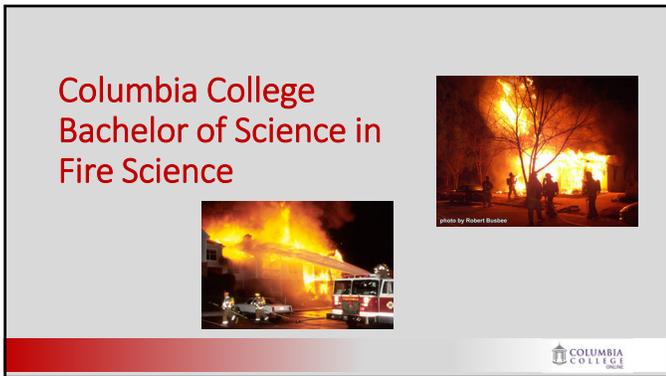
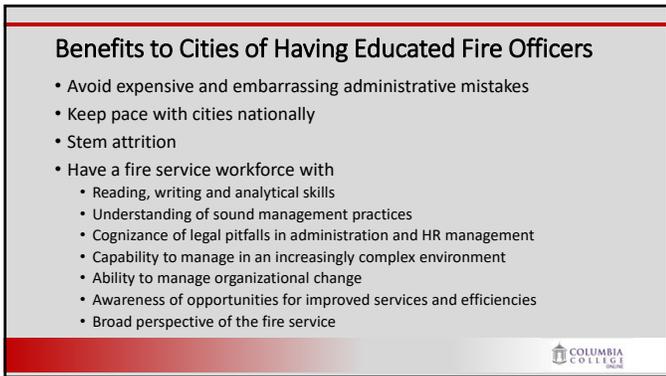


The information provided here is for informational and educational purposes and current as of the date of publication. The information is not a substitute for legal advice and does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy position of the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Consult your attorney for advice concerning specific situations.







About Columbia College

- South Carolina institution since 1854
- Women’s college; now with online programs for all
- Private non-profit
- Regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (higher standard than nationally accredited)



B.S. in Fire Science Program

- 100 percent online
 - Log on anytime
 - No live sessions
 - Firefighters’ shifts not an impediment
- Five-week focused courses
- Nine start times yearly
- 120 credit-hours
- Follows U.S. Fire Administration’s Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) model
- Taught by engaged faculty with strong academic credentials and real-world experience



Advisory Committee

- Columbia College offers the only higher education program for firefighters in South Carolina
- Fire service professionals serve on Advisory Committee
- Ensures that the curriculum meets the needs of the state’s fire service



Credit for previous education and training

- Up to 90 credit hours of 120 in the curriculum can be transferred
- Credits for previous college coursework and S.C. Fire Academy courses
- Applicants receive a transfer evaluation report
- Applicants will know what credits will transfer and how many hours are needed to complete the degree



Cost

- \$395/credit hour
- Free online application and evaluation of transfer credits
- Tuition is the only expense; textbooks are online at no charge
- Discount for members of the S.C. State Firefighters' Association – about \$5000
- S.C. Tuition Grant – for S.C. residents attending in-state schools full time
- Federal Pell Grants
- G.I. Bill for veterans
- Local government tuition reimbursement



Photo by Robert Busbee



Municipal Managers Can Promote Education

- Emphasize the value of education to fire chiefs and staff
- Provide tuition reimbursement for employees
- Develop education pay incentives
- Require progressive degrees or college credits for promotion to each rank
- Guide staff in selecting appropriate and good quality college programs



More Information

- columbiasc.edu
- Dr. Harry Cooper, Jr., Executive Director of Communiversity
 - hcooper@columbiasc.edu
 - 803.786.3582
- Bradley Anderson, Adjunct Instructor
 - banderson@columbiasc.edu
 - 803.920.0642





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