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**Date:** April 9, 2021

**To:** Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee  
State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Mark Bisbee, SFT Battalion Chief

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

California Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Update

**Recommended Actions:**

That STEAC accept this report on FESHE progress and form a subcommittee to study appropriate options and alternatives to report back to STEAC for further consideration.

**Background Information:**

The former SFT Strategic Plan *Blueprint 2020* Goal #2 called for SFT to “*Participate in the FESHE National Model of fire service training and education that includes an integrated, competency-based system of fire and emergency services professional development and an integrated system of higher education from a two-year Associate degree to Doctoral degrees.*”

The Pathway to Higher Education program approved by STEAC is based on the *California Fire/EMS Professional Development Pathway for Workforce Development and Career Advancement* Issue Paper recommendations.

With the Company Officer A.S. degree program approval through the California Community College system, the Pathways program consists of several phases:

- *Phase I* was completed in 2019 with the articulation of Chief Fire Officer courses bundled and imbedded into the electives into an interdisciplinary online Bachelors degree in the Leadership Studies major at Humboldt State.
- *Phase II* consists of submitting our Executive Chief Fire Officer courses to the American Council on Education (ACE) for graduate-level credit recommendations to

articulate into an online Master of Public Administration Program (MPA) at CSU Dominguez Hills.

- *Phase III* consists of forming a Center of Excellence and is now represented through the California FESHE Consortium with the California Fire Technology Director's Association (CFTDA) and the CSU Chancellor's Office Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) and several campuses.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

The California FESHE process has accelerated the past few years with SFT staff playing key roles in the development of articulating a clear pathway for fire service training and education. The FESHE Consortium is focused on the following areas:

- A. Model standardized curriculum for higher education to adopt
- B. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) and Prior Learning Assessments (PLA)
- C. Center(s) of Excellence for the CA fire service
- D. Funding and advocacy

Overall, the end-users of a CA FESHE program fall into three broad categories:

- Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) and degree completion for working in-service professionals and practitioners in all fire service areas of specialty
- Pre-service, traditional, four-year college programs focused on the fire service
- Fire scientists, researchers, and other "non-sworn" but fire-related fields.

The CSU system is engaged and willing to collaborate on workforce development with the fire service. As FESHE progresses, its crucial to engage the STEAC leadership as key stakeholders in the process to determine:

- Current workforce needs and degree completion options
- Forecast future workforce challenges and capabilities
- Provide input to develop a broad-based "future-cast" vision for our emerging workforce needs
- Determine model FESHE curriculum that meets our statewide needs
- Provide guidance and direction for SFT staff moving forward

Input provided by the proposed STEAC sub-committee will be used to formulate a California version of the national FESHE model in collaboration with higher education institutions. In addition, SFT staff will work will STEAC on the development of a strategic vision and foundational document to guide SFT in creating model FESHE programs for the next decade.

# Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Consortium **[DRAFT]**

Professional Certification Tracks, Non-Certification Tracks and Recommended Education Levels



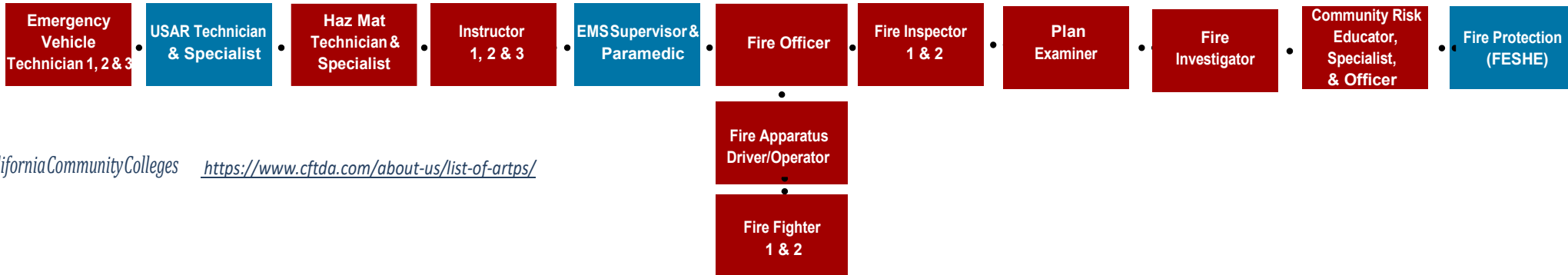
## Graduate Degrees



## Undergraduate Degrees



## Associate Degrees or Lower Division Curriculum with Varied Areas of Focus (California Community Colleges)



California Community Colleges <https://www.cftda.com/about-us/list-of-artps/>

## High School/Community College/ROP



## Middle School Career Exporation Community Outreach Programs



**LEGEND**

- State Fire Training Professional Certification Track (Title 19 Fire Protection Standards)
- Non-Certificated Programs Track (Fire & Emergency Services Higher Education)
- ★ Fully Online Degree Programs



# Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Consortium [DRAFT]

Professional Certification Tracks and Recommended Education Levels



## Graduate Degrees

**Executive Chief  
Fire Officer**

★ CSU Dominguez Hills?

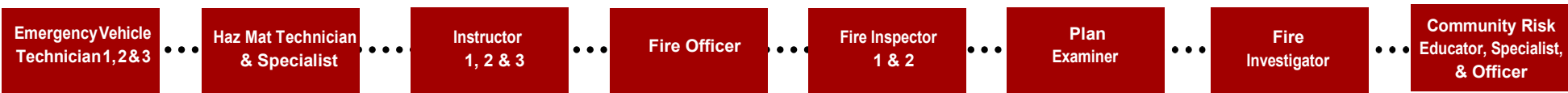
## Undergraduate Degrees

**Chief Fire  
Officer**

**Fire  
Marshal**

Humboldt State

## Associate Degrees or Lower Division Curriculum with Varied Areas of Focus (California Community Colleges)



California Community Colleges

**Fire Apparatus  
Driver/Operator**

**Fire Fighter  
1 & 2**

<https://www.cftda.com/about-us/list-of-artps/>

### LEGEND

  State Fire Training Professional Development Track (Title 19 Fire Protection Standards)

★ Fully Online Degree Programs

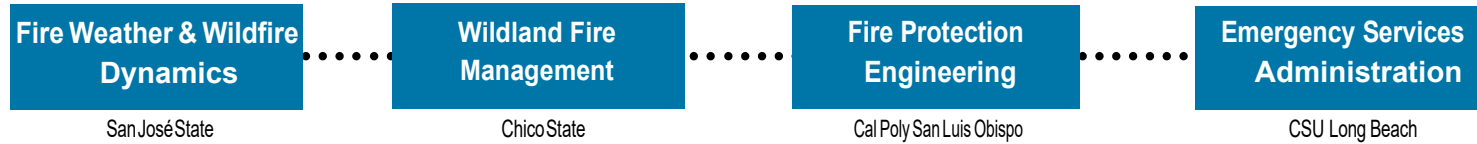


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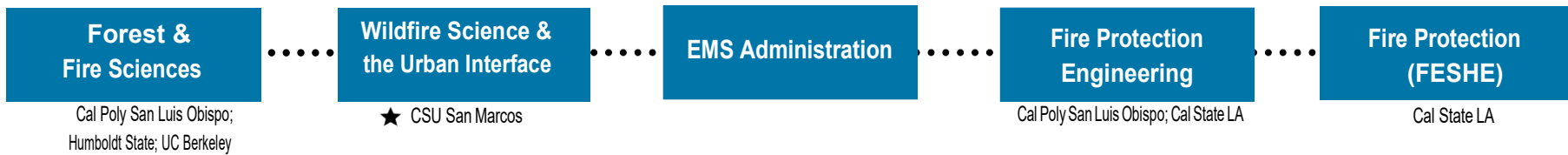
Non-Certification Tracks and Recommended Education Levels



## Graduate Degrees



## Undergraduate Degrees



## Associate Degrees or Lower Division Curriculum with Varied Areas of Focus (California Community Colleges)



## High School/Community College/ROP



## Middle School Career Exploration Community Outreach Programs



### LEGEND

- Non-Certificated Programs Track (Fire & Emergency Services Higher Education)
- ★ Fully Online Degree Programs