

California State University, Los Angeles



Fire Protection Administration Degree Program

The West Coast Educational leader for Fire Service Managers

Background

Cal State L.A. has offered a degree in Fire Protection administration since, 1978 and during that period graduated over 500 fire service leaders, many of these graduates are in the very top leadership positions in the fire service today.

The original program director was Dr. B.J. Thompson, who after completing his doctoral dissertation –“a study of the needs for higher education in the fire service” used the findings of the dissertation as a foundation for the Fire Administration program here at California State University. Dr. Thompson was later appointed as Superintendent of the National Fire academy by President Carter. He again took his findings and implemented the fire program at the National fire academy.

Pioneering fire service distance learning in the early 1980s, Cal State L.A. recognized the special educational needs of fire fighters because of the unique work schedule of fire fighters. Cal State L.A. developed and provided televised instruction to many fire-training centers located throughout the Southern California area.

In addition, to the televised broadcast, video taping of the instruction was added for the convenience of those fire service personnel located in more remote areas where television reception was unavailable

During the early 1990s, the televised instruction program was once again expanded by connection of the live broadcast of class presentations to many of the public cable channels that provided direct cable service to fire stations.

Future

Starting the new millennium, Cal State L.A. once again stepped forward and began developing and offering fire instructional classes on the Internet. Using the university's powerful web server, the classes provide interactive learning opportunities for students to interact with the instructor and other students that are located in diverse parts of the State. This inclusion has added a unique richness to the program by allowing students to exchange fire service experiences with each other using the discussion and chat modes available on the internet-many new innovative management and operational ideas have been initiated with this free flow medium of information.

The Internet instructional process has many benefits especially for fire fighters, whose work schedule is constantly changing. The class materials can be reviewed at any time; either from a home computer or on campus while, some fire departments allow students to use fire station computers during evening hours in an effort to encourage higher education.

In cooperation with the community colleges that offer fire protection courses, Cal State L.A. has entered into a number of 2 plus 2 agreements. They allow community college students to complete the first two years of the fire degree program at the local community college and finish the degree with the last two years at the University. This program is as follows:
Lower Division General education Requirements approx. (60) units.

ENGL. 101	Composition I; Reflective and expository writing
SPCH 150	Oral Communications
BLOCK A3-critical thinking	1 course required
Math 100 or 102	Introduction to college math or college algebra
POLS 150	Government and American Society
BLOCK B-Natural sciences	3 courses, 1 course of which may be integrated or

BLOCK C- Humanities	Applied natural science 3 courses from different areas
BLOCK D- Social Sciences	2 courses outside the major field, 1 course may be An integrated social science
BLOCK E- Lifelong	1 course required

To complete the University degree programs the following additional class can be taken at the community college or at the University.

ENGL 102 Composition II:	Analytical and persuasive writing (4 Units)
Tech 150	Introduction to technology (2 units)

Community college lower division fire technology classes

REQUIRED FOR ALL FIRE STUDENTS

- ◆ Introduction to fire protection or fire company organization and management
- ◆ Fire Behavior and Control
- ◆ Fundamentals of Fire Prevention
- ◆ Fire Protection equipment and Systems
- ◆ Building Construction for Fire Protection

At least 2, Preferably 3 elective courses from the following:

- ◆ Fire Apparatus and equipment
- ◆ Fire Hydraulics
- ◆ Fire service communications systems
- ◆ Fire service Records and Reports
- ◆ Hazardous Materials
- ◆ Related codes and Ordinances
- ◆ Rescue Practices
- ◆ Wildland fire control

Classes to be taken at California State University, Los Angeles

Upper division required classes

MGMT 301 or T400	(4 units)	Business Communications
POLS 403	(4 units)	State and Local Government
POLS 415 or T 454I	(4 units)	Political Sociology or Sociology of Disasters
POLS 460	(4 units)	Foundations of Public Administration
TECH 350	(4 units)	Fire Protection and the Community
TECH 351 A and B sections	(8 units)	Fire Defense Planning
TECH 352 A and B sections	(8 units)	Fire Protection Aspects of Building Design
TECH 353	(4 units)	Fire Defense Planning
TECH 452	(4 units)	Fire Prevention Administration

REQUIRED ELECTIVES (16 –34 units)

Select 8-10 from the following:

ENGR 300	Economics for Engineers
POLS 281 or SOC 210AB	Quantitative methods or Statistics
POLS 461	Dynamics of Urban Admin.
POLS 470	Public relations in Government

POLS 472
POLS 496

Organization and Management
Proseminar :Public Administration

Select 8 units from the following:

POLS 404 or 405

Urban politics and politics

SOC 201

Principles of Sociology

SOC 202

Society and individual development

SOC 420

Small groups

TECH 355

Fire Protection Laws

Select 0-16 units from the following

ENGR 352

Technological aspects of Urban environment

TECH 451

Fire Prevention and Building codes

TECH 453 A and B

Fire Protection building systems

TECH 455 A and B

Fire Protection systems design

GENERAL EDUCATION UPPER DIVISION THEME CLASSES (3 required all students of University)

Select any one of the themes in the University catalogue and select 3 classes one each from each of the categories within the theme. See requirements for (*diversity*)

A quick overview of the classes required is as follows:

- 1- Technical / business writing course
- 5- Political science classes
- 11- Fire classes
- 3- Theme classes
- 1- English 102 if not taken at community college
- 1- Introduction to technology

This NOT apply to all students however it provides a quick summary of the total classes required to complete the degree after the lower division (community college courses are completed)

California State University, Los Angeles is a full year University using the quarter system.

Four classes (16 units) per quarter is considered a full student load for full-time students.

Three classes per quarter or less depending upon the workload of the student is the average for students working part-time and attending the University.

Using the quarter system class instruction is 10 weeks plus one week for final examinations; therefore, each quarter is 11 weeks long.

Taking 4 classes per quarter full time student equals 64 quarter units per year ; therefore course work can be completed in approximately one and one-half years***

Taking 3 classes per quarter –part-time student complete 48 units per year and can in most cases complete the required course work in approximately 2 years.***

**** will vary depending on student *****

Program Director



The Fire Protection program is managed by Chief Ray Shackelford, He retired from the Los Angeles County Fire Department after 30 years of service, during which time he served in all divisions in the department as well as a master instructor in the implementation phase of I.C.S. and later as an Evaluator on a number of large incidents. After retiring from the County Fire Department, he was appointed Fire Chief of the Chino Valley Fire Department and was instrumental in organizing a new department and establishing a master fire plan for this 100 square mile fire district. He has since retired and now serves as a full-time Fire Advisor for the Fire Administration Program at California State University, Los Angeles where he has taught for twenty years as a part-time instructor. He received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University; Los Angeles He completed the course work for his doctorate in Public Administration at the University of La Verne. His dissertation "A critical examination of the fire service fire accreditation process" is on the leading edge of changes in the fire service.