



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Fire and Emergency Services Administration Program FESA
3338 Community Risk Reduction
August 25 – December 12, 2025

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT :

This course examines concepts of community sociology, the role of fire-related organizations within the community, and their impact on the local fire problem, including fire service relationships within the community and other agencies, developing a community inventory, shaping community policy, master planning, and shaping community perceptions about the local fire service.

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Become champions of risk reduction.
2. Develop and meet risk reduction objectives.
3. Identify and develop intervention strategies.
4. Implement a risk reduction program.
5. Review and modify risk reduction programs.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Describe the sociological view of the community by identifying the elements of the community; recognizing changes that occur in the community during emergencies; apply basic sociological concepts to the student's community and describe the placement of the fire service within it;
2. . Describe the sociological view of the community discuss the fire problem, in general terms, in all communities (urban, suburban, rural); describe the effects of budget constraints on minimum staffing, labor agreements, and service levels; describe the impact of fire codes and sprinklers on public fire protection; describe the role of EMS, hazard materials, technical rescue and mitigation projects on the fire service;
3. Describe the relationship between the fire service and non- emergency support agencies, identify programs that foster and promote public safety and fire safety awareness; understand how the fire service functions in conjunction with the finance, purchasing, personnel., legal, and planning departments; describe the difference between direct and indirect fire losses and their affect on the community;

4. Describe the purpose of a community inventory; identify sources for a community inventory and how to begin to build one;
5. Develop an argument by explaining three reasons for a community to assess its needs systematically prior to implementing a fire department program; explain the role of a community survey; identify survey methodologies; defines terms informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity as related to survey methodology; discuss the use of data bases, extant data and the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS);
6. Describe the unique aspects of the rural and metro fire problem as well as identify those in common; describe the interrelationship of man -made hazards, technological hazards, and natural hazards within the student's community
7. List benefits and disadvantages of career, volunteer (On Call), combinations, public safety and private fire companies; identify the advantages and problems associated with consolidation; compare mutual pacts, automatic mutual aid and regional fire protection; describe special response teams including urban search and rescue, dice teams, high-angle rescue and hazmat teams;
8. Identify the critical community elements that are essential for defining the scope and nature of the fire department's mission; describe the ever changing mission of the fire service and the factors that critically affect this change; describe the importance of environmental scanning and change agents with in the fire service;

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS

- **Text: Community Risk Reduction- Principles and Practice-**, Beverly E. Walker, Jones and Bartlett Learning, ISBN 9781284195057
- **The Sociology of Community Connections**, 2nd Edition (2011); John G. Bruhn, Springer Publications. Available on line through the Library.