City of Columbus
Department of Public Safety
2024 Fire Cadet Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the Civil Service Classification for the Cadet Program?
   Student Intern II.

2. When is the application filing period for this position?
   TBA

3. Will I have to pass a background check and take a drug test?
   Yes, eligible candidates will have to pass a drug screen and criminal background check.

4. What are the minimum qualifications to be eligible for the Cadet Program?
   You must be eighteen years of age, have a GED or High School diploma, and possess a valid driver's license.

5. Is the position full-time or part-time?
   Part-time

6. How many hours per week?
   Cadets will work a 35 hour work week.

7. What are the work days/hours?
   Initial training will be Monday through Friday from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm with a one hour unpaid lunch. Schedules may vary and consist of shift work and/or weekends during subsequent parts of the program.

8. Is this position in the IAFF union or other bargaining unit?
   No. It is in the Management Compensation Plan.

9. What is the Hourly Pay Rate?
   $22.50 per hour

10. How long is the program?
    18 months

11. Can I stay in the program longer than 18 months?
    No. The program is limited to 18 months only.

12. Will I be eligible for Vacation, Holiday and/or Sick leave benefits?
    No. Cadets will receive 52 hours per year of PTO. Part-time employees are not paid for unworked Holidays.

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13. Will I be eligible for insurance benefits?

Not during the first year. However, you will be eligible for medical and prescription insurance coverage at such time as you have completed at least one of year of service and worked at least 1040 hours.

14. Will I be eligible for FMLA?

Not during the first year. However, you may be eligible for FMLA after you have completed twelve months and worked 1250 hours.

15. Will I be eligible for Tuition Reimbursement?

No. Employees must be full-time to be eligible for the City's tuition reimbursement program.

16. What certifications or qualifications will I have at the conclusion of the program?

The Cadet Program is broken into 4 sections: EMS, Firefighter I and II, EMD/EFD, and Physical Training. After successful completion of these sections, a cadet can be certified as a State of Ohio: EMT-Basic, Firefighter I & II, and EMD/EFD.

17. Will I automatically become a Firefighter at the end of the program?

No. The Cadet program is designed to help prepare you for the Civil Service examination as well as pass the medical and background screening process and be reachable on the Firefighter eligible list.

18. Will I be issued a uniform?

Yes. Cadets will be issued uniforms consisting of boots, belt, blue pants and gray polo style shirts.

19. How will I know what's expected of me during training?

The Instructors will issue standards of conduct and grooming to each of the Cadets. Cadets will be expected to follow the same Division of Fire standards as Recruit Firefighters.

Recruitment Website QR-Code