

College of San Mateo

CTE Mid-Cycle Program Review Report

Program - Fire Technology (AS)

Program Information

Date

10/20/2025

CTE Program

Fire Technology

Review Completed by:

Christy Baird

I. Program Review

1. Describe any changes or updates that have occurred since you last submitted program review. If there have not been any changes or updates since your last program review, enter N/A.

Program Updates and Accomplishments Since the Last Review

Since the previous program review, the Fire Technology Program has achieved significant progress in program delivery, curriculum expansion, and regional collaboration. These efforts directly support the College's mission to promote workforce readiness, student success, and community partnerships.

Fire Academy Integration and Outcomes:

The program has successfully graduated four Fire Academies, each fully integrated with San Mateo County Fire Departments. Across these academies, 42 sponsored recruits and 33 non-sponsored recruits completed training. Of the non-sponsored graduates, 12 have secured employment in the fire service, demonstrating the program's continued effectiveness in preparing students for professional placement.

EMT Accreditation Approval:

The EMT program successfully completed its accreditation review through the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and the San Mateo County EMS Agency, meeting all state and national standards. This accomplishment reinforces compliance, maintains good standing with regulatory agencies, and supports continued program stability and recognition

Creation of EMT Certificate of Achievement:

A new Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certificate of Achievement was established to formally recognize student completion and strengthen pathways into public safety careers.

Approval of BLS Course Through Curriculum Committee:

The Basic Life Support (BLS): CPR for Health Care Providers course was approved through the Curriculum Committee. This course is required for the EMT, Nursing, and Dental programs, though it is not yet listed in the CSM catalog.

Expansion to the Coastside Campus:

The program expanded instructional access by offering two courses at the CSM Coastside Campus. A Principles of Emergency Services Course (21 students) and a Wildland Fire Control Course (13 students). This expansion supports equitable access for coastside residents and enhances the college's regional presence in public safety education.

Community and Outreach Initiatives:

The program hosted a large-scale Fire Technology Information Session that drew over 200 attendees, including representatives from three San Mateo County Fire Departments, Fire Cadet and Explorer programs, current and former Fire Academy recruits, and prospective Fire Technology students and families from high schools across San Mateo County. This event strengthened public awareness, agency partnerships, and student recruitment pipelines.

2. Provide a summary of the progress you have made on the goals identified in your last program review.

Summary of Progress on Goals Identified in the Last Program Review

Since the last program review, the Fire Technology Program has made progress in achieving its goals. Several key initiatives have been completed, while others remain in progress as part of the program's ongoing commitment to excellence and community responsiveness.

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Completed Goals

Fire Academy Oversight and Compliance

In alignment with State Fire Training (SFT) Accreditation requirements, the program strengthened oversight of the Fire Academy by hiring two Fire Academy Coordinators. This fulfills the SFT mandate for increased administrative supervision and ensures continued compliance with state accreditation standards.

Fire Academy Preparation Course Revision

A new course was developed to address the physical ability gap for individuals preparing to enter the Fire Academy. The Fire Academy Preparation course was updated and approved through the Curriculum Committee in CurricUNET. It transitioned from a three-hour Wednesday evening format with multiple instructors to a Monday/Wednesday morning fitness-focused course led by one instructor. The redesigned structure emphasizes physical conditioning and readiness. In its first semester, the course enrolled 37 students.

Goals in Progress / Not Yet Completed

Firefighter Testing Courses

Continue development and approval of two new testing courses in CurricUNET to support State Fire Training certification:

FIRE 723 – Firefighter I Testing

FIRE 724 – Firefighter II Testing

Fire Academy Certificate of Achievement

Finalize the Fire Academy Certificate of Achievement in CurricUNET to formally recognize academy completion and align with other statewide accredited programs.

Wildland Fire Technology Certificate of Specialization

Complete the development of the Wildland Fire Technology Certificate of Specialization. Once approved, Wildland Academy graduates will be eligible to apply for this certificate upon program completion.

Paramedic Program Development

Begin formal research and collaboration with San Mateo County agencies to establish a Paramedic Program, addressing a documented regional shortage and responding to community partner requests. The college has received a major donation exceeding one million dollars designated to support this program through the Foundation.

Increase Program Completers Through Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)

I participated in the statewide Fire Science Credit for Prior Learning Work Group facilitated by Norco College to align C-ID descriptors with Fire Academy curriculum. The goal is to implement a CPL pathway at CSM that allows former Fire Technology students to apply their previous academy training toward completion of an AS Degree in Fire Technology.

Alumni Tracking and Mentorship Initiative

Collaborate with PRIE to create an alumni tracking system specific to Fire Technology students. The goal is to collect employment data, measure program outcomes, and develop a mentorship network connecting program alumni with current students to support career development and community engagement.

II. Looking ahead

3. If your goals are changing, use this space to provide rationale, or background, for any new goals and resource requests that you'll be submitting that were not included in your last program review. Consider things such as curriculum changes, employment trends, equity needs, equipment needs, future staffing and faculty needs, etc.

Rationale for New or Updated Goals and Resource Requests

As the Fire Technology Program continues to grow and align with workforce needs, several new goals and resource requests have emerged since the last program review. These initiatives reflect changing industry

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demands, staffing transitions, and the program's ongoing commitment to equitable access and regional collaboration.

Expansion of the Wildland Fire Academy Partnership

Continue the partnership with CAL FIRE in Half Moon Bay to jointly operate a Wildland Fire Academy at CSM's Coastside Campus and the Half Moon Bay Fire Station. This partnership will create expanded opportunities for students to obtain seasonal wildland firefighting employment with CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, addressing both workforce shortages and community fire preparedness needs.

Instructor Training and Succession Planning

Several long-term instructors are approaching retirement. To maintain compliance with State Fire Training (SFT) instructor-to-student ratio requirements, the program must invest in training and certifying new instructors in SFT instructional modules. This effort will ensure instructional continuity, safety, and accreditation compliance.

State Fire Training Continuing Education for San Mateo County Firefighters

Expand continuing education offerings for San Mateo County firefighters to meet State Fire Training (SFT) accreditation requirements. Develop and deliver online or hybrid SFT certification courses including the Company Officer series, to support professional development, maintain accreditation compliance, and strengthen regional partnerships.

Regional Fire Training Facility Development

Continue collaboration with the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs Association to establish a Regional Fire Training Facility within San Mateo County. This facility would provide a centralized location for advanced fire, rescue, and emergency services training, supporting both college-level instruction and local fire agency professional development.

Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) Access at CSM

Pursue hosting the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) exam on the College of San Mateo campus. Currently, this state-required entrance exam is only administered in Sacramento and Livermore, creating barriers for students with limited transportation or financial resources. Hosting the exam locally would provide an equitable, low-cost testing option for students across San Mateo County. This initiative would require minimal financial investment and would significantly improve access to the firefighting profession.