Fire and emergency services throughout the country are being required by local governmental authorities to provide efficient and effective services. In 1996 the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) and the International Association of Fire Chief (IAFC) executed a master trust agreement that established the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) to award accreditation to those fire and emergency services that demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness in the services provided. As of this study, no documented research had been published that challenges the current CFAI Agency Accreditation process to ensure the highest level of accountability and usefulness for both the public and fire service organizations.

The Program Evaluation Standards, developed by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE) have become widely accepted and applied to evaluations across a diverse field of disciplines, due to the systematic and comprehensive nature this method provides for quality evaluations. The purpose of this dissertation was to assess the CFAI Agency Accreditation process against JCSEE (2011) *The Program Evaluation Standards* in order to determine whether the process meets professional evaluation standards and how the process can be improved.
A case study of a recent CFAI Agency Accreditation process was evaluated utilizing the JCSEE (2011) *The Program Evaluation Standards*, in conjunction with the Metaevaluation Checklist (Stufflebeam, 2011). The findings of this case study were then validated through the use of a sounding board consisting of subject member experts of the CFAI Agency Accreditation Process. The findings of this evaluation indicated the CFAI Agency Accreditation process had an overall strong compliance to that of the JCSEE (2011) *The Program Evaluation Standards*. Although the overall compliance was found to be strong, the CFAI Agency Accreditation process was found to be weak in the area of reliability. The results of this study suggest further research should be done on the interrater reliability of peer-assessors within the CFAI Agency Accreditation process.