

~MAJOR OF THE MONTH~

FIRE SCIENCE



Fire science majors don't necessarily work as firefighters. When most people think of the fire science program they assume all graduates go on to be firefighters, but many job opportunities for this major exist. Fire safety engineers and hazardous materials specialists are two categories in which job growth continues to increase as businesses work to ensure a safe work environment for employees and community members.

Students Majoring in Fire Science at Lake Superior State University can choose to follow one of three tracks when it comes to obtaining their degree. The Fire Science **Hazardous Materials Emphasis** combines a major in fire science with a minor in chemistry, allowing graduates to work within the area of environmental protection/quality. The Fire Science **Engineering Emphasis** combines the fire science major with engineering courses. Graduates can find work evaluating building plans/designs; ensuring building safety in case of fire or other disaster. Graduates can also work creating fire protection systems and alarms.
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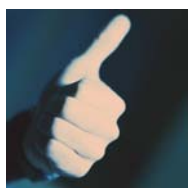


In the Class Room

Depending on the emphasis you choose, students majoring in fire science take classes such as:

- Introduction to Fire Science
- Fire Protection Construction Concepts
- Hazardous Materials Management
- Environmental Science
- Code Enforcement Inspection and Fire Protection
- Algebra for Technologists

Hands On Experience



No matter what Fire Science emphasis you choose, you will take part in hands-on exercises throughout your time in the program. Students working towards an engineering emphasis, review building designs to ensure safety and also develop fire evacuation plans for designated buildings. Those receiving a Hazardous Materials emphasis focus on creating plans to prevent and clean up, in the case of an accident, the release of dangerous products. Live fire training, using the latest techniques and equipment, is also conducted.

Career Bits

STUDENT PROFILE

DO YOU...

want to help in the prevention of fire?

like working with others in a team setting?

enjoy a changing work environment?

SKILLS

Mechanical aptitude

Mental alertness

Self-discipline

Ability to work with others

Courage, endurance and strength

JOB OUTLOOK

Moderate job growth is expected. Many jobs opening in the Fire Science Engineering area as companies work to ensure a safe work environment.

SALARY RANGE

Starting: \$31,500-\$35,000

Median: \$52,000-\$54,000



LSSU's Fire Science Program was the first in the United States to be accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Continued...FIRE SCIENCE

Finally, the Fire Science **Generalist Emphasis** track allows students to prepare for careers in the area of fire protection, education, fire equipment service/supply and emergency planning.

Throughout your time in the program you will take part in conceptual and hands-on training taught by instructors who still work in the field. These instructors are continuously exposed to new cutting edge ideas and techniques allowing them to pass on valuable knowledge to their students. As you progress through the program you will also obtain your certification in Fire Science.

During your senior year you will be required to intern with an approved agency working within your emphasis. Your work as an intern will help to enforce the information you've learned in class and will give you valuable real world experience. Your internship will also look impressive on your resume.

Jobs can be found in many areas including industry, local and state government levels and homeland security.

For more information on the Fire Science Program contact the School of Criminal Justice and Fire Science at ext 2384 or Career Services at ext 2733.



COUNSELOR'S



Welcome back to school! Most students are more than ready to return to school after the semester break. Some are anxious to get back and re-connect with their friends. Some are anxious to get back their freedom from the rules at home. Others are ready to work on their goals and continue plans toward their selected degree program.

Perhaps your first semester in school did not go according to what you had planned. You may be in the situation where you are questioning your career selection. Your grades may not be what you had hoped for and you are now undecided or have questions about your career direction.

These are very common concerns with students returning for winter semester. It can be very beneficial to seek out your academic advisor and evaluate with them your concerns and look at options for continuing your studies in a positive way.

If you find yourself in a situation like this or are just curious about career options you should stop by the Career Services Office. We can assist you in setting obtainable career goals. If you are undecided, we will work with you through our testing program and academic advising to get you on track. We offer many services that may be just what you are looking for to help in your progress in school. Stop down to our center, Library 119A, and see where we can assist you!

Career Services

a division of Academic Services

Lake Superior State University

Library 119A

906-635-2733

www.lssu.edu/careerservices

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students graduating with a degree in Fire Science can find work as:

Fire Safety Engineers - work for industry and also for the government as fire inspectors and safety officers. They conduct fire and safety surveys and then create plans to prevent and aid in evacuation during fires or other disasters. They also develop new fire protection and alarm systems.

Emergency Planners - work in the office of emergency service and planning at local, state and federal levels. Responsibilities include preparation of plans for disaster response; coordination of emergency response with other agencies and preparation of emergency plans.

Hazardous Materials Specialists - work in both private and public sectors of environmental protection and quality, water quality, hazardous waste disposal or/and hazardous chemical clean up. They prepare plans to deal with and prevent hazardous incidents. Positions in emergency planning and homeland security are the most popular employers after 9/11.



Firefighters - work for fire departments at the local, state and federal level; also for the armed forces and the U.S. Department of Interior. They suppress structural and other types of fires using a variety of methods; also act as an EMT or paramedic.