

Through hands-on learning, professional mentorship, and a supportive environment, students gain the technical skills, discipline, and confidence needed to thrive in the fire service and beyond with the West-MEC Fire Science program.

Students in the Fire Science program receive instruction in both the theoretical foundations and practical applications of firefighting. Coursework covers:

- Fire behavior and suppression tactics
- Fire chemistry and building construction
- Wildland firefighting techniques
- Search and rescue operations
- Physical conditioning and safety protocols
- Command structure and emergency response procedures

These topics aren't limited to the classroom. Students participate in simulated fire scenarios, smoke drills, ladder exercises, and team-based operations that mirror real fireground experiences. This immersive training environment allows students to apply their knowledge in realistic settings, building competence and confidence step by step.

Students work closely with experienced instructors, many of whom have years of service as firefighters, who mentor them not only in technical skill training, but in discipline, leadership, and professionalism.

The program is designed as a one-year, 200-hour program typically for sophomores and juniors. Students can earn college credits through Glendale Community College while still in high school, giving them a valuable academic head start. West-MEC even covers in-state tuition costs for eligible students.

Graduates have the chance to earn industry-recognized certifications like Wildland Firefighter credentials and prepare for the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) — both key steps toward becoming a professional firefighter. These certifications give students a competitive advantage, whether they continue into postsecondary education or join the workforce after graduation.

With dual enrollment opportunities, industry-recognized certifications, experienced instructors, and a strong support network, the Fire Science program is the ideal environment for motivated students to learn, grow, and ignite their futures.