Public Safety Leadership and Administration (Executive Fire Administration), MPSLA

Prepare yourself to navigate fire and emergency services as a manager to reduce risk and preserve the safety of the communities fire services divisions protect. You can learn the function and impact of budgeting and finance, emergency services operations analysis, fire services innovation, and public policy in this program.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPSLA Public Safety Leadership and Administration (Executive Fire Administration)

The MPSLA is a graduate degree program designed primarily for public safety professionals. An advanced degree is an important key to career progression within public safety administration. Those with an advanced degree have an advantage that makes a difference as they seek to advance in their professions --- a practical understanding of public safety organization administration.

This graduate program, through its accomplished faculty and intricately connected curriculum, endeavors to advance student leadership, policy and administrative acumen.

The executive fire administration concentration program prepares graduates to handle the challenges facing chief officers. With coursework in strategic planning, public policy and administration, leadership and organizational management, data analysis, finance and technology, students develop a platform of knowledge and skills to build a solid foundation for success within the field of executive fire administration.

At a Glance
Degree Requirements

33 credit hours including the required applied project course (CPP 593 or PAF 593)

Required Core (15 credit hours)
CPP 520 Program Evaluation for Emergency Management and Homeland Security (3)
CPP 521 Public Finance and Project Management for Emergency Management and Homeland Security (3) or PAF 506 Public Budgeting and Finance (3)
CPP 570 GIS for Hazards Analysis (3)
PAF 507 Public Human Resource Management (3)
PAF 508 Organization Behavior (3)

Concentration (9 credit hours)
CPP 530 Leadership for Innovation in Public Fire Services (3)
CPP 560 Emergency Services Operations Analysis and Planning (3)
PAF 560 Community Resilience (3)

Electives or Research (6 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
CPP 593 Applied Project (3) or
PAF 593 Applied Project (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students choose two courses from a restricted list or any graduate-level CPP or PAF course, with program approval, for the electives or research credits.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in criminology or criminal justice, public administration or public service, sociology or social work, public safety or fire service management, parks and recreation management, applied sciences or another closely related field from a regionally accredited institution.
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. written statement
5. evidence of current employment in an organization in this field or at least two years prior professional experience in this or a related field OR a bachelor's degree in a related area
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The written statement should be at least one page in length and describe the applicant's educational and career goals and long-term professional development strategy.

Attend Online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Application Deadlines

Fall expand
Spring expand
Summer expand

Career Opportunities

Graduates with a concentration in fire administration are well equipped to drive innovation from the upper levels of fire service in federal, state and local fire departments and emergency management agencies. Graduates of this program should expect to find employment and advancement in all levels of government agencies as well as in the private sector.

Career examples include:

- fire inspector
• fire investigator
• fire prevention and protection engineer
• firefighter supervisor
• municipal firefighter

Contact Information

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