



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Fire and Emergency Services Administration Program

FESA 3330-Political and legal Foundations of Fire and Emergency Services

January 20 – May 15, 2026

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT:

This course examines the legal aspects of the fire service and political and social impacts of legal issues. This course includes a review of the American legal system, Texas legal system, local government systems and in-depth coverage of legal and political issues involving employment and personnel matters, administrative and operational matters, planning and code enforcement, and legislative and political processes with regard to the fire service.

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify potential legal and political issues in fire and emergency services.
2. Describe legal lessons learned from recent cases, and identify best practices in the fire service to avoid legal liability.
3. Analyze and apply legal rules and political issues to manage risk,
4. Formulate political and legal conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis,
5. Locate and apply recent legal and legislative decisions using online resources.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Describe the differences between different types and branches of law
- Identify classes of actions such as tort, contract, and property
- Explain the system of law and its functions
- Define criminal and administrative aspects of law and courts
- Explain U.S. constitutional law as it affects employment and personnel issues in the fire service.
- Explain the impact of the First, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments on personnel and employment laws
- Identify and examine local and State cases and laws that affect operational and managerial issues in local fire departments
- Explain specific impacts of Federal law and existing Federal decisions on operational and managerial issues in the fire service.

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Textbook: Fire Service Law 2nd Ed, Lawrence T. Bennett, Waveland Press: ISBN 978-1-4786-3397-6