Mortuary Science

This is the Mortuary Science section of the 1999-2000 Undergraduate Catalog of the University of Minnesota.

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Mortuary Science

The Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota, established in 1908, was the first program of its kind in the country to be organized at a state university. During the first 50 years of its existence, the program grew from a 6-week session to a 36-week course of study. In 1951, a two-year curriculum leading to the associate in mortuary science degree was approved. The course of study for the associate degree was expanded to three years in 1955. The bachelor of science degree with a major in mortuary science, granted upon satisfactory completion of a four-year curriculum, was approved by the Board of Regents in 1968. Impetus for the changes in program length and academic credentials resulted from changes in the philosophy and needs of the funeral service profession. Currently, the Program of Mortuary Science is part of the Medical School.

The program is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, an agency recognized by the United States Office of Education, and the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc.

Aims and Purposes

Upon completing the curriculum requirements, the graduate will have received a solid liberal arts foundation; synthesized the psychosocial aspects of grief and the funeral directing arts; developed technical competence in applying funeral service sciences; and identified business, legal, and ethical principles related to funeral service practice.

Objectives

The objectives of the program recognize an obligation to students, the profession, and the community. They have been adopted with respect to requirements of the Program of Mortuary Science, the University of Minnesota, the American Board of Funeral Service Education, the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc., and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Upon completing the curriculum requirements for a bachelor of science degree with a major in mortuary science, the graduate will have identified and applied principles and theoretical concepts in the following areas:

- public health
- business
- natural sciences
- ethics
- behavioral science
- law

In addition, program graduates will have met the

- educational requirements prescribed by the American Board of Funeral Service Education; and
- requirements to become eligible for admittance to the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. National Board Examination.

Admission

Students usually enter the Program of Mortuary Science at the start of their junior year. Freshmen and sophomores interested in a mortuary science major are urged to contact the program office at A275 Mayo, Box 740, 420 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, for counsel in planning an appropriate preprofessional program. On the Twin Cities campus, freshmen and sophomores usually register in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) or General College (GC) for their premortuary science work. Admission criteria and other information related to CLA and GC can be found in their respective college sections in this catalog. Applicants transferring from any regionally accredited college or university are given the same consideration as those who transfer from within the University.

Applicants seeking admission to the Program of Mortuary Science who will be earning their first baccalaureate degree must have completed:

- the University of Minnesota high school preparation requirements (see “Freshman Admission” in the General Information section of this catalog).
- 60 semester credits with grades of A, B, C, or S from a regionally accredited college or university.
- prerequisite coursework with a GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.
- the preprofessional requirements of the Program of Mortuary Science—(a) at least one course in each of the areas of English composition, introduction to computers, a course which satisfies the mathematical thinking core requirement, general biology, accounting, general psychology, general chemistry with laboratory, a course which satisfies the historical perspectives core requirement, introduction to sociology, speech, microbiology*, human anatomy* plus (b) sufficient electives to total 60 credits.

(Students who already have a bachelor’s degree may be exempt from certain preprofessional requirements.)

Prospective students who have completed a college degree or have more than 60 semester credits should consult their adviser to determine the most appropriate academic term for admission. A student who has completed all of the admission requirements, liberal education requirements, and upper division electives may be eligible to enroll in the Senior Option and complete degree requirements in 15 months.

Liberal Education Requirements

For University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus liberal education requirements, see the Policies section of this catalog.

Students entering the Program of Mortuary Science who have already completed a bachelor’s degree, or have completed the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, are exempt from the liberal education requirements but must meet all other admission requirements.

*Prerequisites for enrolling in microbiology and anatomy at different colleges and universities may vary.


**Application Procedure**

**Transfer Within the University**—Students already admitted and registered at one college or campus of the University of Minnesota must submit an Application for Change of Status or College, available from the Office of the Registrar on any campus. Application deadlines for internal transfer are July 1 for fall semester admission, November 15 for spring semester admission, and April 15 for summer session admission.

**Transfer From Outside the University**—Those who have completed their preprofessional work at another university must apply for admission to the University of Minnesota. Transfer students should obtain the Application for Undergraduate Admission from the Office of Admissions, University of Minnesota, 240 Williamson Hall, 231 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612/625-2008); complete the form; and return it to that office. An official transcript from each institution outside the University where college work was attempted or completed must be sent to the Office of Admissions. A nonrefundable application fee is also required.

**Orientation**

Various orientation activities are offered to help students get acquainted with one another, the campus, and the program. These activities usually last one day and include individual and group meetings for program planning, and presentations on University resources and regulations. Students are notified of orientation dates at the time they receive registration information.

**Policies**

**Credit Load**

Most students take about 15 credits of coursework each semester. To take fewer than 12 credits per semester requires permission from the Student Scholastic Standing Committee. Registration for more than 18 credits per semester must also be approved by this committee.

**Scholastic Progress**

The scholastic probation system identifies, advises, and, if necessary, expels students who are having problems meeting academic standards.

Students’ work is considered unsatisfactory when they earn less than a C grade average (2.00 GPA) for all credits earned in a given semester or a given year.

If a student receives unsatisfactory grades in more than one course, either concurrently or in different academic terms, the matter is referred to the Student Scholastic Standing Committee for investigation and action. The student ordinarily is placed on probation. The student is then required to make a contract with the Student Scholastic Standing Committee, agreeing to complete a specified number of credits during the following academic term with grades of C or better. If terms of the contract are not fulfilled, the student may be declared academically ineligible to continue in the program.

Students may be expelled from the program for one of the following reasons:

- **Dropped for Low Scholarship**—Students who fail to meet the terms of their probation.
- **Hold for Committee Clearance**—Students who have scholastic difficulties that indicate they should interrupt their studies for the time being even though their record may not require official drop action. The Student Scholastic Standing Committee must approve a subsequent return to the program in such cases.

A student admitted to the program on probation must achieve satisfactory academic status during the first academic term of enrollment.

**Graduation Requirements**

To be recommended for the bachelor of science degree with a major in mortuary science, students must complete the University’s graduation requirements (see Policies section). In addition, students complete a minimum of 120 credits outlined in “Degree Requirements” on page 196.

**Certification/Licensure**

Students planning to practice in a state other than Minnesota should determine the qualifications for licensure by writing to the licensing agency in the state in which they intend to practice. These regulations vary from state to state, are frequently changed, and students should make certain they have accurate information.

**National Certification**—Program of Mortuary Science graduates are eligible to take the National Board Examination for Mortuary Science. The program arranges to have the test given on campus by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards.

**Advising**

Faculty advisers assist students with program and career planning. It is recommended that the student’s academic advisers approve student registrations for each academic term.

**Resources**

For information concerning financial aid available to all University students, see “Financial Aid” in the General Information section of this catalog. Students may obtain materials for mortuary science scholarships by contacting the Program of Mortuary Science, University of Minnesota, Box 740, 420 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (phone 612/624-6464; fax 612/626-4163). Offices are located at A275 Mayo Memorial Building, 401 Church Street S.E.

**Student Organization**

**Student Association of the Program of Mortuary Science**—Mortuary science majors automatically become members of this association, a forum for expressing student opinion and developing a liaison between students and faculty, and an organization to foster and support mortuary science education.

**Contact Information**

Program of Mortuary Science, University of Minnesota, Box 740, 420 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (phone 612/624-6464; fax 612/626-4163). Offices are located at A275 Mayo Memorial Building, 401 Church Street S.E.
Mortuary Science

B.S.
The program combines coursework in basic and behavioral sciences, business, and liberal arts. Students usually enter the program at the beginning of their junior year.

Degree Requirements
To complete the B.S., students must complete at least 120 credits, including at least 49 credits in the major. All courses must be completed with A, B, C, or S grades. The 120 credits include admission, preprofessional, liberal education, and required mortuary science courses. A minimum of 10 credits must be in upper division electives outside the major.

All mortuary science majors seeking their first baccalaureate degree must meet the Program of Mortuary Science writing-intensive course requirements.

Required Courses
Phar 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)

Junior Year
Fall Semester
Mort 3005—History of Funeral Service (2 cr)
Mort 3012—Organization and Management of Funeral Business (3 cr)
Mort 3025—Mortuary and Business Law (3 cr)
Electives (8-10 cr)

Spring Semester
PubH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)
Mort 3016—Funeral Service Marketing and Merchandising (3 cr)
Mort 3020—Funeral Psychology and Counseling (3 cr)
Electives (8-10)

Senior Year
Fall Semester
Mort 3014—Funeral Service Rules and Regulations (3 cr)
Mort 3051—Restorative Art (2 cr)
Mort 3055—Issues of Loss, Grief, and Bereavement (3 cr)
Mort 3061—Embalming I (3 cr)
Mort 3151—Restorative Art Laboratory (1 cr)
Mort 3161—Embalming I Laboratory (1 cr)
Electives (3 cr)

Spring Semester
Mort 3018—Funeral Practice (3 cr)
Mort 3062—Embalming II (3 cr)
Mort 3162—Embalming II Laboratory (1 cr)
Mort 3370—Funeral Service Seminar (1 cr)
LaMP 3050—Pathology for Mortuary Science Students (3 cr)
Electives (4-6)

Summer Session
Mort 3380—Funeral Service Practicum (8 cr)

Electives—Mort 3091—Independent Study in Funeral Service (1-3 cr) can be applied toward the major.

Final Project
Students complete an off-campus practicum. This capstone experience is completed only after all other degree requirements have been met. The program places eligible candidates in affiliated funeral homes. Under supervision, students participate in all aspects of funeral service practice.