

Program of **MORTUARY SCIENCE**

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NOTE: *The information on pages 321a–326a was updated July 22, 2011, and is current for Fall 2011.*

Program of MORTUARY SCIENCE

General Information

Mortuary Science B.S.

Medical School

- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120.
- Required credits within the major: 85.
- This program requires summer terms.

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 (B.S.) 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.

Students typically enter the program at the start of their junior year. An advanced standing plan is open to applicants with outstanding course records and who already hold their first bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, or who have completed the University's liberal education requirements. To decrease the number of credits taken as a part of this curriculum, students may be able to transfer similar courses from other institutions (for example, microbiology, personal/community health, and medical or health sciences terminology). Contact the program office before applying to determine if courses will be approved for transfer credit. For more information about the program of Mortuary Science, please visit the program's website, www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu, or contact the program office (612-624-6464).

Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program with a major in mortuary science at the University of Minnesota is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) 3414 Ashland Avenue, Suite G, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506 (816-233-3747). Web: www.abfse.org. 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 website (www.abfse.org).

Mission

Funeral directors are health care professionals who serve others during a time of loss, pain and grief. The mission of the 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.

Aims

The Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota states as its central aims the recognition of the importance of funeral service personnel as:

- members of a human services profession;
- members of the community in which they serve;
- participants in the relationship between bereaved families and those engaged in the funeral service profession;
- professionals knowledgeable of and compliant with federal, state, provincial/territorial, and local regulatory guidelines in the geographic area where they practice;
- professionals sensitive to the responsibility for public health, safety, and welfare in caring for human remains.

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:

1. To enlarge the background and knowledge of students about the funeral service profession
2. To educate students in every phase of funeral service, and to help enable them to develop proficiency and skills necessary for the profession
3. To educate students concerning the responsibilities of the funeral service profession to the community at large
4. To emphasize high standards of ethical conduct
5. To provide a curriculum at the post-secondary level of instruction
6. To encourage student and faculty research in the field of funeral service
7. To encourage faculty and students to be advocates for the profession of funeral service

Admission Requirements

Students are typically required to complete at least 60 college credits (with a grade of C- or higher) as a prerequisite for admission to the program. The preferred minimum grade point average for admission to the program is 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.

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 pre-professional 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).

BIOL 1001—Introductory Biology I: Evolutionary and Ecological Perspectives (4 cr)
or BIOL 1009—General Biology (4 cr)
or PSTL 1131—Principles of Biological Science (4 cr)
 CHEM 1021—Chemical Principles I (4 cr)
or CHEM 1015—Introductory Chemistry: Lecture (3 cr)
and CHEM 1017—Introductory Chemistry: Laboratory (1 cr)
 PSTL 1135—Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology (4 cr)
or ANAT 3001—Human Anatomy (3 cr)
or ANAT 3601—Principles of Human Anatomy (3 cr)
or ANAT 3611—Principles of Human Anatomy (3 cr)
 ACCT 2050—Introduction to Financial Reporting (4 cr)
 PSY 1001—Introduction to Psychology (4 cr)
 WRIT 1301—University Writing (4 cr)
 SOC 1001—Introduction to Sociology (4 cr)
 COMM 1101—Introduction to Public Speaking (3 cr)
 EPSY 3264—Basic and Applied Statistics (3 cr)
or EPSY 5261—Introductory Statistical Methods (3 cr)
or PSY 3801—Introduction to Psychology Measurement and Data Analysis (4 cr)
or PSTL 1004—Statistics (4 cr)
or STAT 3011—Introduction to Statistical Analysis (4 cr)
or SOC 3811—Basic Social Statistics (4 cr)
 PHAR 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)
 PUBH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)

Application Procedures

Applications for admission to the program are submitted online through the University's Office of Admissions. Freshmen and sophomores interested in a mortuary science major are urged to contact the program office (email: mortsci@umn.edu; telephone: 612-624-6464; or mail: Program of Mortuary Science, 420 Delaware Street S.E., MMC 740; Minneapolis, MN 55455) for counsel in planning an appropriate pre-professional program. Additional information about the program is available at www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu. To begin the online admissions application process, please visit the following website: <http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/Apply/index.html>. If you are unsure about how to apply for admission after you visit this website, please contact the program office (612-624-6464) for assistance.

Letters of Recommendation and Professional Statement

Applicants must provide the program with two letters of recommendation and a professional statement as part of the application process. Criteria for the letters of recommendation and professional statement are found on the following websites:

1. **A Professional Statement**—Instructions for preparing the Professional Statement are found on the program's website: www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu/admissions/application/index.htm.
2. **Two letters of recommendation**—Instructions for soliciting letters of recommendation are found on the program's website: www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu/admissions/application/index.htm.

The program begins its review of application files in February and offers admission on a rolling basis. Because of the competitive nature of the admissions process, applicants are advised to submit their application materials (which include the professional statement and letters of recommendation) by February 1. Applicants are also advised to carefully follow the instructions for completing the personal statement and letters of recommendation. In addition to the consideration of an applicant's grades, the Admissions Committee spends a significant amount of time reviewing each applicant's professional statement and letters of recommendation. The applicant is strongly advised to craft a professional statement that clearly demonstrates s/he is an outstanding candidate for admission to the program.

Program Requirements

This program requires 120 credits (with a grade of C- or better) to graduate, 85 of which are within the major. A minimum of 60 credits of upper division coursework are required. This program also requires the completion of a clinical rotation over summer term.

Additionally, all students must take the National Board Examination of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards as a requirement for graduation, as per American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) Accreditation Standard 11.5.

Traditional Plan

Junior Year Courses

Fall Semester (13 credits plus electives)

MORT 3012W—Organization and Management of Funeral Business, WI (3 cr)
MORT 3021W—Funeral Service Psychology (3 cr)
MORT 3049—Microbiology (2 cr)
MORT 3370—Death and Dying Across Cultures and Religions (3 cr)
PHAR 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)
Liberal Education and/or Elective courses, depending on previous academic preparation

Spring Semester (10 credits plus electives)

MORT 3005—History of Funeral Service (2 cr)
MORT 3014—Funeral Service Rules and Regulations (2 cr)
MORT 3065—Embalming Chemistry (2 cr)
ANAT 3602—Principles of Human Anatomy Laboratory (2 cr)
PUBH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)
Liberal Education and/or Elective courses, depending on previous academic preparation

Senior Year Courses

Fall Semester (13 credits plus electives)

MORT 3018—Funeral Practice (3 cr)
MORT 3025—Business Law (3 cr)
MORT 3051—Restorative Art (2 cr)
MORT 3061—Embalming Theory (3 cr)
MORT 3151—Restorative Art Laboratory (1 cr)
MORT 3161—Embalming Laboratory (1 cr)
Liberal Education and/or Elective courses, depending on previous academic preparation

Spring Semester (17 credits)

MORT 3016—Funeral Service Marketing and Merchandising (3 cr)
MORT 3019—Funeral Practice II (3 cr)
MORT 3022W—Funeral Service Arrangements (3 cr)
MORT 3030—Funeral Service Law (2 cr)
MORT 3050—Pathology (3 cr)
MORT 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
Liberal Education and/or Elective courses, depending on previous academic preparation

May Session (3 credits)

MORT 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)
Take the National Board Examination of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards. **Note:** *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).*

Advanced Standing Plan

Fall Semester (21 credits)

MORT 3005—History of Funeral Service (2 cr)
MORT 3012W—Organization and Management of Funeral Business, WI (3 cr)
MORT 3014—Funeral Service Rules and Regulations (2 cr)
MORT 3018—Funeral Practice (3 cr)
MORT 3021W—Funeral Service Psychology (3 cr)
MORT 3025—Business Law (3 cr)
MORT 3370—Death and Dying Across Cultures and Religions (3 cr)
PHAR 1002—Health Sciences Terminology (2 cr)

Spring Semester (25 credits)

MORT 3016—Funeral Service Marketing and Merchandising (3 cr)
MORT 3019—Funeral Practice II (3 cr)
MORT 3022W—Funeral Service Arrangements (3 cr)
MORT 3030—Funeral Service Law (2 cr)
MORT 3050—Pathology (3 cr)
MORT 3051—Restorative Art (2 cr)
MORT 3061—Embalming Theory (3 cr)
MORT 3151—Restorative Art Laboratory (1 cr)
MORT 3161—Embalming Laboratory (1 cr)
ANAT 3602—Principles of Human Anatomy Laboratory (2 cr)
PUBH 3001—Personal and Community Health (2 cr)

May Session (3 credits)

MORT 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)

Summer Session (7 credits)

MORT 3049—Microbiology (2 cr)
MORT 3065—Embalming Chemistry (2 cr)
MORT 3379—Clinical Funeral Service Rotation (3 cr)

Take the National Board Examination of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards. **Note:** *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).*

Program Sub-plans

A sub-plan is not required for this program.

Honors (UHP) Sub-plan

Students admitted to the University Honors Program (UHP) must fulfill UHP requirements in addition to degree program requirements. Honors courses used to fulfill degree program requirements will also fulfill UHP requirements. Current departmental honors course offerings are listed at www.honors.umn.edu.

Honors students complete an honors thesis project in the final year, most often in conjunction with an honors thesis course, or with an honors directed studies or honors directed research course. Students select honors courses and plan for a thesis project in consultation with their UHP adviser and their departmental faculty adviser.

Immunizations

Upon admission to the program, students are required to submit proof of certain immunizations and vaccinations. 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 the Boynton Health Service website: <http://www.bhs.umn.edu>.

Liberal Education Requirements

For a complete discussion of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities liberal education requirements, please refer the University's One Stop student services website: www.onestop.umn.edu for policies relating to liberal education course requirements. (See also http://onestop.umn.edu/degree_planning/lib_ed/index.html.)

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.

Additional Information

Policies

The One Stop Student Services website is the primary policy resource for students at the University of Minnesota. Please visit www.onestop.umn.edu for a complete listing of policies and resources available to students.

The program publishes its own Policies and Procedures handbook, which is available for download on the program's website: www.mortuaryscience.umn.edu. Please refer to this handbook for a complete listing of policies that pertain specifically to the operation of this program.

Graduation Requirements

To be recommended for the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree with a major in mortuary science, students must complete a minimum of 120 credits, as outlined (above) in the Program Requirements section of this catalog. Students must have a University of Minnesota cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 to graduate from the program.

Certification/Licensure

Because licensing regulations vary from state to state (and are subject to change without notice), students who desire to practice mortuary science in a state other than Minnesota are advised to investigate the qualifications for licensure in the state(s) where they intend to practice. Nearly every state has a regulatory board that oversees the licensing of mortuary science practitioners. Licensing information is typically available on the state regulatory board's website. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have accurate information about academic preparation required for licensure in the state(s) where they intend to practice mortuary science.

Advising

A staff member in the program office serves as an adviser to students with respect academic program planning. Each student is required to formulate a degree completion plan in consultation with this adviser. Students must meet with the adviser at least one time each semester to discuss their academic plan. The purpose of these meetings is to insure that the student will complete their academic requirements for graduation in a timely manner.

Financial Aid

For information about financial aid and grant and scholarship resources, students should visit One Stop Student Services website: (www.onestop.umn.edu), or refer to the General Information section of this catalog.

Student Organization

The purpose of the Mortuary Science Student Association (MSSA) is to serve as a liaison between students and faculty, and to foster and support mortuary science education. The MSSA is governed by a board of student-elected officers who provide leadership to the organization. The MSSA holds monthly meetings during which issues of concern to students are discussed. The MSSA also engages in activities such as field trips, study sessions, and the facilitation of guest speaker events.

Directory

Program of Mortuary Science

University of Minnesota

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