



# Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology Program

EKU's unique Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology program currently has **143 students and has grown 15% since 2016.**

Unfortunately, Kentucky law doesn't provide a pathway for EKU graduates to become licensed professional engineers. **So, EKU grads often leave Kentucky.**

There are two kinds of ABET accreditation. EKU is one of only two **ETAC**-ABET Fire Protection B.S. programs in the U.S. The University of Maryland is the only **EAC**-ABET accredited Fire Protection Engineering program in the U.S.

**University of Maryland graduates have an advantage over EKU graduates to get licensed in Kentucky.**

Most U.S. states provide a pathway for EKU graduates in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology to seek professional licensure, but **Kentucky does not.**

- EKU graduates pass the Principles & Practice of Engineering exam (PE) at the **same rate as the national average.**
- Kentucky recruitment is negatively impacted with no path to P.E. licensure.
- In Fall 2023, only 6.6% of students in EKU's program were Kentuckians.

**Kentucky should act now to keep EKU Fire Protection graduates in the Commonwealth to pursue their professional engineer license.**

## Testimonials

*"As an alumnus of EKU and employer in Kentucky, I love to hire EKU graduates from the fire program.*

*However, the KRS 322.040 requires me to look out of state to hire those that meet the Kentucky educational requirements to obtain a Fire Protection PE."*



**Tony Cole, PE**  
**Vice President, US Operations**  
Senex Consulting Fire  
Science and Engineering  
Lexington, KY  
EKU Fire Program Alumni

*"I work in Kentucky, but due to the educational requirements of KRS 322.040, I recently took and passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam through California and plan to obtain my fire protection PE the same way unless a change in Kentucky occurs."*



**Sean Vizgirda**  
**Lead Fire Protection**  
**Engineering Associate**  
KLH Engineers  
Fort Thomas, KY  
EKU Fire Program Alumni

# Recommended Change

## **KRS 322.040 Requirements for licensure as a professional engineer -- Education, experience**

(1) A person shall qualify for licensure as a professional engineer by meeting the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(a) A person shall qualify if he or she has:

1. Graduated from **one of the following**

a. An engineering program of four (4) years or more accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology or any engineering program deemed equivalent by the board; or

**b. A fire protection engineering technology program of four (4) years or more accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.**