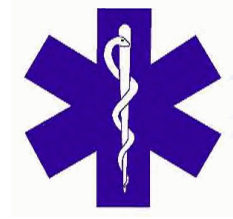




Emergency Fire and EMS Services

Frequently Asked Questions



What type of training do I need to get hired on a fire department?

The majority of fire departments require candidates to have the following certifications:

- Firefighter Certification
- EMS Certification

Each fire department may vary on certifications they will accept to be hired. Stark State College offers the fire training, EMT-B training, and Paramedic training in our Emergency Services degrees.

Some area fire departments offer part-time employment. For part-time employment, most fire departments require, at a minimum, firefighter certification and EMT certification.

For full-time employment, most fire departments require firefighter certification and paramedic certification.

What courses do I need to take to obtain firefighter certification?

Complete a fire course with a grade of "C" or higher, then take and pass the State of Ohio Firefighter certification practical testing and written test. FST228 Firefighter 1&2 is the highest level of firefighter training in the State of Ohio. This is an 11-credit hour 16-week course that is offered in the Fall and Spring semesters.

What type of training do I need to get hired as an EMS Provider?

The majority of EMS occupations require candidates to have the following certifications:

- EMS Certification

Stark State College offers EMT-B training and Paramedic training in our Emergency Fire Services and Emergency Medical degree pathways.

What courses do I need to take to obtain EMT or Paramedic certification?

EMT certification requires a student to complete EMS121 EMT with a grade of "B" or higher. This is a 7-credit hours course that is offered in the Summer, Fall, and Spring semesters.

Paramedic certification requires a student to have a current EMT certification prior to the start date of the paramedic program. Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology (BIO101 or equivalent) must be completed with a grade of "B" or higher prior to the start date of the paramedic program. The paramedic program consists of 8 total courses totaling 30-credit hours. The program can be completed in 8-week semesters (accelerated program taking approximately 9 months to complete) or 16-week semesters (traditional program taking approximately 15 months to complete).

What requirements do I need to meet to enter firefighter and EMS training?

Health Screening

- A comprehensive health screening is required prior to admission to a fire training course or the EMS courses.

BCI Background Check

- A background check is required prior to admission into a fire or EMS training course.

Paramedic Program

- A current EMT certification and completion of Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology (BIO101 or equivalent) with a grade of “B” or higher is required prior to the start date of the paramedic program.

Check with the Fire Coordinator and / or the EMS Coordinator at Stark State College for up to date information as requirements for admission to the fire and EMS courses may change.

What if I miss a day of training in the fire or EMS courses?

All course hours are required to be completed to be eligible to sit for the State of Ohio certification test.

Is there a uniform requirement for the fire and EMS courses?

Yes, see the following excerpt from the student manual:

In order to promote professionalism, first responder and student attire uniformity, and safety concerns, all students must dress in an appropriate fashion. Clothing is to be neat, clean, and presentable.

- **Students associated with a fire and / or EMS department:** To wear a department shirt or uniform, the student must be affiliated with that department. Color cannot be faded or streaked. No holes, tears, or fraying is permitted.
- **Students not associated with a fire and / or EMS department:**
 - **Shirts:** Approved Stark State College Fire Academy T-shirt and/or ¼ Zip Sweatshirt, or approved optional uniforms.
- **Pants:** pants must be blue, black or khaki. Denim is acceptable. No holes, tears, fraying, or any graphics are permitted. Pants must have pockets including rear pockets. Athletic pants or pajama bottoms are NOT permitted; no nylon, polyester, or spandex.
- Exposed skin between shirt and pants is unacceptable. Underclothing must not be visible.
- **Shorts or capris:** Not permitted.
- **Shoes:** Clean and presentable. Shoes shall be worn at all times. Sandals, open toed shoes, or shoes without an enclosed heel are not permitted.
- **Jewelry:** Watches, wedding bands, and medical alert tags will be permissible to wear. All other jewelry is NOT permitted and must be removed.
- **Hair:** Hair must be off the collar. Individuals with long hair will put their hair up.
- **Hats:** Hats of any type are not permitted in the hallway and classroom areas.
- Pants and shirts must not be too tight, too low cut or too loose as to create a distraction, or deter from professionalism.

Do I need to complete a degree to become employed as a firefighter or EMS Provider?

No. Most fire and EMS initial employment requires certification in the appropriate discipline. Degrees are often required for advancement in rank within an organization. By completing the firefighter, EMT, Anatomy and Physiology, and Paramedic courses, a student will have completed 80% of the courses required for a degree.

Is financial aid available?

Yes. Contact the department of financial aid for more information or go to <http://www.starkstate.edu/finaid>

Where can I find information about the paramedic to RN program?

<http://www.starkstate.edu/paramedicrn>

Can I complete a degree if I am already a certified firefighter/ paramedic?

Yes. We encourage it! Previously obtained certifications, such as EMT, paramedic, or Level II firefighter, will be evaluated by the Department Chair.

Contact Information

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