

As listed on the “Requirements for Fire Cadet” web page, the education/training requirement includes: “15 hours College Credit from an accredited college or university, with a minimum of 2.0 GPA (calculated from all transcripts).”

Therefore, any transcripts presented to meet this requirement should be evaluated by the following criteria:

1. The official name of the educational institution must include the word “college” or “university.”
2. The educational institution must be accredited by a Regional Accrediting Organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. There are eight of these organizations:

1.	Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Middle States Commission on Higher Education
2.	New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
3.	New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Technical and Career Institutions
4.	North Central Association of Colleges and Schools The Higher Learning Commission
5.	Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
6.	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
7.	Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
8.	Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities
Source: http://www.chea.org/pdf/CHEA_USDE_AllAccred.pdf	

These two criteria can be verified by searching for the name of the educational institution on “The Database of Accredited Post Secondary Institutions and Programs” found on the U.S. Department of Education web site. The URL for that database is:
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

Also note that it is possible for an educational institution to receive accreditation for only a program or specialty. However, the AFD Fire Cadet requirement for college credit does not allow for this type of accreditation. The requirement clearly states that the college or university itself must be accredited. This institutional type of accreditation will be listed on the database website as an “Institutional Accreditation.”

One final consideration is that the [U.S. Department of Education web site](#) provides this caveat, “The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs is compiled entirely from publicly available information reported to the U.S. Department of Education by recognized accrediting agencies and state approval agencies that have been asked to provide information for each institution and/or program accredited by that agency. This reported information is not audited. The database is updated to reflect

additional information as it is received from recognized accrediting agencies and state approval agencies but the Department makes no guarantee that the database will be updated immediately upon receipt of such information. The U.S. Department of Education cannot, therefore, guarantee that the information contained in the database is accurate, current, or complete.”

Therefore, in the event that a candidate’s college credit cannot be verified as meeting the criteria by the information found in the U.S. Department of Education’s database, the candidate should be informed of this fact. Then the candidate should be given a specific time frame to provide another type of proof that their college credit meets the criteria listed above.

As for the “minimum of 2.0 GPA (calculated from all transcripts)” requirement, the overall Grade Point Average (GPA) listed on a transcript will be used to determine if minimum 2.0 GPA is met. In the case where more than one transcript is submitted to meet the 15 hours of college credit requirement, all of the grades on each transcript will be calculated to determine an overall GPA. This overall GPA must then meet the 2.0 GPA minimum.