

Mortuary Science and Funeral Service

The bachelor's degree program in Mortuary Science and Funeral Service is the only one of its kind offered at a public university within the state of Illinois.

Mortuary Science at Southern

Provides a challenging and rewarding academic curriculum that teaches students about the total aspects involved in the death and bereavement process.

The curriculum focuses on the funeral director's responsibility to help a family during its greatest time of need and on the embalmer's responsibility to disinfect, preserve, and restore human remains.

Making the Choice to Come to Southern

The bachelor's degree program in Mortuary Science and Funeral Services is the only one of its kind offered at a public university within the state of Illinois.

All MSFS faculty are licensed funeral directors and embalmers with a variety of experience. They are not only dedicated to the highest quality of education, but they are actively involved in professional research and state and national funeral associations.

Admissions

Due to a variety of circumstances, including rules of accreditation, limitations of facilities/internship sites, and faculty-student ratio, enrollment in the program is limited. It is recommended that students apply for admission well before the fall semester they wish to begin enrollment. Following admission to the University, students must submit a Mortuary Science and Funeral Service new student information packet to the Admissions Clerk. The packet is available at the program website.

On Campus

The MSFS program at SIU offers advanced education and quality facilities within a university environment.

In addition to the Carbondale facilities, students spend a semester long internship at a University approved funeral home.

Scholarships and Awards

Students who major in Mortuary Science and Funeral Service are eligible for a variety of scholarship opportunities through the University, the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, and from several local and national funeral service organizations.

For more information on some of these opportunities please visit SIU's financial aid webpage at: <http://fao.siu.edu/>

Student Organizations

This program is home to the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi Sigma, a business fraternity that provides the student with an opportunity to serve in the community and to network with the profession.

Support Services

- University Honors Program
- Career Services

- Disability Support Services
- Computer Labs

Student Profile

Many Mortuary Science and Funeral Service majors possess the following characteristics or traits:

- Caring and Compassionate
- Detail-Oriented
- Interested in Helping People
- Good Organizational Skills
- Friendly and Outgoing Personality

Career Opportunities

Employment opportunities for graduates include:

- Funeral Director and Embalmer
- Corporate Advancement in Management
- Pre-need and After-care Specialist
- Grief and Bereavement Support
- Public Relations
- Mortuary Education Instructor
- Casket or Chemical Sales/Marketing

Accreditation and Licensure

The Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program is accredited by:

American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE)
3432 Ashland Ave, Suite U
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816-233-3747
www.abfse.org

The annual pass rate of first time takers on the National Board Examination (NBE) for the most recent three year period for this institution and all ABFSE accredited funeral service education programs is posted on the ABFSE website. Students graduating from the program meet the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation licensing requirements.

Sample Course Sequence for Mortuary Science and Funeral Service Students

To graduate with a degree in Mortuary Science and Funeral Service, students must complete 120 credit hours of academic study. The Mortuary Science and Funeral Service curriculum is designed to be a flexible program to accommodate the needs of our incoming freshman, transfer students, and our students who may already have an A.A. or an A.S. degree. Transfer students or students who have completed an A.A. or A.S. may be eligible for the Capstone Option which reduces the number of hours required in the University Core Curriculum. Current requirements for students are:

Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
<u>Year 1</u>					
PLB or ZOOL 115	3	General Biology	ENGL 102	3	English Composition II
PSYC 102	3	Introduction to Psychology	MATH 101	3	Introduction to Contemporary Math
ENGL 101	3	English Composition I	ISAT 120	3	Fiscal Aspects of Applied Sciences
UCOL 101U	1	University College 101	CHEM 106	3	Chemistry and Society
SPCM 101	3	Introduction to Oral Communications	Select	3	University Core-Fine Arts
<u>Year 2</u>					
MSFS 101	3	Orientation to Funeral Service	MSFS 108	3	Funeral Service Psychology
SOC 108	3	Introduction to Sociology	IST 208	3	Applied Law
MSFS 256	3	Introduction to Microbiology	MSFS 257	3	Pathology
MSFS 240	3	Mortuary Regulations	MSFS 245	4	Restorative Art
AH 241	4	Anatomy and Physiology	Select	3	University Core-Humanities
<u>Year 3</u>					
MSFS 302/364	3/3	Color and Cosmetics/Cremation	PHIL 104	3	Ethics
MSFS 325a	4	Embalming Theory and Practice I	MSFS 325b	4	Embalming Theory and Practice II
MSFS 355	3	Embalming Chemistry	Select	2	University Core - Human Health
MSFS 270	2	Computers in Funeral Service	MSFS 340	3	Mortuary Law
Select	3	University Core - Multicultural	Select	5	MSFS Electives
<u>Year 4</u>					
MSFS 351	4	Mortuary Management	MSFS 410	5	Internship-Management
MSFS 352	3	Merchandising and Marketing	MSFS 411	5	Internship-Embalming
MSFS 360	4	Advanced Embalming Procedures	MSFS 412	2	Funeral Service Seminar
MSFS 401	2	Funeral Service Counseling			

All coursework must be completed before participating in the internship classes.

Courses identified in bold text are general education courses that are testable on the National Board Examination. These courses are required for the major in addition to the MSFS courses.

Contact Information:

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For More information, please visit our website: <http://www.sah.siu.edu/undergraduate/mortuary-science-funeral-service/index.php>