

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Fighter Trainee (30198F) Exam Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Q1: Why is the County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Fire Department) opening a recruitment for Fire Fighter Trainee (FFT)?

A: *It is a priority for the Fire Department to implement new and efficient hiring processes and meet the increased emergency medical services needs of our communities. Opening the FFT job posting will allow the Fire Department to fill critically needed positions.*

Q2: Why is the Fire Department utilizing the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) written test for the first time?

A: *In the past, the Fire Department has administered newly developed tests for FFT positions that required additional time and resources for development. This year, it is utilizing the existing FCTC Written Test instead because it is a priority for the Fire Department to implement new and efficient hiring processes and meet the increased emergency medical services needs of our communities as quickly as possible.*

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

Q3: If I am a firefighter in another agency, am I eligible for a lateral transfer?

A: *No, the FFT job posting is not a lateral transfer. Interested individuals must apply for the position, meet the requirements listed on the job posting, and pass the exam in order to be placed on the eligible register (list).*

Q4: If I submitted an application with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department in the past, will I need to submit another application for the FFT exam currently posted?

A: *Yes, if you wish to be considered for employment as a FFT, **you must submit an application for the currently posted FFT exam.***

Q5: What do I need to submit at the time of application?

A: *Nothing; however, you are encouraged to schedule yourself and test for the FCTC written test before applying. Please see Q6 for additional information.*

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Q6: What do I need to have in order to meet the requirements of this position and be placed on the list?

A: *In order to be placed on the list, you must meet the following requirements:*

- 1. A current and passing written test score issued by the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC). -OR- If you do not have a passing FCTC written test score, you may obtain information on how to complete the written test by going to [FCTCOnline.org](https://www.fctc.org). For a score to be considered valid, applicants must have received a passing score within the last 12 months. When applying for the Fire department's position, please make sure to use the same email address you used to complete your FCTC profile. Upon receiving an application, the Fire department will review and confirm your FCTC score with the center.*
- 2. A current and valid Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) certificate. -OR- If you do not have a CPAT certificate, you may go to [FCTCOnline.org](https://www.fctc.org) to obtain information on how to get one. This must be provided with your application at the time of filing or within 12 months of receiving your most recent passing FCTC Written Test score, to FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov. Your CPAT certificate will be verified.*
- 3. A copy of a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a higher degree from an accredited institution. This must be provided with your application at the time of filing or within 12 months of receiving your most recent passing FCTC Written Test score, to FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov.*
- 4. A current valid, non-probationary, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate/license that will remain effective for at least six months beyond the date of appointment. This must be provided with your application at the time of filing or within 12 months of receiving your most recent passing FCTC Written Test score, to FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov.*

FCTC WRITTEN TEST INFORMATION AND PREPARATION:

Q7: What is the FCTC written test?

A: *The FCTC Written Test is a statewide, written firefighter test administered by the FCTC, an outside organization. For fees associated with the written test, please visit [Fees | FCTC Online](#).*

Q8: If I have applied to the County of Los Angeles FFT exam in the past, will the test be similar?

A: *No. We have implemented a new test (FCTC), which is explained below.*

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Q9: What will the written test for the FCTC consist of?

A: *As stated in the job posting, the FCTC Written Test is a multiple-choice test consisting of four sections as indicated below (Please refer to the job posting for additional information):*

- **Section 1: Recall and Comprehend Verbal and Visual Information.** *This section requires candidates to watch two short videos and answer questions based on the scenarios presented.*
- **Section 2: Apply Mechanical Reasoning**
- **Section 3: Solve Mathematical Problems**
- **Section 4: Recall and Comprehend Technical Information from Written Materials**

NOTE: *Only those applicants with a score of 70% or higher on the written test will be placed on the list.*

Q10: How can I obtain additional information about the FCTC test, test preparation, and accommodations?

A: *For additional information about the FCTC test, test preparation, and accommodations, please visit: <https://www.fctconline.org/written-testing>.*

Q11: If I apply for the FFT position with a passing FCTC written score, can I retake the FCTC Written Test before placement on the Fire Department's list?

A: *No; once you apply with a passing FCTC Written Test score, the score registered with FCTC will be considered your final score and will be used to add you to the Fire Department's list, granted that you provide all other required certificate(s)/license. Therefore, you are encouraged to have a favorable score before submitting an application.*

Q12: Once I am placed on the Fire Department's list, can I re-take the FCTC Written Test to improve my banding?

A: *No. If you are not satisfied with your FCTC written score before submitting your FFT application, you may re-take it after waiting 30 days until you are satisfied with your score. Once you apply and are placed on the Fire Department's list, you will not be able to improve your banding.*

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CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT)

Q13: What is the CPAT?

A: *The CPAT is a timed test that measures performance on physical tasks simulating actual physical job duties of Fire Fighters.*

Q14: Where can an individual obtain information about taking the CPAT?

A: *All relevant information regarding the CPAT can be located on the following website: <https://www.fctconline.org/cpat/>.*

Q15: If I don't have a current and valid CPAT at the time of application, how soon do I need to obtain one?

A: *Successful applicants must obtain the CPAT within 12 months of achieving their most recent passing score from FCTC. The Fire department will verify the CPAT.*

Q16: I do not live in California and have taken the CPAT. How do I know if it will be accepted for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department?

A: To verify the out-of-state CPAT, please visit <https://www.iaff.org/cpat/#licensing>.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE(S)/ LICENSE

Q17: The job posting states that my EMT certificate(s)/license must remain current and valid for six (6) months beyond the date of appointment. My EMT certificate(s)/license will expire one month after I submit my application. Will I be disqualified from this exam?

A: *No, you will not be disqualified. Applicants must submit a current valid, non-probationary, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate/license at the time of filing or within 12 months of receiving your most recent passing FCTC written test score to be placed on the list. However, applicants must have a current and valid EMT certificate(s)/license for at least six (6) months beyond the date of appointment in order to be placed in the FFT Recruit Academy. Therefore, if you are given a conditional offer of employment, it is important that you renew your EMT certificate(s)/license.*

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Q18: What are the accepted types of non-probationary EMT certificate(s)/license?

A: *The following are the accepted types of non-probationary EMT certificate(s)/license:*

A: *EMT or Advanced EMT certificate issued by an approved California certifying agency/entity;*

OR

B: *EMT, Advanced EMT, or Paramedic certificate(s)/license issued by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and a current CPR card equivalent to American Heart Association or Red Cross Basic Life Support (online CPR courses are not accepted);*

OR

C: *EMT Paramedic License issued by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.*

Q19: If I don't have one of the non-probationary EMT certificate(s)/license listed above at the time of application, how soon do I need to submit my certificate/license to the Fire Department's examination section?

A: *Successful applicants must submit one of the non-probationary EMT certificate(s)/license within 12 months of receiving your most recent passing FCTC written test score.*

VISION AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS:

Q20: What are the vision requirements for the FFT position?

A: *As indicated on the class specification of this position, the vision requirements are as follows:*

(1) Acuity - At least 20/100 in each eye without correction, correctable to 20/40 in each eye.

Successful soft contact lens wearers are not required to meet the uncorrected standard, as long as their corrected vision is 20/40 in each eye.

(2) Color Vision Requirements - Anything worse than moderate hue impairment or monochromatic vision resulting in the inability to use thermal imaging cameras would require restriction.

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Q21: What are the hearing requirements for the FFT position?

A: *As indicated on the class specification of this position, the hearing requirements are as follows:*

On audiometric testing, average hearing deficit in the better ear may not be worse than 40 dB at test frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 3000 Hz without the aid of a hearing assistance device.

In the case of a questionable, unusual, or borderline hearing deficit, the applicant will require additional functional hearing evaluation by a specialty consultant in otolaryngology engaged by one of the County's contracted occupational health clinics. The specialist will issue findings to the contracted occupational health clinician so that they, in turn, can make the final recommendations as to an applicant's restrictions, if any.

SUBMISSION OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, LICENSES, AND/OR CERTIFICATES

Q22: How do applicants for the FFT exam submit the required documents?

A: *As indicated on the job posting, applicants must provide the required documents at the time of filing or before the deadline period by emailing the documents to FFTApplicant@fire.lacounty.gov.*

Q23: Is a valid California Driver License required at the time of submitting my application?

A: *No. A valid California Driver License is not required at the time that you submit your application. However, as stated on the job posting, a California Driver License is required before being appointed. In addition, successful candidates for this position will also be required to obtain and present a copy of their driving record from the California Department of Motor Vehicles before being appointed. **ANY CANDIDATE WHOSE DRIVING RECORD SHOWS FOUR OR MORE MOVING VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS WILL NOT BE APPOINTED.***

Q24: Is a copy of a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a higher degree from an accredited college or university institution required at the time of submitting my application?

A: *No; however, as stated on the job posting, verification of completion of a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a higher degree from an accredited college or university institution must be submitted within 12 months of receiving your most recent passing FCTC Written Test score.*

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CERTIFICATION LIST/BACKGROUND/MEDICAL:

Q25: What happens next if I'm successful in the exam and my name is placed on the list?

A: *Successful candidates will be placed on the list in ranking group on an as-received basis based on their most recent FCTC Written Score. The Fire Department may choose to conduct hiring interviews for candidates in the highest-ranking group. If selected, based on the needs of the department, candidates will begin the background check and medical exam. Candidates will remain on the list for twelve (12) months following the date of their promulgation.*

Q26: Will there be a background check and medical exam in order to be appointed to this position?

A: *As stated on the job posting, successful candidates who are given a conditional offer of employment will be required to complete a criminal background check, including a fingerprint search, followed by a medical examination, consistent with local, state and federal law. A candidate with a conviction history that has a direct and adverse relationship with the duties of the **FFT** position may have their conditional offer of employment rescinded and be removed from the certification list pursuant to Civil Service Rule 6.04.*

*In addition, candidates must successfully complete a medical exam and be able to perform all of the essential functions of the **FFT** classification, either with or without reasonable accommodations. A candidate who does not successfully complete a medical exam or is unable to perform all of the essential functions of the **FFT** classification may have their conditional offer of employment rescinded and be removed from the certification list pursuant to Civil Service Rule 6.04.*

Q27: What does the medical evaluation consist of?

A: *The pre-placement medical evaluation is administered after a conditional offer of employment is made and is designed to determine an applicant's ability to safely perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. The Fire Department complies with its obligations with all local, state and federal laws when making hiring decisions.*

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Q28: How do I apply for Veteran's credit?

A: *Although you can submit your DD214 form at any time during the exam process, the Fire Department highly recommends that you submit a copy of your DD214 form with your application within 15 calendar days to FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov, for review and consideration for Veteran's credit. For information about the specific conditions to qualify for Veteran's Credit see the FFT job posting.*

Q29: What if I do not have a computer at home to apply for the exam?

A: *For applicants who may not have regular access to a computer or the internet, applications can be completed on computers at public libraries throughout the County of Los Angeles, which can be located by visiting <https://lacountylibrary.org/library-locator>. Applicants may also call 2-1-1 LA County and request the nearest library to their zip code by dialing 2-1-1 or (800) 339-6993.*

Q30: What do I do if I am having problems applying online or uploading attachments?

A: *If you are having problems applying online or uploading documents, please visit the Department of Human Resources Technical Support Page by clicking the link at <https://hr.lacounty.gov/neogov-help/>. You may also email the required documents to FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov.*

Q31: What will disqualify me from being a Fire Fighter Trainee?

A: *You may be disqualified for various reasons, including, but not limited to not meeting all of the Selection Requirements listed on the job posting; having certain felony conviction(s); receiving a dishonorable military discharge; being on probation as directed by a court; and having any Driving Under the Influence (DUI) conviction(s) within two years of your application date.*

Q32: What if I move after I submit my application?

A: *In order to update your contact information after submitting your application, please log into your [governmentjobs.com](https://www.governmentjobs.com) profile and make the update yourself. If you have any questions, please email FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov.*

Q33: Where can I get answers to any additional questions?

A: *For additional questions pertaining to the Fire Fighter Trainee exam, please contact the Examination Section at (213) 466-5500 or via email at FFTapplicant@fire.lacounty.gov.*

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