



Mortuary Science

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Mortuary Science

General Information

The Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota, established in 1908, was the first program of its kind in this 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, 38 Florida Avenue, Portland, ME 04103 (207-878-6530), an agency recognized by the United States Office of Education.

Mission

The mission of the program is to skillfully combine the basic, behavioral, and applied sciences in such a way as to prepare its graduates for careers as outstanding funeral service professionals.

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.

The objectives are as follows:

- to enlarge the background and knowledge of students about the funeral service profession;
- to educate students in every phase of funeral service, and to help them develop the proficiency and skills necessary in the profession;
- to educate students concerning the responsibilities of the funeral service profession to the community at large;
- to emphasize high standards of ethical conduct;
- to provide a curriculum at the postsecondary level of instruction; and
- to encourage research in the field of funeral service.

Admission

Students usually enter the Program of Mortuary Science at the beginning of their junior year. Freshmen and sophomores interested in a mortuary science major are urged to contact the program office at A275 Mayo, MMC 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 coursework. 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's high school preparation requirements (see Freshman Admission in the General Information section of this catalog).
- at least 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 Program of Mortuary Science's preprofessional requirements—(a) at least one course in each of the areas of English composition, computer science, statistics, general biology with laboratory, accounting, general psychology, general chemistry with laboratory, a course that satisfies the historical perspectives core requirement, introduction to sociology, speech, human anatomy and physiology, plus (b) sufficient electives to total 60 credits. (Students who have already completed a bachelor's degree may be exempt from certain preprofessional requirements.)

A student who has completed all of the admission and liberal education requirements may be able to complete degree requirements in three semesters.

Immunizations—A signed health clearance form with proof of immunizations is a condition for enrollment, unless a student qualifies for exemption. Immunization for the following are required: Mantoux Tuberculin test and immunizations for Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Hepatitis B, Varicella, and Tetanus/Diphtheria. Students may be exempt if a vaccine is contraindicated due to potential allergic reactions or pregnancy.

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. They must meet all other admission requirements.

Application Procedure

Transfer Within the University—Students already admitted to one college or campus of the University of Minnesota must submit an *Application for Undergraduate Change of College* form, available from the One Stop Student Services Center on any campus. Application deadline for internal transfer is June 1 for fall semester admission.

Transfer From Outside the University—Students who have completed their preprofessional coursework at another university must apply for admission to the University of Minnesota. Transfer students should obtain the *Application for Transfer Admission* from the Office of Admissions, 240 Williamson Hall, 231 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-625-2008, or 1-800-752-1000); complete the form; and return it to that office; or they can apply online at http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/trans_applications.html. An official transcript from each institution outside the University where coursework 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 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 13 credits per semester requires permission from the Student Scholastic Advisory Committee. Registration for more than 20 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, the matter is referred to the Student Scholastic Advisory Committee for investigation and action. The student ordinarily is placed on probation. The student is then required to make a contract with the 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. In such cases, the Student Scholastic Advisory Committee must approve a subsequent return to the program.

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). Students must complete a minimum of 120 credits as outlined in Degree Requirements.

Accreditation

As of January 1, 2004, each accredited program in funeral service education must require that each funeral service education student take the National Board Examination as a requirement for graduation. Also, each program must maintain, and visibly post for review of current and prospective students, the most recent three-year average score of first-time takers on the entire National Board Examination. Programs must maintain at least a 60 percent annual student pass rate of first-time takers on the National Board Examination.

The University of Minnesota Program of Mortuary Science National Board Examination pass rate statistics are as follows:

In 2003, 31 students took the examination for the first time—29 (93.5 percent) passed with an average score of 84, 2 (6.5 percent) failed with an average score of 75. In 2002, 29 students took the examination for the first time—25 (86.2 percent) passed with an average score of 86, 4 (13.8 percent) failed with an average score of 73. In 2001, 32 students took the examination for the first time—28 (87.5 percent) passed with an average score of 85, 4 (12.5 percent) failed with an average score of 72.

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, may change frequently, and students should make certain they have accurate information.

Advising

Advisers assist students with program and career planning. It is recommended that the student's academic adviser approve student registrations for each academic term.

Financial Aid

For information concerning financial aid, students should contact the Office of Student Finance, 200 Fraser Hall, 106 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-1111), or visit www.onestop.umn.edu/Finances/index_schol.html for grant and scholarship resources.

The Program of Mortuary Science is the only program in the world housed in a medical school at a major research institution.

Student Organization

Student Association of the Program of Mortuary Science—Each student enrolled in the program automatically becomes a member of this association, which serves as a forum for expressing student opinions about mortuary science education, 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, MMC 740, 420 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-6464; fax 612-626-4163; e-mail mortsci@umn.edu). Offices are located at A275 Mayo Memorial Building, 401 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Mortuary Science

Degree Program

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

Students must complete at least 120 credits with grades of A, B, C, or S to graduate, including at least 56 credits in the major, with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00. The 120 credits include admission, preprofessional, and liberal education requirements, and required mortuary science courses.

For students earning their first baccalaureate degree, a minimum of 60 credits must be earned at 3xxx or higher. Students must also satisfy the University's writing intensive requirement. In addition to one lower division English composition course, students must complete four courses designated as writing intensive, at least two of which must be upper division, including one in the student's major. Students also are responsible for satisfying the University's liberal education requirements.

For students who have completed their first baccalaureate degree from an accredited college, admission with advanced standing status is often possible. These individuals, as well as those who have completed the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, are exempt from the liberal education requirements, but must meet all other admission and degree requirements as outlined by the University and the Program of Mortuary Science.

A typical schedule for a student matriculating into the program as a junior is outlined below.

Junior Year

Fall Semester (19 cr plus electives)

Mort 3005—History of Funeral Service (2 cr)
Mort 3014—Funeral Service Rules and Regulations (3 cr)
Mort 3021W—Funeral Service Psychology (3 cr)
Mort 3049—Microbiology (2 cr)
Mort 3171—Human Anatomy Laboratory (2 cr)
Mort 3370—Funeral Service Seminar (2 cr)
Mort 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
Phar 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)
Electives

Spring Semester (15 cr plus electives)

Mort 3018—Funeral Practice (3 cr)
Mort 3022W—Funeral Service Counseling (3 cr)
Mort 3061—Embalming Theory (3 cr)
Mort 3161—Embalming Laboratory (1 cr)
Mort 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
PubH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)
Electives

Senior Year

Fall Semester (14 cr plus electives)

ABus 4103—Marketing and Sales (3 cr)
Mort 3025—Business Law (3 cr)
Mort 3051—Restorative Art (2 cr)
Mort 3065—Embalming Chemistry (2 cr)
Mort 3151—Restorative Art Laboratory (1 cr)
Mort 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
Electives

Spring Semester (12 cr plus electives)

ABus 4511—Small Business Survival Skills (3 cr)
Mort 3030—Funeral Service Law (3 cr)
Mort 3050—Forensic Pathology: the Anatomy of Death Investigation, Forensic Pathology for the Living (3 cr)
Mort 3055W—Complicated Grief (3 cr) (elective)
One Business course (choice of one of the following):
ABus 4022—Managing Organizational Relationships (3 cr)
ABus 4031—Accessing and Using Information Effectively (3 cr)
ABus 4501—Entrepreneurship (3 cr)
or other course approved by the program
Electives

Advanced Standing Plan

Two Semesters and Summer Session

This plan is only open to applicants who have an outstanding academic course record and who have already completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, or have completed the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and are exempt from the liberal education requirements. To decrease the number of credits taken as part of this curriculum, students may be able to transfer into the program similar courses from other institutions (i.e., business law, marketing and sales, small business management, microbiology, personal/community health, medical or health sciences terminology). Before registering for such courses, students should contact the program office to determine if a course will be approved for transfer credit.

Fall Semester (25 cr)

ABus 4103—Marketing and Sales (3 cr)
Mort 3014—Funeral Service Rules and Regulations (3 cr)
Mort 3021W—Funeral Service Psychology (3 cr)
Mort 3025—Business Law (3 cr)
Mort 3049—Microbiology (2 cr)
Mort 3061—Embalming Theory (3 cr)
Mort 3161—Embalming Laboratory (1 cr)
Mort 3171—Human Anatomy Laboratory (2 cr)
Mort 3370—Funeral Service Seminar (2 cr)
Mort 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)

Spring Semester (22 cr)

ABus 4511—Small Business Survival Skills (3 cr)
Mort 3022W—Funeral Service Counseling (3 cr)
Mort 3030—Funeral Service Law (3 cr)
Mort 3050—Forensic Pathology: the Anatomy of Death Investigation, Forensic Pathology for the Living (3 cr)
Mort 3051—Restorative Art (2 cr)
Mort 3151—Restorative Art Laboratory (1 cr)
Mort 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
Phar 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)
PubH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)

Summer Session (13 cr)

Mort 3005—History of Funeral Service (2 cr)
Mort 3018—Funeral Practice (3 cr)
Mort 3065—Embalming Chemistry (2 cr)
Mort 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
One Business course (choice of one of the following):
ABus 4022—Managing Organizational Relationships (3 cr)
ABus 4031—Accessing and Using Information Effectively (3 cr)
ABus 4501—Entrepreneurship (3 cr)
or other course approved by the program