

Questionnaire for Academy Success

The Fire Academy training is very rigorous and challenging. It is a rewarding accomplishment to complete the program and the Academy staff wants you to be successful in achieving your career goals. This questionnaire is designed to assist you in determining your suitability for Academy success and provides further insight for the training expectations.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Together with your spouse and/or family members, answer the following questions to determine whether you are ready to undertake the demands of the Fire Academy training.

1. Do you have all of the necessary finances in order? (Refer to the program cost information. An estimated \$3959.00 will be needed prior to the start of the Academy.) Don't forget the added expenses needed for living, food, rent, etc.
2. Are you physically ready? At minimum, you should be able to: run 1.5 miles (six laps around a football field track), within 15 minutes without stopping; perform at least 20 regular (not on knees) push-ups without stopping; perform 25 sit-ups (knees bent, strict form) without stopping; and 1 unassisted complete pull-up (hands shoulder width apart, chin over the bar).
3. Are you academically prepared? Do you have good study habits, and do you take written tests well? Have you taken college level courses in the past? The Academy is 29 units of college level work compacted into only 19 weeks of study so the pace is extremely quick. There are 50 different written examinations during the Academy and each must be passed with a minimum score of 80%.
4. Can you follow directions and take orders without feeling the need to question? The Academy is operated in a para-military manner where orders are given which must be followed without hesitation or complaint.
5. Can you remain calm under high stress situations? (Instructors will test your ability to think quickly on your feet, follow directions, and respond calmly under emotionally tense conditions).
6. Team player: Do you get along well with others? Can you accept criticism from your peers? (People who do not work well in a group setting generally find the Academy environment very difficult).
7. Can you devote at least three hours each night to study and preparations? (There is considerable homework and preparation time needed during the Academy).
8. Can you set aside personal business for the duration of the Academy? (Good attendance is essential for Academy success. This will impact your family life). Any employment during the Academy, including weekend or part-time, takes needed time from study and rest, and is therefore strongly discouraged.
9. Do you have the full support of your family to assist you in your training? (Past experience has shown that strong family support is a critical factor in Academy success. Family members can help with your studies and uniform preparation. This greatly improves your Academy performances).
10. Do you have adequate health insurance to cover any possible injuries that may occur during your training? (Student insurance plans are available through Butte College Health Services).

NOTE: If you answered "NO" to any of the questions, you should contact the Fire Academy Office for advisement.