

Funeral Service Education

Degree: A.S. - Funeral Service Education

Area: Health & Education

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The Funeral Service Education program at American River College prepares students to work with the bereaved providing sensitive and effective intervention during a time of need. The goal of the Funeral Service Education program is to prepare a graduate who is eligible for licensure to practice as a funeral service practitioner. Students are prepared for employment as funeral service practitioners and embalmers through courses in funeral service management, embalming, anatomy, restorative art, funeral service fundamentals, funeral service counseling and mortuary law.

The Funeral Service Education Program consists of a combination of general education and funeral service education courses with related laboratory experience in local funeral service agencies. Successful completion of the program qualifies the student to take the California Board examination to become a licensed embalmer eligible for employment. After January 1, 2004 all students who graduate from the American River College Funeral Services Education Program must also take the National Board Examination. Completion of this program enables the student to take the California Board Examination.

NOTE: A person convicted of any offense other than a minor traffic violation will be required to declare this on the application to take the licensing exam. This may affect eligibility for the written exam.

Career Opportunities

According to the Occupational Outlook handbook published by the U.S. Department of Labor, employment opportunities for funeral directors are expected to be excellent. One reason is that the number of graduates in funeral service education is likely to continue to be less than the number of job openings in the field. The nature of funeral service is changing more rapidly than at any point in American history. The opportunities available for graduates are greater and more expansive than at any other time. Funeral service professionals can elect to specialize in embalming and cosmetic techniques, counseling, pre-need or at-need advising. Funeral service education also provides an excellent background for

pursuits in many rapidly growing areas. Available opportunities in allied fields include the sales of merchandise such as caskets, vaults and memorial monuments, involvement in coroner's and medical examiners's offices, and marketing.

Requirements for Pre-enrollment to the program:

1. Graduation from an accredited high school or G.E.D.
2. A grade of C or better in the following courses: Biology 100 and 101 or Biology 102; Funeral Service Education 100

Pre-Enrollment Deadlines:

Pre-enrollment forms are available from the Health and Education Division office. Only completed application packets will be considered. Completed applications must include high school transcript or G.E.D. and all official college transcripts. Refer to current information sheet. Grades in progress will be accepted.

Enrollment

Only students who meet the pre-enrollment requirements and follow the pre-enrollment procedures will be considered for the program.

The student admitted to the Funeral Service Education program is required to have a physical examination and required inoculations prior to the start of the semester. Selection is based on a random selection process should the number of applicants exceed available spaces in the program.

Requirements for Degree Major: 58 units

Core Requirements	Units
ACCT 101	3
BIOL 102	4
BIOL 440	4
CHEM 305	5
Computer Information Science	1
ENGWR 103 or BUS 310	3
FSE 100	2
PSYC 390	3
SPEECH 301 or 331	3

Concentration Requirements	Units
FSE 110	3
FSE 111	2
FSE 120	2
FSE 121	2
FSE 130	3
FSE 140	1
FSE 150	3
FSE 155	3

Funeral Service Education

FSE 160	3
FSE 170	3
FSE 297	5

General Education Graduation Requirements

Students must also complete the general education graduation requirements for an A.S. degree. See Graduation requirements.

FSE 100 Introduction to Funeral Service Education 1 Unit

Formerly: FSE 50

Prerequisite: None

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is a survey of the history and comprehensive overview of the field of funeral service. Emphasis is on the role and skills of the funeral service practitioner. It provides an understanding of the funeral service industry and its career opportunities.

FSE 110 Funeral Directing I 3 Units

Formerly: FSE 52

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Funeral Service Education program.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is designed to introduce the general practices of funeral directing. It introduces the sociological phenomena that affect all the elements of funeral service including ethnic groups, family structures, and factors of change that relate to funeralization. It also includes notification of death, transfer and disposition of bodies, arrangement conferences, pre-planned funerals and post-arrangement follow-up.

FSE 111 Funeral Directing II 2 Units

Formerly: FSE 62

Prerequisite: FSE 110 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course introduces the basic philosophies of a cross-section of religious and ethnic funeral practices and the role of the funeral practitioner in directing each type. Also included are procedures for fraternal, military, and celebrity funerals.

FSE 120 Embalming I 2 Units

Formerly: FSE 51

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Funeral Service Education program.

Corequisite: FSE 130.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to the phenomenon of death in the human body. It includes the processes of preservation, restoration and sanitation in treating the dead human body.

FSE 121 Embalming II 2 Units

Formerly: FSE 61

Prerequisite: FSE 120 and 130 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course is a continuation of Embalming I. It is the study of vascular anatomy, case analysis, the selection and injection of embalming fluids, and treatment of specific conditions requiring special attention.

FSE 130 Restorative Art 3 Units

Formerly: FSE 53

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Funeral Service Education program.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the techniques of creating an acceptable physical appearance of the deceased for the benefit of the survivors. Included are the study of facial features, cosmetics, and restorative treatment for a variety of situations faced by the practitioner.

FSE 140 Pathology 1 Unit

Formerly: FSE 54

Prerequisite: Enrollment into Funeral Service Education program.

Corequisite: BIOL 440, FSE 120.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course offers a study of pathological disease conditions and how they affect various parts of the body. Particular conditions that relate to or affect the embalming or restorative art process are emphasized.

FSE 150 Funeral Service Management 3 Units

Formerly: FSE 72

Prerequisite: FSE 111 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the basic principles of management as they apply to the practice of the funeral profession. The role and function of an effective manager are explored. Emphasis is placed on the management functions of planning, organizing, motivating, directing, and controlling. Specific areas of funeral service practice and managerial guidelines for those areas are covered. Additionally, theory as it relates to funeral service practice is addressed.

FSE 155 Merchandising in the Funeral Service Industry 3 Units

Formerly: FSE 63

Prerequisite: FSE 110 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: FSE 111.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the student to merchandising as it applies to the funeral profession. The curriculum is divided into two main sections. The first covers construction and features of caskets, outer burial containers, and other funeral related products. The second section examines methods of pricing, display, presentation, and control of funeral merchandise.

FSE 160 Funeral Service Law and Ethics 3 Units

Formerly: FSE 73

Prerequisite: FSE 111 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces law and the judicial system as they pertain to businesses in general and to funeral service specifically. Further, this course covers personal and professional ethics that guide decisions and actions in the proper treatment of the dead.

FSE 170 Funeral Services Counseling 3 Units

Formerly: FSE 71

Prerequisite: FSE 111 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: PSYC 390.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course examines communication skills and the role of the funeral director as facilitator, counselor, and caregiver. Included are specific communications and counseling techniques as they are applied in funeral service practice.

FSE 297 Internship in Funeral Service Education 5 Units

Formerly: FSE 74

Prerequisite: FSE 111 and 121 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: FSE 150, 160, 170.

Course Not Transferable UC or CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC; 216 hours LAB

This course provides an opportunity to apply classroom instruction in funeral service education to real-world practice in the community. Interns participate in a on-site lab experience program at an approved off-campus preceptor site.