I. FSM Mission Statement: The Fire and Homeland Security program will be designed to meet the needs of the fire service professional. The increased demand for a highly educated professional fuels the demand for this program not only from current and former students but also the industry itself. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has developed a Chief Officer Designation (CFOD) and professional model matrix. These two programs along with a higher demand for fire personnel to have a master’s degree to hold the fire chief’s position make this program in high demand among the fire service. Currently there are only 7 programs in the country that afford fire personnel this opportunity. This academic setting of this program will foster creative thinking and communication skills in our pursuit of excellence.

II. Course Description: An examination of knowledge and research as they pertain to public safety. Exploration of the relationship between creative and critical thinking, analysis of scientific methodology and logic, language and interpretation and their influence on public safety organizations.

III. Prerequisite: Bachelor degree in Fire Service or related area

IV. Text, Reference Material, and Supplies:


V. Course Outcomes/Objectives:

1. Understand the connection between simple choices and long-term outcomes
2. Learn to choose a response instead of reacting from habit
3. Use the ability to choose as an opportunity to change habits
4. Clarify intentions in the decision-making process
5. Make responsible choices by being clear on values and goals
6. Use critical thinking skills to make informed choices
7. Examine assumptions and opinions for validity
8. Practice being flexible and open-minded
9. Understand the connection between the freedom to choose and democracy
10. Practice using sensitivity and intuition in the decision-making process
11. Develop a comfort with ambiguity
TOPICAL OUTLINE

Introduction to public policy analysis (30%)
1. The need for analysis
2. What sort of problem what sort of analysis?
3. Illustration of analysis
4. Basic framework for analysis

Elements of analysis and decision making (35%)
5. Initiating the analytic process
6. Objectives
7. Criteria
8. Alternatives
9. Models
10. Quantitative methods and computer models
11. Qualitative methods and mental models
12. Comparing the impacts of alternatives
13. A case study in modeling: Reducing Fire Company Response Time
14. A case study in benefit measurement: public programs to save lives

Aspects of decision making (35%)
15. Evaluation and experiment
16. Planning
17. Acceptance
18. Implementation
19. Pitfalls and Limitations
20. Politics, ethics, and guidance from analysis