Program Overview

The WIU Fire Protection Studies Program is dedicated to preparing its students to meet the difficult challenges facing firefighters and Fire Service administrators in the delivery of fire protection. In support of this mission, the Fire Protection Studies Program is founded on three strategic objectives:

1. To deliver an academically rigorous and relevant curriculum.
2. To prepare future firefighters for successful careers in the fire service.
3. To prepare current firefighters for senior leadership positions.

Our program features a comprehensive major with two separate and unique study options. The Fire Administration Option is delivered online and is designed for working firefighters seeking promotion to senior leadership positions. The Fire Science Option is ideally suited for students preparing for a career in the Fire Service. All its classes are delivered on-campus in a traditional setting. WIU also offers Fire courses in our Bachelor of General Studies program as well as two minors: one in Fire Administration and one in Fire Science.

For More Information

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wiu.edu/coehs/leja/fire
Why Come to Western?

Our History
Western Illinois University has a history of fire service education spanning more than 30 years. Many leaders in the Fire Service are alumni of our program and are quick to attribute their career success to their degree at WIU.

Our Program
Our curriculum was written by firefighters for firefighters. It is based on national standards and addresses the real challenges faced by the Fire Service each day. Ours is a rigorous program which not only confers a degree but also delivers the education necessary for success in the Fire Service.

Our Faculty
Our “fire” faculty are retired or current firefighters strongly committed to the success of their students. All are former chief officers who have successfully blended education with real-world experience. You will learn from teachers who have “been there and done that” and have the teaching skills to relate material to students in a meaningful way.

Fire Administration Program

Fire Administration Major
The Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection Services Fire Administration Option is designed for firefighters and officers preparing for leadership positions in the Fire Service. In order to accommodate time and distance demands, the program is delivered completely online.

The curriculum for this degree focuses on the knowledge and skills needed to successfully manage and lead a modern fire department. Foundational courses focus on an introduction to the Fire Service, firefighter safety, fire tactics, fire prevention, ethics, and fire service law. Advanced courses focus on fire service management, financial practices, leadership, disaster planning, research techniques, human behavior, collective bargaining, code enforcement, and suppression systems (see the Undergraduate Catalog for complete course listings).

Fire Administration Minor
The Fire Administration minor is designed to support students in the Bachelor of General Studies’ Fire program. It is an 18 semester hour program delivered online. Courses focus on Human Resources requirements for the Fire Service, fire administration, ethics, firefighter safety, fire service law, and research.

Fire Science Program

Fire Science Major
The Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection Services Fire Science Option is designed for students preparing for a career in the Fire Service. Courses are delivered on the Macomb campus.

The Fire Science curriculum focuses on the knowledge and skills needed to successfully acquire and succeed in a Fire Service career. Foundational courses focus on an introduction to the Fire Service, firefighter safety, fire tactics, fire prevention, ethics, and fire service law. Advanced courses focus on fire dynamics, arson investigation, code enforcement, and emergency medical services (see the Undergraduate Catalog for complete course listings). The program also utilizes an internship program with a career fire department.

Fire Science Minor
The Fire Science minor is designed as an adjunct study discipline for majors in fields related to emergency service. Courses focus on a general introduction to the Fire Service, including fire prevention, fire safety, arson investigation, and suppression systems.