

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Graduate Programs

The Fire and Emergency Management Program, housed in the CEAT Division of Engineering Technology offers a Master of Science degree in fire and emergency management administration, a PhD in fire and emergency management and administration, and an undergraduate minor in emergency management.

The MS and PhD in Fire and Emergency Management Administration are specialized degrees designed to provide an educational foundation for those who are currently serving or aspire to serve as managers or administrators in the fire service, emergency management, emergency medical services, law enforcement, or homeland security in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors.

Admission Requirements for Master's Degree Programs

Any student having a bachelor's degree with an overall 3.00 grade-point average (on a 4.00 scale) may be admitted as a student in full standing. Those with less than an overall 3.00 grade-point average are considered for admission on a probationary basis.

In addition to the general requirements outlined above, candidates for the Master of Science degree in fire and emergency management administration must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Have significant practical experience in a fire or emergency service organization.
2. Have a bachelor's degree or a minor in fire or emergency services related discipline such as fire protection technology, fire management administration, fire science, emergency management, disaster science, criminal justice, emergency services administration; or
3. Not meeting the criteria specified in 1 or 2 above, completed a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate study in fire protection and/or emergency management, or provide significant proof that studies in another field led to knowledge and experience in fire or emergency services field, such as a final project related to fire or one of the emergency services listed above or an internship with a fire, emergency service, or law enforcement related organization in the public, private, or nonprofit sector.

A complete application for admission to the master's program must include:

1. A completed Graduate College application submitted with a non-refundable application fee.
2. A copy of undergraduate transcript(s).
3. Two letters of recommendation with at least one from an employer or faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic abilities.
4. TOEFL results for students for whom English is a second language. Students must have a score above 549 (paper exam) or 79 (internet based test) to be considered for admission.
5. A brief letter indicating interests, career goals and other information the applicant considers relevant.

Degree Requirements for the MS in Fire and Emergency Management Administration

In addition to the general requirements of the Graduate College, requirements for the Master of Science degree in fire and emergency management administration are listed below.

1. A minimum of 33 credit hours in FEMP or closely related courses. Required courses include a 12-hour core requirement, a three-hour methods requirement, a three-hour administration course requirement, a six-hour emergency management or fire administration requirement, and six or nine hours of electives. Students must complete a three-hour practicum research project or a thesis with a minimum of six hours. Most courses in the FEMP MS program are conducted in the department's state-of-the-art virtual classroom, where both on-site and off-site students participate simultaneously in the same class sessions.
2. Satisfactory completion of a final assessment project (either a Thesis or a Practicum).
3. Minimum 3.00 grade-point average, with only one grade of "C" allowed.

Admission Requirements for PhD in Fire and Emergency Management Administration

OSU Graduate College admission requirements include the following: an OSU Graduate College Application, payment of the OSU Graduate Application fee and transcripts of all previous college level coursework including transcripts that verify receipt of an undergraduate and graduate master's degree.

1. GPA: minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
2. GRE: Scores from the Graduate Record Examination taken within the past 5 years.
3. Professional experience in a fire or emergency services related field is preferred, but not required.
4. Academic experience in a fire or emergency services related field is preferred. If applicant has a degree outside of the fire or emergency services related field, they should spend time explaining how their academic background (i.e. degree, courses, research) has prepared them for the pursuit of a PhD in Fire and Emergency Management Administration.
5. English Language Proficiency: For international students, a minimum TOEFL score of 79 (Internet) and 550 (paper) is required.
6. A current resume
7. Three letters of recommendation: At least two letters must come from individuals who can speak directly to the applicant's abilities in the classroom and conducting research (i.e. faculty members).
8. An essay: This 1-2 page essay should address the applicant's previous professional and academic experience and how it has prepared them to seek a PhD in Fire and Emergency Management Administration. Candidates should also address their 5 and 10 year goals, discuss their research interests, and explain how the FEMP program and faculty can help them reach their goals and develop their research interests.

9. Copy of the applicant's thesis or other written example of applicant's research abilities.
10. Copies of any published materials authored by the candidate.

Degree Requirements for the PhD in Fire and Emergency Management Administration

Degree candidates must have completed a master's degree. In addition, they must complete 60 hours of required common coursework that includes 15 hours in core courses, 12 hours of research tools, 18 hours of elective courses closely aligned with their academic and research interests, and 15 hours of dissertation research. Finally, candidates must take written and oral comprehensive exams and must successfully defend their dissertation before their dissertation committee. Most courses in the FEMP PhD program are conducted in the department's state-of-the-art virtual classroom, where both on-site and off-site students participate simultaneously in the same class sessions.