PRE-SERVICE FIREFIGHTER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Program: FIRE
Credential: Ontario College Certificate
Delivery: Full-time
Length: 1 Year
Duration: 3 Semesters
Effective: Fall 2021, Winter 2022
Location: Barrie

Description
Immersed in a dynamic and challenging learning environment, students develop the ability to perform the duties of a firefighter. Through a blend of both theoretical and hands-on experience, students develop skills and knowledge of fire dynamics, building construction, fire suppression principles and practice, personal protective equipment, emergency medical response and fire prevention and public education. Students also acquire expertise in technical rescue operations such as confined space, water and ice water rescue, rope rescue, and trench rescue.

The Pre-Service Firefighter Education & Training program meets the following National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards:

• NFPA 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications: Firefighter I and Firefighter II

Career Opportunities
Successful graduates may find employment opportunities in the following areas:

• professional firefighting,
• volunteer fire service,
• fire prevention and public education,
• private fire service,
• Ministry of Natural Resource,
• military firefighting,
• private emergency response companies

Program Learning Outcomes
The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. apply safe practices and techniques in the use of firefighting and emergency response tools and equipment;
2. perform activities necessary to ensure life safety, fire control and property conservation;
3. demonstrate the ability to safely operate fire department communications equipment, operating procedures, and personal protective equipment;
4. communicate effectively using verbal, non-verbal, written, or electronic methods including recognized and appropriate fire service terminology;
5. identify and use personal and professional development activities conducive to growth and lifelong learning;
6. meet the ethical, legal and safety requirements of professionals in the fire service;
7. interact with others in various emergency and non-emergency situations with confidence, professionalism and sensitivity to others and to the circumstances;
8. Demonstrate respect when communicating effectively with diverse communities and their members;
9. use effective, appropriate problem-solving and decision-making skills in emergency and non-emergency situations;
10. work efficiently with the other members of the fire service team, pre-hospital emergency care providers, and other emergency services related groups to provide comprehensive service in emergency and non-emergency situations;
11. demonstrate the culminating role performances in the following areas: fire suppression, community education and fire prevention, emergency care provided by firefighters, environmental protection and special rescue operations;
12. incorporate social entrepreneurship skills and volunteerism to foster positive social change in the community;
13. practice environmental sustainability.

External Recognition
The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) endorses the content of this curriculum.

Program Progression
The following reflects the planned progression for full-time offerings of the program.

Fall Intake
• Sem 1: Fall 2021
• Sem 2: Winter 2022
• Sem 3: Summer 2022

Winter Intake
• Sem 1: Winter 2022
• Sem 2: Summer 2022
• Sem 3: Fall 2022

Admission Requirements
OSSD or equivalent with

• Grade 12 English (C or U)
• Grade 12 Mathematics (C or U)
• Grade 11 or 12 Biology or Chemistry (C or U)

Mature students, non-secondary school applicants (19 years or older), and home school applicants may also be considered for admission. Eligibility may be met by applicants who have taken equivalent courses, upgrading, completed their GED, and equivalency testing. For complete details refer to: www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/ (http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/)
Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may also be considered for admission; refer to the Credit Transfer Centre website for details:

www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/ (http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/)

**Selection Process**

Students must successfully pass the Georgian College fitness screening test.

**Criminal Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check**

Placement agencies require an up-to-date clear criminal reference check and vulnerable sector check prior to going out on placement. Students should obtain their criminal reference three months prior to placement; checks conducted earlier may not be considered current. As some jurisdictions require longer lead-time for processing, please check with the program coordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. It is the student’s responsibility to provide the completed document prior to placement start.

**Additional Information**

Pre-Service firefighter students are required to provide a current Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) from a recognized police service before the start of their program. Individuals who have been charged or convicted criminally and not pardoned, will have limited participation in volunteer opportunities with local fire services.

Applicants must have a Standard First Aid and CPR Level C certification prior to beginning the program. Students are required to submit a copy of the certificate prior to program start.

Applicants are expected to attend a group orientation session prior to the beginning of the first semester in September or January semesters.

Physical Fitness: Students must be physically fit to participate. A medical clearance form must be completed by a physician prior to semester 1. A waiver and informed consent indicating the ability to perform the physical fitness and physical duties is required for firefighter training. During the orientation process students will be required to confirm that they are not affected by acrophobia (fear of heights) and claustrophobia (fear of confined space). If you are unsure of your health status or phobias, you should consult your doctor prior to entering the program as these may preclude you from gaining employment in firefighting.

**Special Considerations**

The fire service has very specific standards for vision and hearing requirements. Although not a requirement of the program, students should understand that the below vision and hearing standards are a requirement for employment as a firefighter.

Vision: Uncorrected Visual Acuity should be at least (20/30) binocularly. There are additional minimum requirements regarding refractive surgery farsightedness (hyperopia), colour vision, depth perception and peripheral vision. No marked degree of color blindness is permitted.

Hearing requirements are normal unaided hearing at frequencies of 500 to 4000 Hz measured by audiometer.

A hiring municipality or fire department may have additional special requirements for those entering a career as a firefighter. Students wishing to pursue such careers should ensure that they will be able to meet the physical and educational requirements before enrolling.

**Graduation Requirements**

21 Program Courses

1 Communications Course

**Graduation Eligibility**

To graduate from this program, a student must attain a minimum of 70% for each theoretical fire course and a letter grade of P (Pass) for each practical Fire course.

To graduate from non-fire courses in the program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline.

**Program Tracking**

The following reflects the planned course sequence for full-time offerings of the Fall intake of the program. Where more than one intake is offered contact the program co-ordinator for the program tracking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1070</td>
<td>Fire Protection Systems and Public Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1077</td>
<td>Fire Ground Operations 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1099</td>
<td>Introduction to the Fire Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1100</td>
<td>Firefighter Fitness 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1101</td>
<td>Fire Techniques 1 Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1102</td>
<td>Fire Techniques 1 Practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1103</td>
<td>Hazardous Materials Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 1 course from the communications list during registration.</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>350</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Courses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 1091</td>
<td>Fire Ground Operations 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 1104</td>
<td>Firefighter Fitness 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 1105</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Responder Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 1106</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Responder Practical</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 1107</td>
<td>Fire Techniques 2 Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 1108</td>
<td>Fire Techniques 2 Practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1109</td>
<td>Hazardous Materials Practical</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>336</td>
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<tr>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1110</td>
<td>Incident Management System and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1111</td>
<td>Fire Safety Inspections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1112</td>
<td>Fire Techniques 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 1113</td>
<td>Fire Ground Operations 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Graduation Window

Students unable to adhere to the program duration of one year (as stated above) may take a maximum of two years to complete their credential. After this time, students must be re-admitted into the program, and follow the curriculum in place at the time of re-admission.

Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.