

Program Information	Contact Information	Date Updated
Fire Academy/Firefighter FIP-3032, FIP-3031	Bryan Knight Program Coordinator, Fire/Rescue bknight@forsythtech.edu	June 2025

This document is intended to guide your research on educational and certification requirements for entry-level firefighters on a state-by-state basis, encompassing the United States territories as well.

**Educational Preparation:** Forsyth Technical Community College’s Fire Academy provides comprehensive training in fire suppression, rescue operations, hazardous materials awareness, and emergency medical response, aligned with NFPA standards.

**Licensure and Certification:** Most states require firefighters to complete an accredited training academy and pass a certification exam based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Some jurisdictions may require additional certifications (e.g., EMT or paramedic), background checks, and physical agility testing. Prospective firefighters should contact their state fire marshal’s office or local fire department to confirm the certification and hiring process.

[Forsyth Tech Website](#)

[Additional Resource \(1\)](#)

[Additional Resource \(2\)](#)

**Disclaimer:** It is crucial to acknowledge that laws and regulations in the field of Fire Academy/Firefighter are subject to constant change. For the most current information and requirements, we strongly advise you to consult the specific state board or agency responsible for Fire Academy/Firefighter licensure/certification.

State	Meets State Educational Requirements	Does Not Meet State Educational Requirements
Alabama	✓	
Alaska	✓	
American Samoa		X
Arizona	✓	
Arkansas	✓	
California	✓	
Colorado	✓	
Connecticut	✓	

State	Meets State Educational Requirements	Does Not Meet State Educational Requirements
Delaware	✓	
District of Columbia	✓	
Florida	✓	
Georgia		X
Guam		X
Hawaii	✓	
Idaho	✓	
Illinois	✓	
Indiana	✓	
Iowa	✓	
Kansas	✓	
Kentucky	✓	
Louisiana	✓	
Maine		X
Maryland	✓	
Massachusetts		X
Michigan		X
Minnesota	✓	
Mississippi	✓	
Missouri	✓	
Montana	✓	
Nebraska	✓	
Nevada	✓	
New Hampshire		X

State	Meets State Educational Requirements	Does Not Meet State Educational Requirements
New Jersey	✓	
New Mexico	✓	
New York	✓	
North Carolina	✓	
North Dakota		X
Northern Mariana Islands		X
Ohio	✓	
Oklahoma	✓	
Oregon	✓	
Pennsylvania	✓	
Puerto Rico		X
Rhode Island		X
South Carolina	✓	
South Dakota		X
Tennessee	✓	
Texas	✓	
US Virgin Islands		X
Utah	✓	
Vermont		X
Virginia	✓	
Washington	✓	
West Virginia	✓	
Wisconsin	✓	
Wyoming		X