

## Careers

Fire-rescue workers help protect the public against fire and other emergencies. They perform a variety of nonemergency and emergency fire-rescue and safety-related tasks, usually for federal, state, and local fire-rescue agencies. At the local level, they may be career or volunteer. Between alarms, firefighters clean and maintain equipment, conduct practice drills and fire inspections, and participate in physical fitness activities.

Some firefighters become fire investigators, who determine the origin and causes of fires. They collect evidence, interview witnesses, and prepare reports on fires in cases where arson or criminal negligence may be the cause.

## Salary

In 2004, firefighters' median hourly earnings were \$18.43 (\$18.78 in local government; \$17.34 in the federal government; and \$14.94 in state government), while supervisors/managers of firefighting and prevention workers were \$58,920. Fire inspectors/investigators' median annual earnings were \$46,340 in 2004 (\$48,020 in local government).

Firefighters who average more than a certain number of hours a week are required to be paid overtime, and they receive benefits usually including medical and liability. Layoffs are uncommon.

## Job Outlook

Employment of firefighters is expected to remain stable, with prospective firefighters facing competition for jobs. Usually a high school education is enough to enter the field, and a pension is guaranteed upon retirement after 25 years of service.

## Education & Training Options

Montgomery College offers an associate of applied science degree (A.A.S.), a certificate program in fire and arson investigation, and a letter of recognition in emergency medical technician-basic. The program is designed for both the career and volunteer firefighter, and all uniformed fire service personnel preparing for rank promotions. (*See Fire Science Fire Service Management curricula.*)

### ■ Degree

This curriculum is designed to provide students with current tactics used by fire officers for suppression of fires and current theories of personnel management and leadership.

### ■ Certificate

As part of a statewide program, a fire and arson investigation certificate curriculum is offered, compatible with industry standards. Upon completion, students may continue working towards the A.A.S. in either fire science fire service management or criminal justice.

### ■ Letter of Recommendation

This three-level sequence covers the minimum level of certification for ambulance personnel, a prerequisite for admission into paramedic curriculum. Upon completion, students are eligible to take the Maryland and DOT EMT-Basic National Standard Certification Test.

## Contact @ MC

Rockville Campus . . . . .240-567-5230  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/firesci](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/firesci)

# Fire Science Fire Service Management Curricula

## Degrees, Certificates, and Letters of Recognition

Montgomery College is authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to offer four degrees (associate of arts, associate of science, associate of applied science, and associate of arts in teaching) and certificates. In addition, the College recognizes students who satisfactorily complete certain course sequences with letters of recognition.

Some curricula are offered at all campuses, whereas others are limited to one or two. When a curriculum is offered at a specific campus, it is indicated by G for Germantown, R for Rockville, or TP for Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

## Admission to Montgomery College is open to all.

Math, English, and reading assessment tests are required prior to registering. (Some students may be exempt from assessment. Consult the *Montgomery College Catalog* for criteria.) Financial aid and scholarships are available to qualified candidates.

## Take the next step.

Complete an Application for Admission form (online @ [www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm)) or call 240-567-5000 for information.

## Fire Science Fire Service Management A.A.S. (R): 346 Statewide Program

### **General Education and Other Requirements (30 credit hours)**

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| EN101 | Techniques of Reading and Writing           | 3 |
| EN102 | Techniques of Reading and Writing           |   |
|       | or  |   |
| EN109 | Writing for Technology and Business         | 3 |
|       | Health foundation                           | 1 |
|       | Mathematics foundation                      | 3 |
| MG205 | Organizational Behavior                     | 3 |
|       | Speech foundation                           | 3 |
|       | Arts or humanities distribution             | 3 |
|       | Behavioral and social sciences distribution | 3 |
|       | Natural sciences lab distribution           | 4 |

**General electives:** These electives should be in the areas of accounting, computer applications, computer science, or stress management. 4

### **Fire Science Requirements (18 credit hours)**

|        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| FS 101 | Principles of Emergency Services               | 3 |
| FS 104 | Fire and Emergency Services Administration     | 3 |
| FS 105 | Fire Behavior and Combustion                   | 3 |
| FS 106 | Occupational Safety and Health for Emergency   |   |
|        | or   |   |
| FS 107 | Community Fire Prevention and Safety Education | 3 |
| FS 112 | Building Construction for Fire Prevention      | 3 |
| FS 201 | Fire Prevention and Inspection                 | 3 |

### **Fire Science Electives (select 12 credit hours)**

|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| FS 106 | Occupational Safety and Health for Emergency    |   |
|        | or  |   |
| FS 107 | Community Fire Prevention and Safety Education* | 3 |
| FS 214 | Fire Tactics and Strategy                       | 3 |
| FS 225 | Fire Investigation I                            | 3 |
| FS 226 | Fire Investigation II                           | 3 |
| FS 250 | Fire Protection Internship                      | 3 |

**Total credit hours 60**

\* Students may not repeat the FS course selected to meet the Fire Science Requirements.

(more)

# Fire Science Fire Service Management Curricula

*(continued)*

## **Fire and Arson Investigation Certificate (R): 180 Statewide Program**

|        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| CJ 110 | Administration of Justice                    | 3 |
| CJ 211 | Criminal Investigation                       | 3 |
| CJ 222 | Criminal Evidence                            | 3 |
| CJ 232 | Criminal Forensics                           | 3 |
| EN 101 | Techniques of Reading and Writing I          | 3 |
| EN 102 | Techniques of Reading and Writing II         | 3 |
|        | or   |   |
| EN 109 | Writing for Technology and Business          | 3 |
| FS 112 | Building Construction for Fire<br>Protection | 3 |
| FS 225 | Fire Investigation I                         | 3 |
| FS 250 | Fire Protection Internship                   | 3 |
| PY 102 | General Psychology                           | 3 |
| PY 213 | Criminal and Legal Psychology                | 3 |
|        | or   |   |
| PY 221 | Introduction to Abnormal Psychology          | 3 |

**Total credit hours 33**

## **Emergency Medical Technician— Basic Letter of Recognition: 811**

|        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| FS 151 | Emergency Medical Technician—<br>Basic I*        | 4 |
| FS 152 | Emergency Medical Technician—<br>Basic II*       | 3 |
| FS 153 | Practicum: Emergency Medical<br>Technician—Basic | 1 |

**Total credit hours 8**

\* The student must maintain a 70 percent average and can score no lower than 60 percent on any assessment. Failure to maintain a 70 percent average will result in the student being dropped from the course.