FIRE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

Fire Science Technology: Associate of Applied Science Degree

Certificate of Completion: Basic Firefighter

(575) 528-7321

Every year, fires and other emergencies claim thousands of lives and cause billions of dollars in property damage. Firefighters play a critical role in protecting communities by responding to emergencies, extinguishing fires, providing medical aid, and ensuring public safety. They are often the first responders at traffic accidents, medical crises, and hazardous situation, and at the same time performing vital lifesaving functions.

The demand for trained firefighters continues to grow. According to the United States Fire Administration, nearly 70% of fire companies rely on volunteer firefighters, with many transitioning to paid positions. Employment opportunities are expected to expand due to this shift, as well as the need to replace retiring firefighters or those advancing into other emergency service roles.

Doña Ana Community College's **Fire Science Technology Program**, accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), provides comprehensive training for individuals seeking to enter or advance in the fire service profession. Students gain foundational knowledge in firefighting principles and participate in **live training exercises** to develop real-world experience.

This program offers two academic pathways:

- **Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Fire Science Technology** - Designed for those pursuing a career in fire protection or seeking career advancement.
- **Certificate of Completion in Firefighting** - Provides essential training and certification for entry-level positions

This program serves:

- **Aspiring firefighters -** Equipping them with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to enter the profession.
- **Current firefighters** - Includes career, volunteer, and NMSU student firefighters who seek to enhance their skills, improve job performance, and prepare for leadership roles.

With a combination of technical instruction and general education courses, students graduate ready to serve their communities as highly skilled fire service professionals.

NOTE: An articulation agreement with the N.M. Firefighters Training Academy makes it possible to receive college credit for experience and IFSAC certification. All courses in this program may be applied toward a Bachelor of Applied Studies or Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree at NMSU.

NOTE: Students wishing to enter the fire service will benefit from the educational background provided and may receive certifications in various fire-related areas through the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the IFSAC.

Program Accreditation

The Fire Science Program is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (https://ifsac.org/).

Medical Clearances and Background Checks

Several courses in the program may require the student to submit a medical clearance physical, mask fit test, and a background check. See a program advisor for details.

NOTE: A criminal history may prohibit students from being hired or certified by agencies. Students are encouraged to check with the prospective agency and identify that agency's specific requirements prior to enrolling in this program.

Physical Abilities

This program requires that the student be able to:

- lift, carry and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance)
- assume a variety of postural positions and be capable of physical maneuvers ranging from crawling, kneeling, squatting, twisting, turning, and bending, to climbing stairs and ladders
- withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture

Technology Competencies

In an effort to assist students with adequate preparation for their coursework at DACC, technology competencies have been identified and established. These competencies are in effect for all courses taken in the Fire Science Technology program. Students must possess the following minimum competencies. Additional competencies may be required for particular courses/programs:

- Access course and program material on the Web using CANVAS and an applicable web browser
- Correspond with DACC students and faculty using e-mail and the Web
- Read/print e-mail and attachments/files from students and faculty
- Complete, send, and receive assignments using e-mail and attachments/files
- Use the DACC Library e-books, e-journals, databases, or credible World Wide Web resources for research and completion of course assignments
- Prepare and conduct presentations in the classroom using presentation equipment as required.
- Use the appropriate software for a given course (DACC uses as standards Microsoft products, including MS Word, MS Project, MS Excel, and MS PowerPoint)
- Use an appropriate anti-virus application to ensure the files transmitted and received are virus free
- Use recommended plagiarism review software to ensure work is not plagiarized