

Addendum 4 to the 2026 Sonoran Desert Institute Catalog

Effective 9/28/2026

After the Educational Resource Fee section on Page 33, add the following new section:

Course Fee

Certain discipline specific elective courses are assessed a mandatory, non-refundable Course Fee of \$500.00, in addition to the standard per-credit-hour tuition rate and the Educational Resource Fee:

- MAC 150: Introduction to Manual Lathe – discipline specific elective option in the Associate of Science in Firearms Technology program only.
- FTE 217: Modern Sporting Rifle – Discipline specific elective option in both the Associate of Science in Firearms Technology and the Certificate in Firearms Technology – Gunsmithing programs.

Selection of these courses is optional. If a student selects one or more of these courses, the applicable Course Fee(s) will be assessed. Students who select these courses may not opt out of the associated Course Fee(s).

Remove the Associate of Science in Firearms Technology program from the Associate Degrees Section on Page 56 and replace it with the following:

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN FIREARMS TECHNOLOGY

The Associate of Science in Firearms Technology program develops students' technical, craftsmanship, and business skills for the firearms industry. Through hands-on, project-based coursework, students gain experience with specialized tools and equipment while developing skills in firearm customization, repair, restoration, troubleshooting, wood and metalworking, and safe industry practices.

The curriculum also introduces firearms business principles and professional practices applicable to a variety of industry settings. Elective options allow students to further develop their knowledge in areas aligned with their interests.

Graduates will possess a well-rounded foundation of technical knowledge, practical skills, craftsmanship, and business principles applicable to a variety of roles within the firearms industry.

Program Specific Admissions Requirements

- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age as of the program start date.
- Applicants may be subject to a background check prior to and/or during their program of study.
- Students will need to have access to a firearm to complete assignments in some of the coursework.
- Must be eligible to obtain a Federal Firearms License.

Statement of Eligibility

Due to the nature of the coursework offered, SDI reserves the right to deny enrollment to any individual who is unable to answer “No” to all questions below. Additionally, enrollment may be denied if SDI has reasonable cause to believe that an individual’s answer(s) to a question below should be “Yes.”

- Are you under indictment or information in any court for a felony, or any other crime for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year, or are you a current member of the military who has been charged with violation(s) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and whose charge(s) have been referred to a general court-martial?
- Have you ever been convicted in any court, including a military court, of a felony, or any other crime for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence including probation?
- Are you a fugitive from justice?
- Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance? Warning: The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes in the state where you reside.
- Have you ever been adjudicated as a mental defective OR have you ever been committed to a mental institution?
- Have you ever been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions?
- Are you subject to a court order, including a Military Protection Order issued by a military judge or magistrate, restraining you from harassing, stalking, or threatening your child or an intimate partner or child of such partner?
- Have you ever been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, or are you or have you ever been a member of the military and been convicted of a crime that included, as an element, the use of force against a person as identified in the instructions?
- Have you ever renounced your United States citizenship?
- Are you an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States?

Background Checks

Prior to admission into SDI, all applicants must submit authorization for a background check. Applicants are subject to a background check prior to and/or during their program of study. Applicants who have been identified as prohibited persons under The Gun Control Act (GCA), codified at 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) will immediately be deemed ineligible for admission. Applicants whose background check indicates other charges will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. SDI will permit or deny admission based on the charges listed according to the SDI Right to Deny Policy.

SDI may consider an appeal from an applicant who has been denied for charge(s) not violating the Identify Prohibited Persons list. Consideration of the appeal shall be based on:

1. likelihood of the student's ability to successfully complete the program,
2. timeframe of charge(s) listed, and
3. nature of the charge(s) listed.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Director of Firearms Technology Programs, including any reason(s) why circumstances have changed surrounding the charge(s) resulting in denial and/or any documentation showing suspension of charges, restoration of civil rights, etc. Applicants whose appeals are approved may continue through the admissions process. Denied appeals are final, and the applicant will be barred from enrollment at Sonoran Desert Institute indefinitely.

Courses Requiring a Firearms Transfer

Certain courses require Sonoran Desert Institute to provide learning materials that fall within the federal definition of a firearm. Upon selecting a course that features a firearm, students must designate an FFL at which to pick up their receiver/other protected parts. At time of pickup, students will be required to pass a NICS background check, administered by the designated FFL, prior to obtaining the receiver/other protected parts. Students who do not pass the NICS background check at their designated FFL will be required to appeal the background check and/or be withdrawn from the program and/or course(s). Students who do not pass the NICS background check at their designated FFL will not be subject to refunds outside of SDI's school refund policy. Failure of a NICS background check will negatively affect the ability to be employed in the firearms industry.

State Laws and Restrictions

SDI provides students with tools and equipment that are related to the firearms industry. The Institute strives to ensure tools and equipment are issued in accordance with federal, state, and local firearm laws. SDI will work with individual students based on the state in which they reside when assigning courses. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to comply with the individual state(s) and federal law regarding firearms. Students are accountable under the exact wording and current interpretations of all applicable laws and regulations within each state.

Graduate Employment Opportunities

Some of the many areas where a student may apply the knowledge gained from the Gunsmithing program include the following:

- Shooting sports management
- Retail firearms sales
- Firearms repair and customization
- Gunsmith
- Armorer
- Research and Development
- Basic Machining

CIP/SOC Classifications & Summary

The Classification for Instructional Programs (CIP) associated with this program is 47.0402, titled “Gunsmithing/Gunsmith”. The Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) is considered as 49.9099, “Installation, Maintenance and Repair.”

Requirements to practice as a gunsmith or in a firearms-related industry may require federal and/or state approvals. A graduate who desires to work in the industry may need to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL). This is required if the graduate hopes to repair firearms for compensation. A graduate employed by a business that has an FFL may not be required to obtain an individual FFL. A graduate who desires to repair only personal firearms is not required to obtain a firearms license. Because of changes in requirements, the graduate is advised to regularly review the requirements for the FFL with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The graduate can find this information on the ATF website (www.atf.gov).

Sonoran Desert Institute does not guarantee job placement or employment.

Tools and Equipment

Tools and equipment are provided by the Institute and included in the total program cost. These items are shipped to the student with other learning materials and will belong to the student. Students need to have access to a firearm for certain courses and may need additional supplies to complete certain projects. Please visit the following link for a comprehensive list of supplies required for the completion of assignments per current course offerings. www.sdi.edu/tools-and-materials/

Completion Requirements

To earn an Associate of Science in Firearms Technology degree, a student must:

- Complete at least 60 credit hours of coursework
- Complete at least 15 credit hours of general education coursework

- Complete discipline specific course work as part of an approved program of study to achieve all program outcomes
- Complete the program with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0

Completion of the Associate of Science in Firearms Technology degree does not require additional specialized training, practicum, or externships.

Program Outcomes

With the successful completion of this program, a student will be able to do the following:

- Interpret and apply federal, state, and local firearms laws and regulations to ensure legal compliance in gunsmithing practices.
- Develop firearms and ammunition vocabulary to distinguish between broad industry terms and manufacturer-specific language.
- Distinguish firearms and ammunition by industry-defined characteristics and terms, to support the translation of customer-identified problems.
- Use safe industry practices while applying tools and knowledge to affect firearms-related repairs or customizations.
- Apply gunsmithing techniques across various firearms platforms to complete basic modifications or upgrades consistent with industry standards or good craftsmanship.
- Diagnose and troubleshoot mechanical and operational issues in firearms, utilizing critical thinking and specialized tools to implement effective solutions.
- Uphold industry standards for workplace safety and proper handling of tools, machinery, and firearms in all gunsmithing activities.
- Demonstrate proficiency in specialized gunsmithing techniques, including the use of precision tools, equipment, and machinery, along with related operating principles and calculations, and perform accurate modifications, repairs, and restorations on firearms.
- Identify and apply business principles by understanding basic retail and repair scenarios within a firearms business operation.
- Apply advanced wood and metalworking techniques to fabricate and customize firearm components, with attention to detail, quality, and aesthetic design.
- Explore concepts in communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, critical thinking, natural and physical sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities.

Required Courses: Associate of Science in Firearms Technology

CATEGORY	COURSE	SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
Student Success	SDI 101: Success in Distance Learning	1
	Total Student Success	1
Firearms Technology Discipline	FTT 103: Principles of Ammunition and Basic Ballistics	4
	FTT 105: Firearms Laws, Rights, and Responsibilities	4
	FTT 106: Hand and Specialty Tools in Gunsmithing	4
	FTT 131: Maintenance and Troubleshooting of Firearms	4
	MAC 110: Basic Power Tools and Machining Principles	4
	FTT 133: General Gunsmithing Modifications	4
	FTT 213: Wood and Metalwork in Gunsmithing	4
	FTT 220: Firearm Business Principles	4
	Select two discipline specific courses from the elective pool below	8
	Total Firearms Technology	44
General Education	AGT 100: American Government	3
	MAT 101: Mathematics for Technical Trades	3
	PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology	3
	ENG 101: English Composition 1	3
	SCI 101: Introduction to Physical Science	3
	Total General Education	15
	TOTAL PROGRAM	60

Elective Options: Course availability may vary each semester. Not all courses may be offered each term.

FTE 211: 1911 Advanced Armorer

(Students must be 21 years of age to select FTE 211 course. Students MUST complete a firearms transfer with a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) to be eligible to select FTE 211 course).

FTE 217: Modern Sporting Rifle

(In some states, students must be 21 years of age to select FTE 217 course. Students MUST complete a firearms transfer with a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) to be eligible to select FTE 217 course).

FTE 218: Pump Shotgun Armorer

(In some states, students must be 21 years of age to select FTE 218 course. Students MUST complete a firearms transfer with a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) to be eligible to select FTE 218 course).

FTE 225: Developing a Business Plan

MAC 150: Introduction to Manual Lathe

ANY student who fails the firearm transfer background check and appeal process may be withdrawn from the program or will only be eligible to select FTE 225 and MAC 150 to meet the elective requirements.

Available elective options may be affected by the results of any transfer credit evaluation and remaining program requirements.

Remove the Certificate in Firearms Technology - Gunsmithing program from the Certificate Programs Section on Page 64 and replace it with the following:

CERTIFICATE IN FIREARMS TECHNOLOGY – GUNSMITHING

The Certificate in Firearms Technology - Gunsmithing program is for individuals seeking foundational skills and knowledge in the firearms industry. Students will learn to recognize and differentiate firearms by operational and legal characteristics, identify critical measurements and tolerances, and apply specialized tools in project-based work. Emphasis is placed on using safe industry practices, performing compliance functions relevant to gunsmithing, and conducting basic modifications and accurizing work on firearms. The curriculum includes courses on mechanics, ammunition basics, firearms laws and responsibilities, maintenance, troubleshooting, and the use of both basic and advanced gunsmithing tools. Additionally, students have the option to select an elective aligned with their interests within the field.

Program Specific Admissions Requirements

- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age as of the program start date.
- Applicants may be subject to a background check prior to and/or during their program of study.
- Students will need to have access to a firearm to complete assignments in some of the coursework.
- Must be eligible to obtain a Federal Firearms License.

Statement of Eligibility

Due to the nature of the coursework offered, SDI reserves the right to deny enrollment to any individual who is unable to answer “No” to all questions below. Additionally, enrollment may be denied if SDI has reasonable cause to believe the individual’s answer of “No” to a question below should be “Yes.”

- Are you under indictment or information in any court for a felony, or any other crime for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year, or are you a current member

of the military who has been charged with violation(s) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and whose charge(s) have been referred to a general court-martial?

- Have you ever been convicted in any court, including a military court, of a felony, or any other crime for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence including probation?
- Are you a fugitive from justice?
- Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance? Warning: The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes in the state where you reside.
- Have you ever been adjudicated as a mental defective OR have you ever been committed to a mental institution?
- Have you ever been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions?
- Are you subject to a court order, including a Military Protection Order issued by a military judge or magistrate, restraining you from harassing, stalking, or threatening your child or an intimate partner or child of such partner?
- Have you ever been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, or are you or have you ever been a member of the military and been convicted of a crime that included, as an element, the use of force against a person as identified in the instructions?
- Have you ever renounced your United States citizenship?
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- Gunsmith
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- Research and Development
- Basic Machining

CIP/SOC Classification & Summary

The Classification for Instructional Programs (C.I.P.) associated with this program is 47.0402, titled "Gunsmithing/ Gunsmith". The Standard Occupation Classification (S.O.C.) is considered as 49.9099, "Installation, Maintenance and Repair."

Requirements to practice as a gunsmith or in a firearms-related industry may require federal

and/or state approvals. A graduate who desires to work in the industry may need to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL). This is required if the graduate hopes to repair firearms for compensation. A graduate employed by a business with an FFL may not be required to obtain an individual FFL. A graduate who desires to repair only personal firearms is not required to obtain a firearms license. Because of changes in requirements, the graduate is advised to regularly review the requirements for the FFL with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The graduate can find this information on the ATF website (www.atf.gov).

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Tools and Equipment

Tools and equipment are provided by the Institute and included in the total program cost. These items are shipped to the student with other learning materials and will belong to the student. Students need to have access to a firearm for certain courses and may need additional supplies to complete certain projects. Please visit the following link for a comprehensive list of supplies required for completion of assignments, per current course offerings. www.sdi.edu/tools-and-materials/

Completion Requirements

To earn a Certificate in Firearms Technology – Gunsmithing, a student must:

1. Complete at least 32 credit hours of discipline specific coursework required for the certificate program.
2. Complete the program with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

Program Outcomes

With the successful completion of this program, a student will be able to do the following:

- Interpret and apply federal, state, and local firearms laws and regulations to ensure legal compliance in gunsmithing practices.
- Develop firearms and ammunition vocabulary to distinguish between broad industry terms and manufacturer-specific language.
- Distinguish firearms and ammunition by industry-defined characteristics and terms, to support the translation of customer-identified problems.
- Use safe industry practices while applying tools and knowledge to effect firearms-related repairs or customizations.
- Apply gunsmithing techniques across various firearms platforms to complete basic modifications or upgrades consistent with industry standards or good craftsmanship.
- Diagnose and troubleshoot mechanical and operational issues in firearms, utilizing critical thinking and specialized tools to implement effective solutions.
- Uphold industry standards for workplace safety and proper handling of tools, machinery, and firearms in all gunsmithing activities.

Required Courses: Certificate in Firearms Technology – Gunsmithing

CATEGORY	COURSE	SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
Firearms Technology Discipline	FTT 102: Principles of Mechanics in Firearms	4
	FTT 103: Principles of Ammunition and Basic Ballistics	4
	FTT 105: Firearms Laws, Rights, and Responsibilities	4
	FTT 106: Hand and Specialty Tools in Gunsmithing	4
	FTT 131: Maintenance and Troubleshooting of Firearms	4
	MAC 110: Basic Power tools and Machining Principles	4
	FTT 133: General Gunsmithing Modifications	4
	Select one discipline specific course from the elective pool below	4
TOTAL PROGRAM		32

Elective Courses: *Course availability may vary each semester. Not all courses may be offered each term.*

FTE 211: 1911 Advanced Armorer

(Students must be 21 years of age to select FTE 211 course. Students MUST complete a firearms transfer with a Federal Firearms Licensed dealer to be eligible to select FTE 211 course).

FTE 217: Modern Sporting Rifle

(In some states, students must be 21 years of age to select FTE 217 course. Students MUST complete a firearms transfer with a Federal Firearms Licensed dealer to be eligible to select FTE 217 course).

FTE 218: Pump Shotgun Armorer

(In some states, students must be 21 years of age to select FTE 218 course. Students MUST complete a firearms transfer with a Federal Firearms Licensed dealer to be eligible to select FTE 218 course).

FTE 225: Developing a Business Plan

ANY student who fails the firearm transfer background check and appeal process may be withdrawn from the program or will only be eligible to select FTE 225 to meet the elective requirement.

Available elective options may be affected by the results of any transfer credit evaluation and remaining program requirements.

Remove the following course description from Page 77:

***FTT 299: Firearms Technology Elective**

4 Credit Hours

See individual descriptions of courses that students select from to fill this elective.

Replace the Tuition, Fees, and Completion Time by Program chart revised by Addendum 2 with the following:

Program	Credit Hours	Tuition Per Credit Hour	Education Resource Fee per Semester ¹	Total Program Cost	CA STRF	Total Program Cost (CA only)	Expected Completion Terms ⁴
Associate of Science in Firearms Technology ⁵	60	\$390	\$700	\$26,200	\$0.00	\$26,200	4
Associate of Science in Uncrewed Technology	60	\$390	\$700	\$26,200	\$0.00	\$26,200	4
Certificate in Firearms Technology - Gunsmithing ⁵	32	\$390	\$700	\$13,880	\$0.00	\$13,880	2
Certificate in Firearms Technology - Handgun Specialist	16	\$490	\$700	\$8,540 or \$9,740 ²	\$0.00	\$8,540 or \$9,740 ²	1
Certificate in Unmanned Technology - Aerial Systems	16	\$390	\$700	\$6,940	\$0.00	\$6,940	1
Individual Courses	1-4 weeks	\$390 or \$490 per credit hour	\$700	Varies	\$0	Varies	1

¹ The Associate of Science in Firearms Technology and the Associate of Science in Uncrewed Technology Educational Resource Fee is billed at \$700 per semester, not to exceed 4 semesters. The Certificate in Firearms Technology – Gunsmithing Educational Resource Fee is billed at \$700 per semester, not to exceed 2 semesters. The Certificate in Uncrewed Technology – Aerial Systems and Certificate in Firearms Technology – Handgun Specialist Educational Resource Fee is billed at \$700 per semester, not to exceed one semester.

² This amount includes the optional materials fee of \$1,200 that students may opt out of. If the student opts out of paying the optional fee, the student must provide their own materials for this program.

³ California law mandates the collection of a Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) fee when the fund falls below a designated amount. Fees are charged based on a designated amount per \$1,000 dollars. Currently, the fund exceeds this amount, therefore, the fee is \$0 (zero). Only California residents are subject to this fee. See California Student Tuition Recovery Fund section for more information.

⁴ Students may complete the program in less time based on year-round enrollment opportunities. Part-time students may take longer to complete.

⁵ Students enrolled in the following courses are assessed an additional \$500 mandatory non-refundable course fee: FTE 217 and MAC 150.
