



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
STATE FIRE TRAINING**

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**Date:** April 14, 2024

**To:** Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee  
State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Sierra College, Accredited Regional Training (ARTP) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend Sierra College remain a Accredited Regional Training (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

**Background Information:**

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on March 11, 2024, at the Sierra College training facilities at 213 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley, CA, and 2030 Hilltop Circle, Roseville, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training with agency host Jason Hemler, Fire Technology Coordinator, serving as site host and representative.

The Sierra College Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. Said documentation has since been received and has met the requirements as set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The review of the SAR was followed by an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

An evaluation of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training facility complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. The College utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate a California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the

Academy training. Several Registered Instructors and Evaluators participate in the Academy and Certification Exam delivery making the entity self-sustaining and the College will focus on hosting additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with State Fire Training requirements.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at technology directors meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The College has identified a specific need for additional personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- The training facility exhibits ongoing needs for equipment and facility maintenance. Upkeep and preventative maintenance of the facility, equipment, and apparatus will serve to ensure longevity of the training program.
- Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, and decontamination stations with extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.

Sierra College is a Northern California leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools through ROP and dual-enrollment programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College provides numerous continuing education (CE) opportunities for those seeking career advancement, offering a vast array of specialized courses and training events. Sierra College boasts an exemplary retention and success rate among students, making it a noteworthy training destination. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. Sierra College staff and students recognize the importance of fostering cooperative relationships and interagency partnerships.

Sierra College possesses a strong and devotion to student development through innovative and progressive training. All participants, staff and students alike, adhere to the strong morals, values, and ethics that have served as the foundation of this model fire service training program. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Sierra College as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.