

El Camino College
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION — SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS
Completed by Lee MacPherson

Fire Technology (FTEC)

Use labor market data, advisory committee input, and institutional data to respond to the following questions:

1. How strong is the occupational demand for the program?

The occupational demand for graduates of the Fire Technology (FTEC) program is primarily driven by the retirements of active personnel in these occupations. According to the data provided by IR, the employment sector served by FTEC is expected to increase by 17.5% during the years 2006 to 2016.

2. How has the demand changed in the past 5 years and what is the outlook for the next 5 years?

For the last 5 years, most Public Agencies have had a 'freeze' on new hires. But through attrition due to retirements, injuries and the change in the financial outlook these agencies are now starting to hire. The trend for the next 5 years will reflect a steady trend to bring the firefighter ranks back to previous levels.

3. What is the district's need for the program?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment growth rate in all Fire Technology related professions is expected to be 14 percent over the next ten years. Employment of firefighters is expected to grow 9 percent. Protective service occupations are expected to grow 11 percent. The majority of situations that firefighters' respond to is medical emergencies—rather than fire emergencies. Aging population will result in increasing demand for emergency responders. Continued population growth will increase the number of emergency calls requiring response from firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical personnel. Within the District boundaries are numerous local and county agencies along with private industry that needs trained first responders. The FTEC program addresses this need by supplying approximately 100 graduates of the Fire Academy each year and providing in-service training to 547 students per year.

4. What is the state's need for the program?

As rural areas become more populated, so will the demand for firefighters and additional related jobs will be created. Within the State are numerous local and county agencies along with private industry that need trained first responders. The FTEC program addresses this need by supplying approximately 100 graduates from the Fire Academy each year and providing in-service training to 547 students per year.

5. How does the program address needs that are not met by similar programs in the region?

The FTEC program at El Camino stands apart from other programs in that we provide a “total package.” The total package allows students to pursue an Associate of Science degree, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification, Paramedic Certification, and an ECC Fire Academy Certification. In addition, as a part of their Fire Academy training, students can earn 13-15 State Fire Marshal Certificates that demonstrate industry-accepted specific areas of competency. These certificates are issued by the Fire Academy and will help graduates find employment.

6. Are the students satisfied with their preparation for employment?

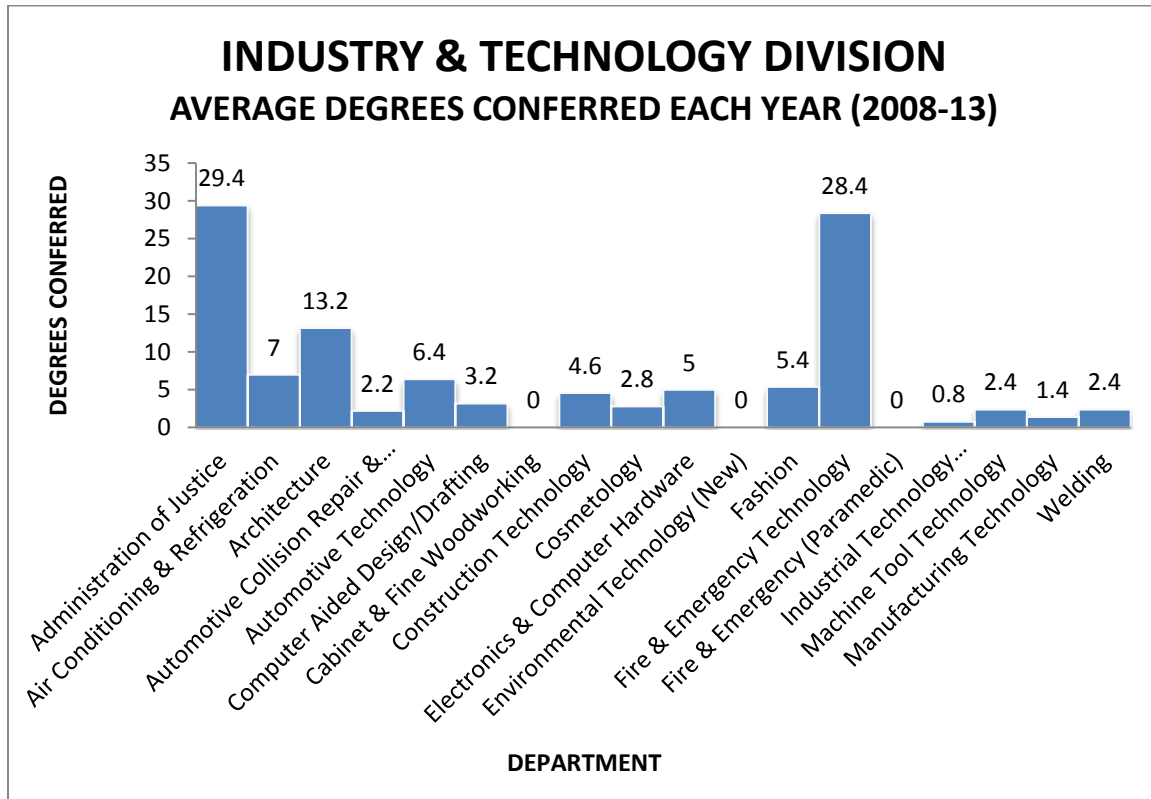
Student satisfaction with our program is evidenced by the extremes they go through to be a part of our program. We have enrolled students who travel great distances to attend our program. Students have come from as far south as San Diego and as far north as Santa Barbara. Graduates speak very highly of the Fire Technology program at El Camino and the El Camino Fire Academy.

7. Are the employers in the field satisfied with the level of preparation of our graduates?

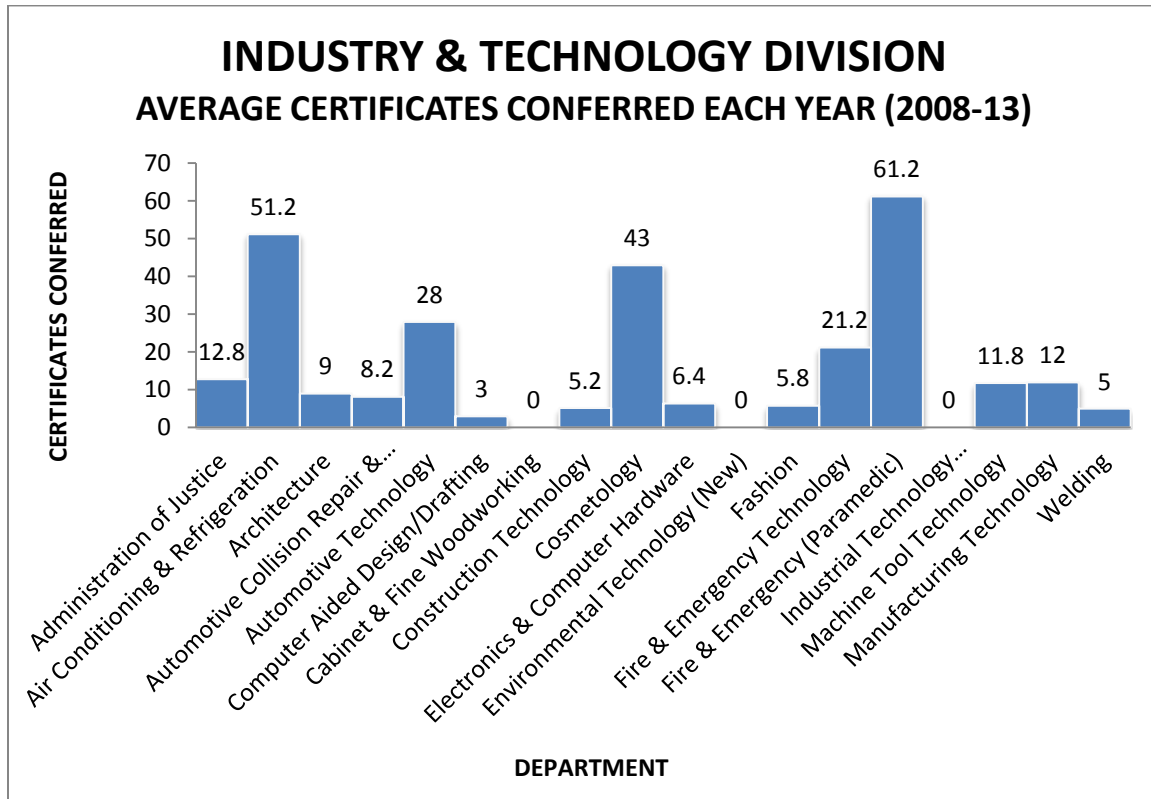
Yes. An example of Employer satisfaction is the fact that in a recent graduating class of new recruits for Los Angeles City Fire Department, the top three graduates were El Camino students. Santa Monica and Warner Brothers just hired 3-6 students and said if other graduates are like those just hired they will receive priority hiring (or something to that affect).

8. What are the completion, success, and employment rates for the students?

Completion success in FTEC can be difficult to measure due to the fact that some students will become employed after just getting their Associate of Science degree. Others may go through the whole process, Associate of Science degree, Emergency Medical Training Certification, Paramedic Certification, Fire Academy Certification and still not end up employed in the field. We have not found an accurate or easy way to track the employment rates for our students due to the fact that many leave the area in pursuit of employment.



With regard to degrees and certificates conferred, the Fire Technology department confers an average of 28 Associate of Science degrees and 82 certificates each year. The chart above demonstrates the number of Associates Degrees conferred by the Fire Technology program in comparison to other CTE programs in the Industry and Technology Division. The following chart shows the average number of certificates conferred by the Fire and Emergency Technology program. These two charts show that the Fire Technology program is very successful producer of degrees and certificates.



9. What is the role of the advisory committee and what impact does it have on the program?

The FTEC Advisory Board consists of the South Bay Fire Chiefs, who include Fire Chiefs from Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and El Segundo, as well as, representatives from Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, California State Office of Emergency Services (OES), Santa Monica, Culver City, and Beverly Hills. This body meets once a month. We are provided with-monthly input on State and local issues on a monthly basis rather than an annual basis. This group is involved and keeps us up-to-date on numerous issues that are integral to the training we provide.

10. If there is a licensure exam for students to work in their field of study, please list the exam and the pass rate. If there are multiple licensure exams in the program, include them all.

The latest statistics for the Paramedic licensure is 80%. The EMT result is 70%. Graduation from the Fire Academy with Firefighter 1 certification is 90%.