PSM MISSION STATEMENT:
Public Safety Management is a broad based fire management educational program designed to augment and develop managerial skills necessary for a career in the fire service or continued advancement within the field.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The course looks at the role of sub national governments in the management of the fire service. The demographic and political environments in which the fire service operates and the duties, powers, and obligations of governmental agencies as they relate to the operation of a fire department.

Prerequisite: Fire Service Management major or consent of department.

PREREQUISITE: Fire Science major or consent of department

Required Textbook:

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
V. COURSE OUTCOMES:

**Outcome #1: 10%**

**Cognitive Objective:** Demonstrate the ability to identify the impact various levels of government and their environs have on the fire service.

A. Describe the contributions made by state and local governments to American society.
B. Describe the regional and inter-regional population trends which impact the type and level of government services.
C. Discuss the categories of political cultures in the country and the variations of their impact on local services.

**Outcome #2: 10%**

**Cognitive Objective:** Define the various levels of government, their original constitutional authority, the constitutional changes that have occurred since their creation, and the authority granted for public safety.

A. Define Federalism.
B. Describe the changes in federal, state, and local relationships from 1930 to today.
C. Discuss how and why local governments exist under the constitution and the legal environment this creates for public safety managers.
D. Discuss the concept of “implied powers.”
E. Discuss the tenth amendment.
F. Discuss local home rule.

**Outcome #3: 10%**

**Cognitive Objective:** Demonstrate knowledge of how citizens influence government actions, demonstrate loyalty and support of government programs, and how interest groups influence fire service decisions.

A. Define political participation, and identify various means by which citizens participate.
B. Describe the means and extent of interest group influence.
C. Discuss methods used to respond to ad hoc citizen pressure on a public safety agency.
**Outcome #4:** 10%

**Cognitive Objective:** Demonstrate competent knowledge of the role of the state legislature, executive branch, and judiciary and their influence on local government public safety programs.

A. Define the powers and role of the office of governor.
B. Identify key issues facing state executives nationwide.
C. Discuss the role of executive branch agencies in the support of local government managers.
D. Discuss the role of the legislature.
E. Discuss the race/gender/age composition of legislatures of today and the impact such composition has on public safety programs.
F. Describe the legislative process and the key issues facing states today.

**Outcome #5:** 10%

**Cognitive Objective:** Understand the types and structural variations of local governments and their impact on policies and issues relating to public safety.

A. Identify the types of local governments.
B. Discuss the variations of municipal executive structure, election of city councils, and the role of political parties in local elections.
C. Discuss the types of government structures and the elements which would provide for the strongest support of the fire service.

**Outcome #6** 10%

**Cognitive Objective:** Understand the advantages and disadvantages of fragmented governments in a metropolitan area and the impact of this situation to fire and emergency medical service delivery.

A. Identify reasons for residential differentiation within a metropolitan area.
B. Discuss the problems and the benefits associated with numerous governmental units in a metropolitan area.
C. Identify government responses to the problems associated with fragmented government in a metropolitan area.
D. Discuss problems and benefits associated with joint training, mutual aid, and other inter-local responses to fragmentation.
Outcome #7

Cognitive Objective: Demonstrate competent knowledge of state and local economic and financial systems and fire department budgeting.

A. Identify the elements affecting a state’s financial position.
B. Identify the desirable aspects of a state or local government revenue system.
C. Identify the elements of the state’s budgetary system.
D. Identify municipal revenue sources by type and magnitude.
E. Identify municipal expenditures by function and magnitude.
F. Discuss the municipal budget cycle.
G. Identify the elements of a municipal borrowing plan.
H. Identify the elements of a municipal property tax levy.

Outcome #8

Cognitive Objective: Demonstrate knowledge of social policy issues as they relate to public safety policy.

A. Identify the means by which local government can encourage economic development and the role played by regulatory agencies, including the Fire Prevention Bureau.
B. Identify the general means by which local governments can influence betterment of the community and contributions of fire service toward that goal.
C. Discuss the impact of poverty as a social problem on the demand and delivery of fire and emergency medical services.

Outcome #9

Cognitive Objective: Understand the elements of employee benefit programs, municipal retirement plans, and the role of elected or appointed trustees of public pension plans.

A. Identify non-pension employee benefit programs supported by municipal employers.
B. Identify the reasons for increases in municipal medical program costs.
C. Discuss cost containment mechanisms that do not negatively impact employee welfare.
D. Discuss fire pension systems, social security, IRC Section 125 plans, and the outlook for second careers of early retirees.
E. Identify the role and responsibilities of a pension system board of trustees.
F. Identify the elements of an actuarial evaluation of a pension fund.

Outcome #10

Cognitive Objective: Demonstrate knowledge of social policy issues as they relate to public safety policy.

A. Identify the means by which local government can encourage economic development and the role played by regulatory agencies, including the Fire Prevention Bureau.
B. Identify the general means by which local governments can influence betterment of the community and contributions of fire service toward that goal.
C. Discuss the impact of poverty as a social problem on the demand and delivery of fire and emergency medical services.
Cognitive Objective: Discuss municipal contracting and purchasing policy and the impact on fire station development programs.

A. Identify the means for cooperative purchasing with other governments.
B. Identify contracting requirements for equipment, buildings and professional services.
C. Discuss the key issues relating to fire station development.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to State and Local Politics
   a. Power
   b. Challenges

II. American Federalism
   a. Constitutional Structure
   b. Role of the federal courts
   c. Politics and the future of Federalism

III. State Constitution

IV. Parties and Elections

V. State Politics
   a. Legislatures
   b. Governors

VI. Judges

VII. Local Governments
   a. State and local relations
   b. City Government
   c. Influencing local policy making
   d. Meeting the challenges of growth

VIII. Making state and local policy

IX. Staffing and financing state and local government