

# WSFD Employment Frequently Asked Questions:



## 1. When will the next WSFD hiring process and recruit school begin?

Dates for future recruit classes have not yet been set.

## 2. How long does recruit school last?

The Winston-Salem Fire Department Recruit School is a 30-week training academy.

## 3. How do I apply for the position of firefighter with the WSFD?

The City of Winston-Salem seeks qualified applicants to fill job vacancies. You can view openings and then apply online. The City of Winston-Salem's employment practices are guided by federal, state, and local rules and regulations guaranteeing employment opportunities to all persons without regard to and prohibiting discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, religion, political affiliation or beliefs, national origin or handicap, unless it prevents the applicant from performing the job for which they are applying. [Visit the job openings website to apply.](#)

## 4. How long is my application valid?

The application is only valid for the application process in which it is submitted, which opens and closes at various times throughout the year. If an applicant is not successful in a given application process and wants to reapply, another application must be submitted. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to be informed of application periods and deadlines.

For additional information, contact the City's Human Resources Department at 336-747-6800.

## 5. What kind of hours do firefighters work in WSFD?

Firefighter scheduling in the Winston-Salem Fire Department is based on a 56-hour work week. The schedule is a modified 24 hours on, 48 hours off. Once per shift cycle, each platoon has four days off, which we call our long weekend. A cycle always begins on a Tuesday and ends two Fridays after the beginning Tuesday (work Tues—Fri—Sun—Wed—Sat—Mon—Thurs; off Fri—Sat—Sun—Mon; repeat. The WSFD has three platoons.

\*The Recruit Academy is Monday through Friday .

6. What will improve my chances of being hired?

The Winston-Salem Fire Department is an equal opportunity employer and looks to hire the best candidates, considering all the virtues of a firefighter. Candidates should prepare for the physical ability test by being well-hydrated and rested before the test. For at least several days prior to the test, try to avoid food and beverages high in sugar, salt, caffeine, and alcohol. It is recommended that candidates be in the habit of exercising their cardiovascular systems at least 45 minutes per day, five days per week. Examples of this type of exercise include running/jogging, speed walking, cycling, and/or swimming. For the online written exam, it is recommended that candidates be well-rested and free from potential distractions such as noise, hunger, other people, pets, etc. There will be multiple days over which you may take the test; do not attempt to take the test if you are not sure you have enough time available to complete it without rushing.

7. May I run through the Physical Ability Test prior to my scheduled test date?

No. Due to the large number of applicants, your scheduled time will be the only time allowed for you to participate in the ability test.

8. If I have already obtained my firefighter certification, will I have to complete the same training as someone without the certification?

No. Upon verification through IFSAC and Pro Board we will not require you to re-take a certification. You will be required to take the class and be successful.

9. If I already have my EMT certification, will I have to take it again through the recruit school?

If your EMT credential is from out-of-state, you must apply for reciprocity. You can apply online at [ncems.org](http://ncems.org). Once on the site, click on NC OEMS and then Legal Recognition. Once NC OEMS verifies your status and background check and you receive your North Carolina EMT certification, you will not have to retake for certification. However, you will have to complete the class and oral boards in the recruit school.

If you obtained your EMT status in North Carolina, but outside of Forsyth County, you would not have to retake for certification. However, you will have to complete the class and oral boards in recruit school.

If you obtained your EMT status and completed oral boards in Forsyth County, you will not have to retake for certification. However, you will have to complete the class and oral boards in recruit school.

10. Does the Winston- Salem Fire Department accept lateral transfers?

No.

11. Do I have to have any experience or prior training in the fire service?

No. WSFD will train recruits to the highest level of training to prepare them for their duties.

12. If I am hired, will I receive a paycheck while I am in the recruit school?

Yes. Once you begin the recruit school, you are employed by the City of Winston-Salem, and qualify for all salary and benefits that are part of the City's compensation package.

13. Does the Winston-Salem Fire Department have a residency restriction?

Yes. Firefighters employed with the Winston-Salem Fire Department must live in a 60-mile radius of Forsyth County.

14. What if I want to apply for a job that does not currently have a vacancy?

Applications are accepted for current, published vacancies only. A separate application must be submitted for each position for which you are applying.

All applications must be submitted online at [Online Job Applications](#). Applications must be FULLY completed (i.e. dates of employment, salary history, reference names and phone numbers, etc.) Resumes may not be substituted for employment history. As the applicant, it is your responsibility to stay informed of the open application period and closing dates.

15. Am I allowed to do a "ride along" with the Winston-Salem Fire Department prior to applying?

Yes, citizens are welcome to tour any of our fire stations and participate in a ride along. More information can be found under WSFD Fire and Life Safety, Public Education Program. For more information, please contact our Senior Community Educator.

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To ensure that the hiring process is equitable to all applicants, the fire department does not allow applicants to participate in the ride along program during the hiring process.