the student from graduating.

Fees and Equipment: All Pre-Service Firefighter students must take part in a mandatory orientation session the first week of September. Students must purchase personal items of NFPA approved bunker gear apparel (gloves and balaclava, bunker boots, work boots, and uniforms – which is included in the \$1250 overall estimate for additional course supplies, excluding textbooks.

National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Standard: Many fire service employers are implementing the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Standard as their applicant medical requirements. This standard covers the fire department physical and medical evaluation process and provides in-depth information that will be of assistance in determining if those interested in a career in firefighting meet the medical criteria for employment.

Mask Fit Testing: This program requires that students wear a full-face self-contained breathing air (SCBA) mask and an approved N95 particulate respirator during certain learning situations reflective of safe workplace practice and standards. To successfully complete Mask Fit Testing to wear an SCBA mask and N95 mask, students shall present themselves for fit testing free from interference of hair where the respirator seals to the skin or neck. Students are required to be clean-shaven or have no hair where the mask seals to the skin.

Work Integrated Learning Opportunities

This program includes field setting.

Articulation / Transfer Agreements

A number of articulation agreements have been negotiated with universities and other institutions across Canada, North America and internationally. These agreements are assessed, revised and updated on a regular basis. Please contact the program coordinator for specific details if you are interested in pursuing such an option. Additional information can be found at [Articulation Agreements](#).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 19 Program Courses
- 1 Communications Course
- 1 General Education Course

Graduation Eligibility

To graduate from this program, a student must attain a minimum of 70% or a letter grade of CR (Credit) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline. Students should consult departmental policies and manuals for additional detail and exceptions.

Graduation Window

Students unable to adhere to the program duration of one year (as stated above) may take a maximum of two years to complete their credential. After this time, students must be re-admitted into the program, and follow the curriculum in place at the time of re-admission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about being admitted into the program, please contact Northern College Admissions at admissions@northern.on.ca or by phone at 705-235-3211 ext. 7222. For questions about the content of the program, contact the Program Coordinator.

Craig Hartley, Program Coordinator
Tel: 705-235-3211 ext. 2121
Email: hartleyc@northern.on.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Semester 1

CM1323 Professional Communications

In this course, students will learn essential skills for success in college and the workplace. This course focuses on developing and strengthening oral and written communication skills, and critical thinking ability. During this course, students will engage in a variety of forms of communication with a focus on upholding the principles of academic integrity. Students will develop the skills necessary to create discipline-specific documents, practice business etiquette and professionalism, and apply critical thinking strategies to practical scenarios. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to plan and draft concise, coherent and well-organized writing assignments that are tailored to specific audiences and purposes.

GN1443 Indigenous Culture and Awareness

This general education course will provide students with an introduction to Canadian Indigenous Nations' history, sovereignty, land titles, cultural history and current critical issues. Topics addressed include the content of Indigenous rights, economic and social development, community and political processes, and business law and policies, justice & social services. Canadian Indigenous History and Relations is a general education course that has been incorporated into all programs at Northern College.

FF1013 Fitness for Firefighters I

This course will provide students with general and job-specific knowledge of fitness, enabling them to improve and maintain life-long personal and occupational fitness levels. Emphasis will be placed on areas that relate to the physical demands of a firefighter (appropriate cardiorespiratory fitness, lifting safety and core endurance/health). Additionally, attention to health and fitness as it relates to the whole individual including muscular strength/endurance/power, cardiorespiratory conditioning, psychological well-being and nutrition. Special consideration will be placed on nutrition and healthy eating habits and its importance for occupational performance and healthy living.

FF1022 Emergency Patient Care

The emphasis of this course is placed upon developing assessment skills for use in planning the stabilization and management of patients in a variety of medical/trauma situations. Students will be introduced to patient assessment, pathological processes and the management of various medical and traumatic problems that may afflict pre-hospital patients. Assessment is taught using a “hands on” approach that involves demonstration, performance and practice to hone skills. Practical sessions will follow the same outline as theoretical components of the course to assist in reinforcing knowledge and skills.

FF1041 Emergency Patient Care Practice

The emphasis of this course is placed upon developing assessment skills for use in planning the stabilization and management of patients in a variety of medical/trauma situations. Students will be introduced to patient assessment, pathological processes and the management of various medical and traumatic problems that may afflict pre-hospital patients. Assessment is taught using a “hands on” approach that involves demonstration, performance and practice to hone skills. Practical sessions will follow the same outline as theoretical components of the course to assist in reinforcing knowledge and skills.

FF1123 Fire Service Orientation

In this course you will learn and demonstrate the culminating role performances of an NFPA 1001 (2019) level I, entry level recruit in areas of: Introduction to the fire service, firefighter safety and communications. Students will also learn and be expected to demonstrate the testing and maintenance responsibilities for power plants, scene lighting and fire hose.

FF1061 Fire Behaviour & Building Construction

In this course you will learn and demonstrate culminating role performances of an NFPA 1001 (2019) level I and II entry level recruit in the areas of building construction, building materials, structural collapse and the effects of fire suppression activities on buildings. The course will also provide an understanding of fire dynamics by explaining fire science, the combustion process, fire behavior, classification of fire and their associated extinguishing agents, fire behavior indicators, fire development patterns, potential for rapid fire development, and the use of ventilation and suppression tactics for controlling fires.

FF1213 Firefighter I

This course will cover the basic theoretical information for an entry level firefighter necessary to meet the job performance requirements of NFPA 1001 (2019) level I. The topics covered in this segment will include: firefighter personal protective equipment, portable extinguishers, ropes and knots, ground ladders, forcible entry, tactical ventilation, fire hose, hose operations and hose streams, fire suppression, overhaul, property conservation and scene preservation.

FF1501 Firefighter I – Practical

In this course you will demonstrate and be evaluated in the performance of essential practical skills in accordance with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management approved skill sheet for practical testing for a Firefighter I (NFPA 1001-2019).

MA1053 Mathematics Fundamentals I

Students will review mathematical concepts and operations of basic arithmetic skills and their applications. Whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percent, ratio and proportions are topics covered.

Semester 2**EM2073 Life Safety Education**

In this course, students focus on community risk reduction with a focus on fire and life safety education. Students will explore the valuable resources needed and currently used in the field of life safety educators. Through successful completion of course content, students meet all requirements of Fire and Life Safety Educator I defined in Chapter 5 of the NFPA 1035 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire and Life Safety Educator.

FF2005 Technical Rescue & Maintenance

This course will present the theory and practical basics of fire service technical search and rescue. In addition, this course will provide basic knowledge for a student to perform technical rescue support and vehicle extrication operations based on the requirements of NFPA 1001 (2019) Firefighter level II. Students will also learn and be expected to demonstrate the testing and maintenance responsibilities for the various equipment used within these disciplines.

FF2013 Fitness for Firefighters II

This course is a continuation of the previous semester's fitness course. It will provide students with general and job-specific knowledge of fitness, enabling them to improve and maintain life-long personal and occupational fitness levels. Emphasis will be placed on areas that relate to the physical demands of a firefighter (appropriate cardio-respiratory fitness, lifting safety and core endurance/health). Additionally, pay attention to health and fitness as it relates to the whole individual including muscular strength/endurance/power, cardio-respiratory conditioning, psychological well-being and nutrition. Special consideration will be placed on nutrition and healthy eating habits and its importance for occupational performance and healthy living.

FF2021 Advanced Emergency Patient Care Practice

The emphasis of this course is placed upon developing advanced assessment skills for use in planning the stabilization and management of patients in a variety of medical/trauma situations. Students will be introduced to patient assessment, pathological processes and the management of various medical and traumatic problems that may afflict pre-hospital patients. Assessment is taught using a "hands on" approach that involves demonstration, performance and practice to hone skills. Practical sessions will follow the same outline as theoretical components of the course to assist in reinforcing knowledge and skills.

FF2032 Advanced Emergency Patient Care

The emphasis of this course is placed upon developing advanced assessment skills for use in planning the stabilization and management of patients in a variety of medical/trauma situations. Students will be introduced to patient assessment, pathological processes and the management of various medical and traumatic problems that may afflict pre-hospital patients. Assessment is taught using a “hands on” approach that involves demonstration, performance and practice to hone skills. Practical sessions will follow the same outline as theoretical components of the course to assist in reinforcing knowledge and skills.

FF2044 Hazmat Awareness & Operations

Content will focus on the role, responsibilities and actions taken by firefighters as firefighter emergency responder at an awareness level during a hazardous materials incident. There will be a focus on recognition, firefighter protection, interagency coordination securing the area and accessing information from additional resources.

FF2103 Incident Management

This course will provide students with the understanding and ability to apply an Incident Management System (IMS) which is a framework used to organize emergency incidents. This system provides the command structure and management terminology used in emergency incidents. In conjunction, students will learn the importance, benefits and challenges of proper note taking.

FF2104 Firefighter II

This course will cover the basic theoretical information for an entry level firefighter necessary to meet the job performance requirements of NFPA 1001 (2019) level II. The topics covered in this segment include: foam firefighting, liquid and gas fires, fire origin and cause determination, and community risk reduction.

FF2501 Firefighter II Practical

During this course you will demonstrate and be evaluated in the performance of the essential practical skills expected of a Firefighter II, NFPA 1001 (2019) in accordance with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management approved skills sheets for practical testing.

Semester 3**FF2110 Practical Fire & Rescue Evolutions**

This course will focus on the culminating performances of all the skills learned in fire ground operations, patient care, hazardous materials awareness/operations and technical rescue.

FF3041 Technical Rescue Practical Testing

This section will focus on the culminating performances of all the skills learned in FF2005 Technical rescue and maintenance.