Program of
MORTUARY SCIENCE

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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.

Accreditation
The Program of Mortuary Science is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 3432 Ashland Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri, 64506, (816-233-3747). The annual passage 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 Web site, www.abfse.org.

Mission
Funeral directors are health care professionals who serve others during a time of loss, pain, and grief. The mission of this program is to skillfully combine the study of behavioral, physical, and applied sciences for the goal of preparing graduates for careers as knowledgeable, skilled, and innovative funeral service professionals. Program graduates will be prepared to serve bereaved members of their communities in a manner that is proficient, dignified, and caring.

Objectives
The program recognizes an obligation to students, the profession, and the community. Its objectives have been adopted by the program’s Advisory Board, and conform with the accreditation standards set forth by the American Board of Funeral Service Education.

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

Goals
The goals of the program include
• synthesizing psychosocial aspects of grief and the funeral directing arts;
• developing technical competence in applying funeral service sciences to the care of the disposition of the dead; and
• developing an understanding of business, legal, and ethical theories and principles related to funeral service practice.

Aims
Upon entrance into the workforce as funeral directors, graduates will be able to
• provide support to the bereaved during the initial stages of their grief;
• prepare a decedent’s body for final disposition according to the wishes of the survivors and in accordance with the law;
• secure information for legal documents;
• handle business-related tasks required of mortuary operations;
• advise and give counsel to survivors regarding various funeralization options; and
• help survivors adapt to changes in their lives following a death, through counseling and support group activities.

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) for their premortuary science coursework. Admission criteria and other information related to CLA can be found in the CLA section 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 who will be earning their first baccalaureate degree must have completed the following.
• The University of Minnesota’s high school preparation requirements (see Freshman Admission in the General Information section of this catalog).
• At least 60 transferable semester credits with grades of A, B, C, or S from a regionally accredited college or university.
• Prerequisite coursework with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.
• Preprofessional requirements of the Program of Mortuary Science:
  a. at least one course in each of the areas of English composition, statistics, general biology with lab, accounting, general psychology, general chemistry with lab, introduction to sociology, speech, human anatomy and physiology, and
  b. sufficient electives to total 60 credits.

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 after admission, unless a student qualifies for exemption. Immunization from, or immunity to, the following is required: Hepatitis B, Measles/Mumps/Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus/Diphtheria, and Mantoux (PPD)—annual and two-step tests. Students may be exempt if a vaccine is contraindicated due to potential allergic reactions or pregnancy. For more information, visit [www.bhs.umn.edu/services/immunizationservices.htm](http://www.bhs.umn.edu/services/immunizationservices.htm).

**Liberal Education Requirements**

For University of Minnesota, Twin Cities 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 are exempt from the liberal education requirements, but 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 Web site, [www.onestop.umn.edu](http://www.onestop.umn.edu) or One Stop Centers on any campus.

**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); and return it to that office; or they can apply online at [http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/trans_applications.htm](http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/trans_applications.htm). 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.

The priority deadline for application is March 1 for fall semester admission. Applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

**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.

**Academic Performance Standards**

The Student Scholastic Advisory Committee decides upon appropriate actions when notified that a student is experiencing problems meeting academic standards.

A student’s work is considered unsatisfactory when the student earns a GPA in a given semester (including summer session) below 2.00. If a student’s GPA drops below 2.00, the student receives a letter from the program director and is required to meet with the director to discuss the student’s academic progress within the program. The student is then automatically placed on academic probation for one semester. While on academic probation, the student must complete the probationary term with a GPA of at least 2.50 and earn no grades below C. (A C- is unsatisfactory.) Failure to meet these criteria results in automatic suspension from the program. The period of suspension begins on the first day following the end of the probationary term and terminates no earlier than the last class day of the following 15-week academic semester. Thus, if a student is suspended at the end of spring semester, the earliest term for which the student can register is spring semester of the following year.

Upon return to the program following academic suspension, the student must complete a second probationary term with a GPA of at least 2.75 and earn no grades below C. (A C- is unsatisfactory.) Following a period of suspension, failure to meet these criteria results in automatic dismissal from the program. Once dismissed from the program for failure to meet academic performance standards, a student must apply for readmission. Students may not reapply for readmission until one calendar year after the date of dismissal has passed.

**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 complete a minimum of 120 credits outlined in Degree Requirements.

**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 advisers approve student registrations for each academic term.

**Financial Aid**

For information about financial aid and grant and scholarship resources, students should visit One Stop Student Services. For more information, see the General Information section of this catalog.

**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.

**Directory**

**Program of Mortuary Science**

University of Minnesota
MMC 740
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-624-6464
Fax: 612-626-4163
Web site: [www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu](http://www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu)
E-mail: mortsci@umn.edu

**Office**

A275 Mayo Memorial Building,
401 Church Street S.E.,
Minneapolis, MN 55455
The Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education; International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc.; and Minnesota Department of Health.

The Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 3432 Ashland Avenue, Suite U, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506 (816-233-3747). The annual passage 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 Web site: [www.abfse.org](http://www.abfse.org).

Students usually enter the program at the start of their junior year. An advanced standing plan is open to applicants with outstanding course records and who are college graduates. Upon admission, students are required to submit proof of certain immunizations and vaccinations.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit [http://admissions.tc.umn.edu](http://admissions.tc.umn.edu).

### Admission Requirements

Students must complete 60 credits before admission to the program. Freshmen and transfer students are usually admitted to pre-major status before admission to this major.

A GPA above 2.00 is preferred for the following:

- 2.50 for students already admitted to the degree-granting college.
- 2.50 for students transferring from another University of Minnesota college.
- 2.50 for students transferring from outside the University.

Upon admission, students are required to submit proof of certain immunizations and vaccinations.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit [http://admissions.tc.umn.edu](http://admissions.tc.umn.edu).

### Pre-Mortuary Science Courses

Students usually enter the program at the beginning of their junior year. Freshmen and sophomores are urged to contact the program office for counsel in planning an appropriate preprofessional program. The following courses are required for admission to the B.S. program (except PUBH 3001 and PHAR 1002, which are not required but strongly recommended).

**Medical School**

- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120.
- Required credits within the major: 60.
- This program requires summer terms.

The Program of Mortuary Science combines coursework in the basic and behavioral sciences with instruction in the liberal arts.

Funeral directors are health care professionals who serve others during a time of loss, pain, and grief. The mortuary science program prepares graduates to serve bereaved members of their communities in a manner that is proficient, dignified, and caring. Program objectives conform with standards of the American Board of Funeral Service Education; International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc.; and Minnesota Department of Health.

Students usually enter the program at the beginning of their junior year. An advanced standing plan is open to applicants with outstanding course records and who are college graduates. Upon admission, students are required to submit proof of certain immunizations and vaccinations.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit [http://admissions.tc.umn.edu](http://admissions.tc.umn.edu).

### Program Requirements

60 credits of upper division coursework are required.

Students must pass a comprehensive program examination prior to being certified to sit for the National Board Examination. Details of the examination process are available on the program’s Web site: [www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu](http://www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu).

#### Junior Year Courses

- MORT 3005—History of Funeral Service (2 cr)
- MORT 3014—Funeral Service Rules and Regulations (2 cr)
- MORT 3018—Funeral Practice (3 cr)
- MORT 3019—Funeral Practice II (3 cr)
- MORT 3021W—Funeral Service Psychology, WI (3 cr)
- MORT 3022W—Funeral Service Counseling, WI (3 cr)
- MORT 3049—Microbiology (2 cr)
- MORT 3061—Embalm Theory (3 cr)
- MORT 3161—Embalm Laboratory (1 cr)
- MORT 3171—Human Anatomy Laboratory (2 cr)
- MORT 3370—Death and Dying Across Cultures and Religions (3 cr)
- MORT 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
- PHAR 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)
- PUBH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)

#### Senior Year Courses

- MORT 3012—Organization and Management of Funeral Business (3 cr)
- MORT 3016—Funeral Service Marketing and Merchandising (3 cr)
- MORT 3025—Business Law (3 cr)
- MORT 3030—Funeral Service Law (2 cr)
- MORT 3050—Pathology (3 cr)
- MORT 3051—Restorative Art (2 cr)
- MORT 3065—Embalm Chemistry (3 cr)
- MORT 3151—Restorative Art Laboratory (1 cr)

- Comprehensive program examination covering learning objectives specified by the American Board of Funeral Service Education
- 30 minute interview conducted with program director, framed by a 3–5 page essay prepared by the student. Feedback is used to improve instructional quality. The exit interview supports ABFSE Accreditation Standard 11: Program Planning, Evaluation, and Assessment.

- After January 1, 2004, each accredited program in funeral service education must require that each funeral service student take the National Board Examination (NBE) as a requirement for graduation. (ABFSE Accreditation Standard 11.5)