

Certificate/Associate of Science Degree Programs

Every year, fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Firefighters help protect the public against these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries, or perform other vital functions.

JOB OUTLOOK:

Prospective firefighters can expect to face competition for available job openings. Many people are attracted to firefighting because it is challenging and provides the opportunity to perform an essential public service. Consequently, the number of qualified applicants in most areas exceeds the number of job openings, even though the written examination and physical requirements eliminate many applicants. This situation is expected to persist in coming years.

In California between 2008 and 2018 it is expected that approximately 1,600 new Fire Fighters will be hired each year and employment of Fire Fighters is expected to increase somewhat faster than the average for all occupations. Labor Market Source: State of California Employment Development Dept.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Firefighters work in a variety of settings, including urban and suburban areas, airports, chemical plants, other industrial sites, and rural areas like grasslands and forests. In addition, some firefighters work in hazardous materials units that are trained for the control, prevention, and cleanup of oil spills and other hazardous materials incidents.

Work hours of firefighters vary more widely than hours of most other workers. A typical schedule may be 24 hours on duty. In addition, firefighters often work extra hours at fires and other emergencies and are regularly assigned to work on holidays. Duty hours include time when firefighters study, train, and perform fire prevention duties.

EARNINGS:

As of 2011 median annual wages of full-time Fire Fighters in California is approximately \$68,681. In California Fire Fighters usually earn from \$50,000 to 89,000. Labor Market Source: State of California Employment Development Dept.

Firefighters receive benefits, usually including medical and dental insurance, vacation and sick leave, and some paid holidays. Fire departments provide protective clothing (helmets, boots, and coats) and breathing apparatus, and many also provide uniforms.

EMPLOYMENT:

Paid career firefighters held about 37,000 jobs in California. More than 9 out of 10 worked in municipal or county fire

departments. Some large cities have thousands of career firefighters, while many small towns have only a few. Most of the remainder worked in fire departments on Federal and State installations, including airports. Private firefighting companies employ a small number of firefighters and usually operate on a subscription basis.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Because fighting fires is dangerous and complex, it requires organization, teamwork and physical stamina. At every emergency scene, firefighters perform specific duties.

Additionally, firefighting involves risk of death or injury from sudden cave-ins of floors, toppling walls, traffic accidents when responding to calls, and exposure to flames and smoke. Firefighters may also come in contact with poisonous, flammable, or explosive gases and chemicals, as well as radioactive or other hazardous materials and blood borne pathogens that may have immediate or long-term effects on their health. For these reasons, they must wear protective gear that can be very heavy and hot.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Applicants for municipal firefighting jobs generally must pass a written exam; tests of strength, physical stamina, coordination, agility; and a medical examination that includes drug screening and a psychological test; a lie detector test and oral interview. Those who receive the highest scores in all phases of testing have the best chances for appointment. The completion of community college courses and a degree in fire science may significantly improve an applicant's chances for appointment. An emergency medical technician (EMT) certification is normally an employment requirement.

CAREER LADDER:

Advancement in most fire agencies depends upon the results of competitive written examinations, job performance, interviews, and seniority. A Fire Fighter seeking a promotion is often required to participate in community college or continuing education programs to keep current with the latest concepts and procedures related to fire suppression, medical training, and management techniques. The line of promotion is usually to engineer, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, assistant chief, deputy chief, and finally, chief. Advancement to positions higher than battalion chief usually requires a bachelor's degree in fire science, public administration, or a related subject area.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE FIRE TECHNOLOGY

Candidates must successfully complete a minimum of 23.50 units of prescribed coursework. A minimum grade of “C” must be maintained in all prescribed coursework related to Fire Technology. NOTE: A “C” in these courses is considered to be 80% or higher.

REQUIRED COURSES:	UNITS
FIRET 100 Fire Protection Organization	3.00
FIRET 101 Fire Prevention Technology	3.00
FIRET 102 Fire Behavior and Combustion	3.00
FIRET 103 Fire Protection Systems	3.00
FIRET 114 Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival	3.00
FIRET 116 Building Construction for Fire Protection	3.00

A minimum of 5.50 units are to be selected from the following courses:

FIRET 082 Fire Prevention 1A	(2.50)
FIRET 083 Fire Prevention 1B	(2.50)
FIRET 085 Fire Command 1A	(2.50)
FIRET 086 Fire Command 1B	(2.50)
FIRET 087 Fire Investigation 1A	(2.50)
FIRET 088 Fire Investigation 1B	(2.50)
FIRET 104 Fire Apparatus and Equipment	(3.00)
FIRET 106 Fire Protection Hydraulics and Water Supply	(3.00)
FIRET 111 Public Education Officer I	(2.50)
FIRET 112 Fire Control Fire Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting	(2.50)
FIRET 113 Fire Service Career Preparation	(3.00)
FIRET 118 Wildland Fire Control	(3.00)
FIRET 183 Aircraft Accidents	(2.50)
TOTAL UNITS	23.50

Lower division requirements for students interested in transferring to a four-year institution in this field may differ from associate degree requirements. Prospective transfer students should complete the general education and lower division requirements of the school to which they will be transferring. See a counselor for details. Information is also available at www.assist.org.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

To fulfill the Associate Degree requirements you will need to complete all required general education (G.E.) units in addition to the Fire Technology core courses. It is important that you check with a counselor to insure that completion of the G.E. requirements is correct and in appropriate categories.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of a minimum of 60 units, completion of the Fire Technology program core and non-core courses, and required general education are required for the Associates Degree. All

courses must be completed with a “C” grade or higher. Detailed Associate Degree Requirements can be found in the current version of the Crafton Hills College Catalog, or see a Counselor to assist you in course selection.

FIREFIGHTER I BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY CERTIFICATE

The objective of this certificate is to develop the skills required for Firefighter I Certification and to develop the teamwork skills, attitudes and public service commitment necessary for employment in the fire service. Completion of this certificate may lead to entry-level employment as a firefighter in the public or private sectors. The Firefighter I Basic Training Academy is approved by the California State Fire Marshal’s Office as an accredited Regional Training Center.

Admission: Open to all students who have completed the prerequisite courses. Registration is limited to class size restrictions. Contact the Fire Technology Office for application materials.

PREREQUISITES:	UNITS
FIRET 100 Fire Protection Organization	3.00
FIRET 101 Fire Prevention Technology	3.00
EMT-I Emergency Medical Technician I Certification (Successfully pass the National Registry Exam)	

Either a “CPAT” (Candidate Physical Ability Test) or the Biddle Physical Agility Test. Completion of “CPAT” or Biddle Exam must be taken within four months prior to the first day of the academy.

Completion of the CHC English and Math placement test. A degree is accepted in place of the placement test.

Successful interview with the Academy Chief prior to acceptance into the Fire Academy.

Admission to the Fire Academy will be based on a “Point System.” One point is given to Applicants for each of the following:

- 1 point - Completed application delivered to the Academy Secretary two months prior to the start date for the Fire Academy
- 1 point - Successful completion of Building Construction for Fire Protection
- 1 point - Successful completion of Fire Protection Systems
- 1 point - Successful completion of Fire Behavior and Combustion
- 1 point - Successful completion of Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival
- 5 points - Successful completion of AS Degree in Fire Technology
- 10 points - Successful interview with the Academy Chief

RECOMMENDED COURSES:	UNITS
ENGL 101 Freshman Composition	4.00
FIRET 902X4 Firefighter Physical Agility Preparation	3.00
MATH 090 Elementary Algebra	4.00

Candidates must successfully complete a minimum of 16.00 units of prescribed coursework. A minimum grade of “C” must be maintained in all required coursework to remain in the Fire Academy and to receive the Firefighter I Basic Training Academy Certificate. NOTE: A “C” or better in these courses is considered to be 80% or higher.

REQUIRED COURSES:	UNITS
FIRET 049 Basic Firefighter Physical Fitness	2.00
FIRET 115 Firefighter I Basic Training Academy	14.00
TOTAL UNITS	16.00

A student receiving a certificate in this field will be able to:

- Participate successfully in a culturally diverse environment
- Develop effective interpersonal communication skills
- Solve problems and makes decisions inherent to the profession

CALIFORNIA FIRE OFFICER TRAINING CERTIFICATE

The objective of this certificate is to provide students with a wide range of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills necessary to become an effective Fire Officer.

Completion of the following 20.00 units may qualify the student to test for the position of First Line Fire Officer by applying to the California Fire Service Training and Education System through the California State Fire Marshal’s Office in Sacramento, California. Candidates must successfully complete the prescribed course work with a grade of “C” or better.

REQUIRED COURSES:	UNITS
FIRET 080 Fire Instructor 1A	2.50
FIRET 081 Fire Instructor 1B	2.50
FIRET 082 Fire Prevention 1A	2.50
FIRET 083 Fire Prevention 1B	2.50
FIRET 084 Fire Management 1	2.50
FIRET 085 Fire Command 1A	2.50
FIRET 086 Fire Command 1B	2.50
FIRET 087 Fire Investigation 1A	2.50
TOTAL UNITS	20.00

FIRE INSPECTION ACADEMY CERTIFICATE

The objective of this certificate is to provide students with an introduction to fire prevention practices, human relations

skills, inspection skills, knowledge of applicable codes and regulations, and a working knowledge of public education. Completion of this certificate program may lead to employment as an entry level fire inspector or fire safety specialist in the public or private sectors.

RECOMMENDED COURSES:	UNITS
FIRET 100 Fire Protection Organization	3.00
FIRET 101 Fire Prevention Technology	3.00

Completion of the following 11.00 units qualifies the student to apply to the State Fire Marshal’s Office for the Fire Inspection Academy Certificate. Candidates must successfully complete the prescribed course work in the certificate with a grade of “C” or better.

REQUIRED COURSE:	UNITS
FIRET 078 Fire Inspection Academy	11.00

ADMISSION TO CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

Admission to Crafton Hills College is open to those who meet any one of the following requirements: 1. Eighteen years of age or older and can benefit from instruction offered by the college or 2. A high school graduate or 3. Have a G.E.D. (General Education Development) Certificate or 4. Have a California High School Proficiency Certificate or 5. Out-of-state residents and citizens of other countries here on student visas may also attend Crafton Hills College, subject to regulations that can be obtained from the Admissions & Records Office. These students will be required to pay non-resident tuition fees. Current high school students may be admitted under special circumstances. Please see the current version of the Crafton Hills College Catalog for eligibility requirements.

Every new student participates in the assessment process. The assessment is designed to measure current skills and is used to determine appropriate placement in English and Math. For additional information you may contact the Assessment Center at (909) 389-3361 or e-mail testcenter@craftonhills.edu. After completing the assessment, it is recommended that students meet with a counselor to discuss appropriate course work in accordance with the student’s goals.

Crafton Hills College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

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