



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Chief Fire Officer Certification – Associate Degree Requirement

Issued: December 2020

OVERVIEW

In 2014, the Chief Fire Officer Certification and curriculum was approved by the Statewide Training and Advisory Committee (STEAC) and the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS). The Chief Fire Officer Certification replaced the legacy Chief Officer Certification which was established in 1983. An associate degree (any major) or higher from an accredited post-secondary institution is currently required for both Chief Fire Officer and Chief Officer certifications.

State Fire Training (SFT) is accepting a temporary option for Chief Fire Officer applicants who have not yet completed an associate degree to obtain their Chief Fire Officer Certification using a combination of education and experience. Applicants are required to meet all certification requirements and apply on or before December 31, 2022. Persons applying for Chief Fire Officer certification on or after January 1, 2023, shall have an associate degree or higher. This temporary option does not apply for the Executive Chief Fire Officer Certification.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE OPTIONS

The following options can be used to meet the associate degree requirement for Chief Fire Officer Certification:

Option 1

- Education (one of the following):
 - Sixty (60) semester units or ninety (90) quarter units from an accredited post-secondary institution; **OR**
 - Certificate of Achievement from a California Community College in one of the following fields of study:
 - Fire Science
 - Fire Technology
 - Company Officer
 - Pre-Hospital Care
- Experience (one of the following):
 - Have a minimum of ten (10) years' full-time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California as a Fire Fighter performing suppression duties. At least five (5) years of experience must be at the Officer level (Lieutenant or higher) or the CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer; **OR**
 - Have a minimum of twenty (20) years' part-time paid or volunteer experience in a recognized fire agency in California as a Fire Fighter performing suppression duties. At least ten (10) years of experience must be at the Officer level (Lieutenant or higher) or the CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer.



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Option 2

- Education:
 - Forty-five (45) semester units or sixty-seven-and-one-half (67.5) quarter units from an accredited post-secondary institution
- Experience (one of the following):
 - Have a minimum of fifteen (15) years' full-time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California as a Fire Fighter performing suppression duties. At least five (5) years of experience must be at the Officer level (Lieutenant or higher) or the CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer; **OR**
 - Have a minimum of thirty (30) years' part-time paid or volunteer experience in a recognized fire agency in California as a Fire Fighter performing suppression duties. At least ten (10) years of experience must be at the Officer level (Lieutenant or higher) or the CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer.