



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Fire and Emergency Services Administration Program

FESA 4366- Analyzing Public Policy for Fire and EMS

Fall 2026

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

This class introduces fire and emergency services personnel to analytic frameworks for thinking about various aspects of public policy process. We do not study a single context or policy, but rather, seek to understand how policy actors succeed (or fail) in obtaining their objectives in relation to fire and emergency services issues related to public safety. You will learn to think carefully about institutions and how to present your analysis to city leaders and policy makers.

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To understand core theories of the process of making public policy related to Fire and EMS.
2. To understand the politics of policy arguments.
3. To understand the decision-making tools and strategies of policymakers.
4. To learn how to conduct an institutional analysis for a policy proposal.
5. To learn how to write a memorandum presenting an institutional analysis.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

Introduction to the Policy Process
Systems of Policymaking
History of Fire and EMS policy
Individual Purpose, Strategic Interaction
Institutional Analysis & Institutional Change Policy
Design Options

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS

Public Policy: A Concise Introduction 2nd Ed, by Sara R. Rinfret, Denise Scheberle, & Michelle C. Pautz. Sage Publishing.