

Off Campus Physical Education Program

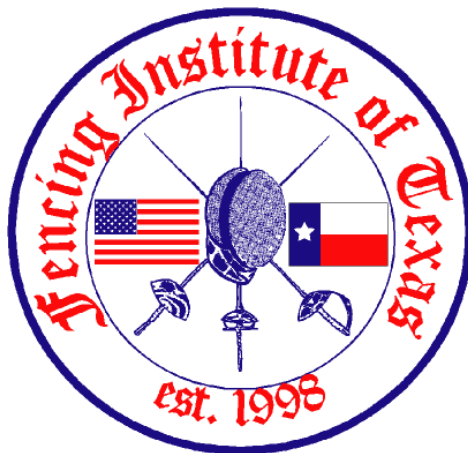
Fencing Institute of Texas, Inc.
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This document is reviewed annually by the Fencing Institute of Texas' (FIT) Board of Directors and credentialed Instructors for compliance with current regulations of the State of Texas and requests of the various independent school districts whose students receive credit for participation in this program. FIT instructors on H1B1 visas are credentialed through the American Board of Education and have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in Physical Education; other coaches have degrees in education, have been to the USFA Coaches College or equivalent, or have extensive instructional experience at a private club level coaching fencer development. At the present time, the US Fencing Association does not have a credentialing program for coaches other than a background check and self-certification of ability.

FIT Board of Directors is comprised of educators and retired educators from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex independent school districts, as well as other members who have attained post graduate degrees in a variety of fields.

FIT instructors currently teach fencing programs at St. Phillips in Dallas and Southern Methodist University.

For additional information or documentation, please contact our General Manager, Brenda Waddoups, at (972) 444-8498.



OFF CAMPUS PHYSICAL EDUCATION and Basis for Grade

Texas Administrative Code Section 75.151(c)(6)(D) and 75.152(b)(7)(C) authorize the awarding of physical education credit for students participating in appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs. House Bill 72 and Subsequent Legislation: Comprehensive References and Explanations states that, "such off campus activity programs are basically those Olympic events where students spend significant amounts of time in training."

Fencing Institute of Texas (FIT) is a non-profit school of Olympic sport fencing with instructors who are accredited through the American Education system with the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, and a Masters of Fencing with emphasis in Sports Psychology and Sports Medicine. If your school needs a copy of this accreditation, contact the General Manager.

To be considered for the Off-Campus PE program at FIT, a student must be accepted for the Competitive Team. That is, you must have your own equipment and be enrolled in a High Performance (Group or Package) Program.

Students are required to sign in and sign out in the Off-Campus PE attendance record book, and have this verified by a FIT staff member, **on a daily basis**. If a student fails to sign in on a day, no credit will be given for that attendance. A copy of this attendance record will be submitted to your school along with the required grade sheet as requested.

Typically, your school will require at least 15 hours of participation per week in supervised training. You are expected to be at practice a minimum of four days Monday through Friday from 5:30-8:30 PM and on Saturday from 11 AM to 2 PM (attendance at fencing tournaments are credited for the actual time the student spends in lessons and competition, not for the entire tournament day). You are expected to arrive on time, warm-up and stretch appropriately, and be ready to go at the appointed class time. You are expected to be ready at strip side for your private lesson time at least 5 minutes before the lesson is to begin. Failure to do any of these will result in a lower grade and may result in expulsion from the program.

You are required to attend at least one fencing tournament during the grading period designated by your Instructor so that a full assessment of your progress may be made (many tournaments are held in south Texas and will require travel; you should have ample opportunity to participate in local tournaments by planning ahead). You are required to compete in at least one of the following:

Fall Semester:

1. **North Texas Division Junior Olympic Qualifier** (December); or
2. **Super Regional or Regional Youth Circuit**; or
3. **Regional Open Circuit**; or
4. **North American Cup** (NAC)

Spring Semester:

1. North Texas Division **Summer National Championship Qualifier** (April), or;
2. **Super Regional or Regional Youth Circuit**; or
3. **Regional Open Circuit**; or
4. **North American Cup** (NAC)

Select students will compete at the Cadet and Junior World Cup level by invitation of the United States Fencing Association (you must be on the National Points List).

There is a **final exam semester requirement** (students on trimesters will have this adjusted accordingly) that will count for **25% of your grade**. You must complete **one** of the following **per semester**:

- 1) Increase your USFA rating by one level (or renewal of "A" or "B" or "C" rating); **OR**
- 2) Finish in top 64 at a National tournament (NAC, JO's or National Championships); **OR**

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- 3) Finish in top 16 at a Regional tournament (ROC, SRYC or RYC) Open event; OR
- 4) Increase your Referee (Director's) rating; **OR**
- 5) Complete a typewritten 2-3 page term paper on a topic related to fencing: fencing skills, sports medicine, sports psychology, nutrition, refereeing, or other topic related to fencing.

Semester finals are **due one week before the end of the grading period.**

GRADES WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Sportsmanship and Strip Etiquette.** Your conduct on strip is governed by the Referee (Director). Anyone receiving a black card during a fencing tournament will automatically receive a failing grade.
2. **Competition and Sport Participation.** Emotional and psychological development as it pertains to self-control, poise, intensity, self-discipline, integrity, etc.. Your ability to maintain your composure during moments of extreme stress will be continuously challenged during tournaments. Again, anyone receiving a black card during a tournament will automatically receive a failing grade.
3. **Fencing Skills.** Your instructor will measure your progress for footwork, blade work, parries, attacks, and other skills. You are required to grasp a set of fundamental skills and continuously improve these movements while learning new skills. You are required to participate in group and private lessons with constant observation, correction, instruction and evaluation. You are required to apply the skills learned in group and private lessons during fencing sessions.
4. **Tactics and Strategy.** Fencing is as much, or more, of a mental sport as it is physical. You are required to analyze your opponent's tactics and strategy and in a split second adjust your own tactics. You are placed in different "test environments" during practice to develop critical thinking skills necessary.
5. **Physical Fitness.** You are expected to learn the importance of hydration, nutrition, and sleep to the development of the overall athlete. Athletes are expected to bring appropriate drinks and snacks to competitions that will sustain and renew their energy.
6. **Goal Setting.** You are asked to set realistic and attainable training and tournament goals for yourself for USFA rating improvement and National Points List standings. You are required to compete in the North Texas Division Qualifier for Junior Olympics and Summer National Championships.
7. **Rules of Fencing.** You are expected to learn the rules of fencing and how to referee (direct) bouts in the weapon you fence. Older, more experienced students are expected to learn the rules unique to each of the three weapons.
8. **Esprit de Corps.** You are expected to share with younger, less experienced fencers the skills and knowledge you possess. You are expected to fence every person attending that practice session, no matter what their skill level. You are expected to provide strip coaching to teammates and support during their bouts. You are expected to provide and maintain a positive environment for your teammates.
9. **Attendance.** You are expected to attend the requisite number of practices and tournaments.
10. **Semester Final.** Each semester requires fulfillment of the final examination criteria which is **25% of the total grade.** The semester final requirement is **due at least one week prior to the end of the grading period.** A student may increase their USFA rating or referee (director) rating by at least one level (or renew a top level); finish in the top 64 at a National tournament; or finish in the top 16 in a Regional tournament open event; or, submit a typewritten 2-3 page term paper on a subject dealing with

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one of the above criteria. Term papers should be submitted to the office; your name should be at the top of each page and the paper stapled together or bound. Term papers are required to be supported with research and this research properly documented. Students are encouraged to use the FIT Library and include charts, graphs, photos, and drawings in their papers; however, these will not be counted for the overall length requirement of 2-3 pages. Students should be prepared to answer questions from a FIT panel of educators concerning their term paper subject. Term papers become the property of Fencing Institute of Texas and will be edited and reprinted in the FIT Newsletter.