

Career Focus on...

# Fire Science

## Introduction

- Are you interested in protecting people, their homes, their businesses, and their livelihoods?
- Did you ever dream of working as a firefighter?
- Would you like a fulfilling career in one of the most important public services?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider the Fire Science Associate Degree.

## Did You Know...?

- In addition to working as a firefighter in municipal or local fire departments, a Fire Science Associate Degree holder can also work in a variety of private jobs.
- Fire inspection and investigation can be a rewarding career, and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics states that “those who have completed some fire suppression training at a community college” will have an advantage in the job search.
- Fire Science isn't just about putting out fires. Students in the Fire Science program will also learn about building construction, fire safety and prevention, working with hazardous materials, and administering fire services.

## Fire Science @ QCC

The Fire Science program at QCC prepares students for a range of career opportunities in fields related to fire response, prevention, and investigation. Graduates are prepared to begin or continue their careers in firefighting, fire investigation, and related fields.

The program offers extensive coursework, including courses on the basic Principles of Emergency Service, Emergency Medical Technology, Fire Behavior and Combustion, Fire Prevention, Fire and Emergency Services Administration, and fire-safe Building Construction.

- The Fire Science Associate Degree program is designed to be equally accessible and useful to students with no background in fire service and to those already in the fire- or emergency-related fields who wish to advance their careers.

## Career Options

### FIREFIGHTER

Median Annual Salary: \$45,250

Recommended Education: Postsecondary non-degree award

[www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm)

### EMT OR PARAMEDIC

Median Annual Salary: \$30,360

Recommended Education: Postsecondary non-degree award

[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm)

### FIRE INSPECTOR OR INVESTIGATOR

Median Annual Salary: \$52,230

Recommended Education: H.S. diploma with related work experience

[www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/fire-inspectors-and-investigators.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/fire-inspectors-and-investigators.htm)

### MUNICIPAL FIRE FIGHTING OR PREVENTION SUPERVISOR

Median Annual Salary: \$69,510

Recommended Education: H.S. diploma or Associate's degree, with experience

[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-1021.01](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-1021.01)

### FIRE-PREVENTION OR PROTECTION

#### ENGINEER

Median Annual Salary: \$75,470

Recommended Education: Bachelor's degree

[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/17-2111.02](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/17-2111.02)

## Worcester Area Employers

- Worcester Fire Department
- AmeriCorps
- Auburn Fire Department
- Boston Fire Department
- Millbury Fire Department
- Shrewsbury Fire Department
- Other Municipal and Local Fire Departments
- US Army

## Next Steps

Wondering if Fire Science is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess)
- Research the web links on this *Career Focus* page, as well as links suggested online under Career Information: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo)
- Conduct an Informational Interview with someone employed in the field. For more information on how to do this, review the Informational Interview links online:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview)
- Attend a Career Planning Session. For more information, and the current schedule, visit Career Academic Personal Success (CAPS) online:  
[www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success](http://www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success)
- Speak with an Advisor:  
[www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/)
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Fire Science courses.

## Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*:

- EMTS and Paramedics:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/ems-and-paramedics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/ems-and-paramedics.htm)
- Firefighters:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm)
- Fire Inspectors and Investigators:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/fire-inspectors-and-investigators.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/fire-inspectors-and-investigators.htm)

O\*NET Online:

- Summary Report for: 17-2111.02 - Fire-Prevention and Protection Engineers:  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/17-2111.02](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/17-2111.02)
- “Summary Report for: 33-1021.01 - Municipal Fire Fighting and Prevention Supervisors:  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-1021.01](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-1021.01)

Quinsigamond Community College, Online Course Catalog

- Fire Science Associate Degree:  
[www.qcc.edu/academics/human-services/fire-science](http://www.qcc.edu/academics/human-services/fire-science)

## Professional Associations

- Fire Department Safety Officers Association:  
[www.fdssoa.org](http://www.fdssoa.org)
- International Association of Fire Fighters:  
[www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)
- Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association:  
[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)
- National Fire Protection Association:  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)
- Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts:  
[www.pffm.org](http://www.pffm.org)

## Positions Entered by QCC Graduates

- Fire Fighter
- Fire Educator

## Employment, Co-op, Internship, or Service Learning Opportunities

Contact the Career Placement Services Office:  
[www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services](http://www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services)

## Possible Transfer Schools

- Anna Maria College
- Salem State University
- Bristol Community College
- Middlesex Community College
- Quincy College
- Mount Wachusett Community College
- North Shore Community College
- Springfield Technical Community College

## Specific Transfer Information

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer)
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar)
- Email questions to:  
[transfer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:transfer@qcc.mass.edu)