

# Fire Science Careers

**F**irefighters respond to a variety of emergency situations where life, property or the environment are at risk. Frequently, firefighters are the first emergency response team at the scene of an accident, fire, flood, earthquake or other national disaster, or act of terrorism.

Most calls that firefighters respond to involve medical emergencies and many fire departments provide ambulance service for victims. Firefighters receive training in emergency medical procedures and many fire departments require their firefighters to be certified as emergency medical technicians.

During duty hours, firefighters must be prepared to respond immediately to a fire or other emergency situation that arises. Each situation a firefighter encounters is unique. Because firefighting is dangerous and complex, it requires organization and teamwork. At every emergency scene, firefighters perform specific duties assigned to them. They may connect hose lines to hydrants, operate a pump or position ladders. They may rescue victims and administer emergency first aid, ventilate smoke-filled areas, operate equipment and salvage the contents of a building.

Fire inspectors are specially trained to conduct inspections of structures to prevent fires and to ensure fire code compliance. Firefighters may also check and approve plans for new buildings. Fire prevention personnel often speak before assemblies and civic organizations. Some firefighters even become fire investigators, who determine the origin and cause of fires.

## Job Outlook

Employment of firefighters is expected to increase more slowly than the average for all occupations through 2010 as fire departments continue to compete with other public safety providers for funding. Most job growth will occur as volunteer firefighting positions are converted to paid positions. Firefighters face competition for available job openings, but a two-year degree places some applicants ahead of others.

## Earnings

Median hourly earnings of firefighters were \$16.43 in 2000. The middle 50 percent earned between \$11.82 and \$21.75. Median annual earnings of first-line supervisors/managers of firefighting and prevention workers were \$51,990 in 2000. The middle 50 percent earned between \$40,920 and \$64,760. Median annual earnings of fire inspectors and investigators were \$41,630 in 2000. The middle 50 percent earned between \$31,630 and \$53,130 a year.

## Related Careers

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic

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## Educational Opportunities in Firefighting at LCCC

### *Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science*

This program offers career opportunities in forestry, insurance, state, county and local government along with local public fire departments (For public fire department employment, a 240-hour non-credit program on firefighting techniques and a Civil Service examination are required.).

This program may be completed in two years, if taken on a full-time basis. Many students choose to study on a part-time basis. Students in the associate of applied science in fire science program complete courses in:

- Chemistry
- Computer information systems
- English
- Fire science
- Math
- Physical science
- Political science
- Psychology

## Related Educational Opportunities at LCCC

### *Associate of Science Degree*

A student may elect to follow any of the published guides or may earn an associate of science degree (AS) by meeting the universal requirements. A minimum of 62 semester credit hours is required for the associate of science degree including the 39-40 semester credit hours to complete the State Transfer Module. Choices of courses will require careful academic planning and advice. Students should seek assistance from a counselor or advisor before registering for courses. Students completing the AS degree may transfer with junior standing to the four-year college or university of their choice.

The associate of science degree is intended for the student who wishes to pursue a bachelor's degree by completing the first two years at LCCC in program fields such as:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Physics

Pre-professional Medical (dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, physical/occupational therapy, optometry, veterinary medicine).

For the associate of science degree, a student must have three semester hours in mathematics and six semester hours must be in science of which one course must be a lab science course. Two year-long sequences selected from specific science and mathematics courses must be taken.

### *Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic*

This program provides students with advanced levels of knowledge and skills in the field of emergency medicine. It instructs students to perform advanced life support measures, including cardiac monitoring, defibrillations, endotracheal intubations, starting IVs and administering medications. LCCC's EMT-P program is accredited by the Public Safety Services Offices of the Ohio Department of Education.

The program may be completed in one year, if taken on a full-time basis. Many students choose to study on a part-time basis. Students in the certificate of proficiency in emergency medical services-paramedic program complete courses in:

- Allied Health
- Biology
- Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic
- English
- Psychology

In addition, the curriculum provides students with practical experience gained off-campus at clinical sites, such as hospitals and other health care facilities.

*Note:* For admission to the certificate of proficiency in emergency medical services – paramedic program, students need to complete the LCCC course, emergency medical technician – basic (EMSB 101), or an equivalent.

## About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering distance learning education via the Internet. The College has expanded its delivery of its programs and services through the opening of the Learning Center at St. Joseph Community Center in Lorain and the Wellington Center in 2007. Partnerships with Lorain County's K-12 school districts have also led to important developments for the community. More than 1300 high school students participate in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program by enrolling in LCCC classes, making LCCC the state's largest community college provider of PSEO. More than 30 percent of Lorain County's top high school graduates choose to attend LCCC.

LCCC is one of Ohio's fastest growing colleges because of the variety of learning opportunities it provides. Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree. The University Partnership brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 40 bachelor's and master's degree programs. With the University Partnership at LCCC, the College partners with the state's finest universities to bring the best in bachelor's and master's degree programs right to the LCCC campus. Students can earn degrees that get them jobs immediately. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills. Students can learn in the classroom, at home and over the Internet.

LCCC offers a complete college experience. We understand that there's more to college life than attending classes. We offer many of the programs, sports, and activities available at large four-year universities and colleges. But, students will not have to stand in line behind juniors and seniors in the classroom, on the playing field, or in leadership positions. Students can immediately act in a play, sing in a musical group, serve as editor for the college newspaper, plan social activities, compete on the playing field, or set policy as a student government member.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real-world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes. Classes are small. Individual attention is plentiful.

An LCCC education, prepares students for real jobs and real futures. To find out more, call (800) 995-LCCC or visit LCCC's Connections Center, Learning Center at St. Joseph Community Center in Lorain or the LCCC Learning Center in Wellington for all of your enrollment service needs, including admissions, registration, advising and counseling.



**Lorain County  
Community College**



**The University  
Partnership**

*of Lorain County Community College*

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