

Questionnaire for Academy Success

The Fire Academy is very rigorous and challenging and it is a rewarding accomplishment to complete the program. 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 into the training expectations.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Together with your spouse/partner and/or family members, answer the following questions to help determine if 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 \$3974 will be needed **prior** to the start of the academy. Don't forget the added expenses for living, food, rent, etc.
2. **Are you physically ready?** At minimum, you should be able to run 1.5 miles within 15 minutes without stopping (six laps around a football field track); perform at least 20 regular push-ups without stopping (not on your knees); perform 25 sit-ups without stopping (knees bent, strict form); and complete one unassisted complete pull-up (hands shoulder-width apart, chin over the bar).
3. **Are you academically prepared? Have you taken college-level courses in the past?** The Academy is 29 units of college-level work compacted into only 19 weeks of instruction; the pace is extremely quick. **Do you have excellent study habits and exceptional test-taking skills?** There are 50 different written and online examinations during the Academy and each must be passed with a minimum score of 80%.
4. **Are you able to follow directions and take orders without question?** The Academy is operated in a para-military manner; orders are given which must be followed without hesitation or complaint. Correctly following the instructions in the application is your first example to staff!
5. **Are you able to 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. **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 difficult.
7. **Can you devote at least three hours *each night* to study and preparations?** There is considerable homework and prep time needed during the Academy.
8. **Can you set aside personal business for the duration of the Academy?** Good attendance is essential for success. This will impact your family life. Outside 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 and are they willing to assist you with your training?** Past experience has shown that strong family support is a critical factor in success. Family members can help with your studies and uniform preparation, which can greatly improve your performance.
10. **Do you have adequate health insurance to cover any possible injuries during your training?** Student insurance plans are available through Butte College Health Services.

NOTE: If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you should contact the Fire Academy office for further advice.