

# Fire Science Technology

## Associate in Applied Science Degree

Program Coordinator Samuel A. Giordano  
847.925.6379  
847.925.6049 fax  
sgjordan@harpercollege.edu  
Building H, Room H172

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 complex emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a fire, traffic accident or medical emergency, and may be called upon to rescue trapped victims.

Firefighting is an extremely dangerous occupation and needs to be taken very seriously. According to the United States Fire Administration, firefighter is the second most stressful occupation, with the president of the United States ranking as the first. More than 100 U.S. firefighters die in the line of duty each year, with reported injuries estimated at almost 100,000. The Harper College Fire Science program takes this into consideration, making its program focus on firefighter safety and survival through the use of both classroom and hands-on teaching methods.

The Harper College fire science technology program is recognized as one of the top fire service-oriented programs in Illinois. The program prepares the student for the application process with a fire department and for positions in industrial safety, fire prevention, insurance investigation, fire investigation, hazardous materials spills and public education. In addition, the program prepares the fire service professional for career advancement to the rank of lieutenant, captain, battalion chief or, deputy chief.

The program offers a variety of specialized classes that address today's rapidly expanding and constantly developing fire service industry. The curriculum is suitable for the seasoned firefighter, as well as individuals wishing to explore the world of firefighting.

Some fire departments require a two-year degree in fire science to consider an individual eligible for entry-level positions; other departments may offer promotional and salary incentives to associate degree program graduates.

Many of the courses offered are articulated with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and count toward the requirements for instructor I, instructor II, fire officer I, fire officer II, fire apparatus engineer, hazardous materials first responder and technician.

A full-time student may complete this 60-62 credit-hour program in two years. Part-time options for completion are offered, as well. Classes are offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Students wishing to pursue a career in fire science should discuss this decision with the program coordinator or a Student Development faculty counselor before entering the program.



## Program Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this program will be able to:

- determine the origin and causes of fires.
- apply skills to identify and solve firefighting problems.
- apply tactics and strategies to emergency fire incidents.
- respond to emergencies related to hazardous materials.
- demonstrate fire safety and emergency scene safety procedures.
- demonstrate fire prevention procedures and techniques.
- demonstrate knowledge of arson investigation procedures.
- demonstrate ability to function as a member of a team.
- demonstrate physical fitness and health consciousness.
- utilize technical fire protective and suppression equipment.

## Career Opportunities

Career opportunities available to graduates of this program may include firefighter, fire officer, fire prevention worker, fire inspection/code enforcement officer, fire-arson investigator, emergency medical services (EMT-Paramedic), hazardous materials controller, industrial fire safety officer, or insurance investigator.

Other areas of employment for fire science graduates include fire equipment sales and service, municipal fire protection, fire prevention and inspection in industry and private insurance companies and emergency medical services.

For a complete overview to all related positions and job market and salary trends, please consult the **Occupational Outlook Handbook**: <http://www.bls.gov/OCO/>

## Did You Know?

Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire. The fire occurred on October 9, 1871. It killed 300 people and left 100,000 homeless.

Harper College, 1200 West Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067-7398

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication. However, the information is subject to change without notice and final career decisions are the responsibility of the student.

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