

## Table of Contents

Mortuary Science and Funeral Service..... 1

### **Mortuary Science and Funeral Service**

The mission of the Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program is to challenge students to achieve academic and professional excellence; prepare students to acquire entry level positions in the funeral service profession; provide quality instruction and stay current with trends of the profession; cultivate and maintain excellent relations with local, state, and national organizations; enhance University and community relations; and work toward the continued improvement of the Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program as an ongoing process.

The Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program has, as its central aim, recognized 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; as well as
- Professionals sensitive to the responsibility for public health, safety, and welfare in caring for human remains.

In addition, the Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program is devoted to:

- Providing a quality learning environment by maintaining high program standards and offering opportunities to network with individuals and entities within the profession.
- Offering students a challenging and rewarding academic curriculum to enable them to fulfill their potential in theory, practice, and management of funeral service.
- Securing and retaining faculty with experience in education and the funeral service field and providing them with opportunities to attend local, state, and national meetings; encouraging their membership and participation in funeral service organizations; and assuring they add to the body of knowledge of funeral service literature.
- Contributing to the University's growth by developing, maintaining and participating in community activities.
- Assessing its degree requirements and the allocation of credit hours to ensure they are consistent and conform with the accreditation requirements of the American Board of Funeral Service Education.

### **Mortuary Science and Funeral Service Program Objectives:**

- Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with families and communities they serve.
- Identify standards of ethical conduct in funeral service practice.
- Interpret how federal, state, and local laws apply to funeral service in order to ensure compliance.
- Apply principles of public health and safety in the handling and preparation of human remains.
- Demonstrate technical skills in embalming and restorative art that are necessary for the preparation and handling of human remains.
- Demonstrate skills required for conducting arrangement conferences, visitations, services, and ceremonies.
- Describe the requirements and procedures for burial, cremation, and other accepted forms of final disposition of human remains.
- Describe methods to address the grief-related needs of the bereaved.

- Explain management skills associated with operating a funeral establishment.
- Demonstrate verbal and written communication skills and research skills needed for funeral service practice.

This program is the only mortuary science and funeral service program offered in a public university in the state of Illinois. The initial program was developed in response to a request from the Illinois Funeral Directors Association. The Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program at SIU Carbondale is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, Nj 08097, 816-233-3747. Website: [www.abfse.org](http://www.abfse.org). Graduates meet licensing requirements established by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. This program in mortuary science and funeral service is recognized by other state licensing boards.

The program is designed to accept students directly from high school or to accommodate students transferring from other accredited post-secondary institutions. Transfer students are admitted with 12 or more transfer credit hours with a GPA of at least 2.3 (on a 4.0 scale). Enrollment in the program is limited due to variety of circumstances, including rules of accreditation, limitations of facilities/internship sites, and faculty-student ratio.

Prospective students attending another college or university prior to transferring to SIU Carbondale should concentrate on completing courses articulated or approved as substitutes for SIU Carbondale's University Core Curriculum requirements. Prior to taking courses that appear to equate to the professional sequence, the applicant should consult with an advisor within the Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program.

The Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program has a Linkage Agreement with Southeastern Illinois College, Rend Lake College and Shawnee College. If you have questions about this agreement, contact the community college advisor or SIU Carbondale School of Health Sciences at 618-453-7287.

In addition to the professional coursework, the student will be responsible for the University Core Curriculum as well as a number of courses, which will lead to an understanding of the psychological, sociological and theological implications of life and death. Each student will serve a semester-long internship at an approved off-campus facility. The expenses related to the internship courses are the responsibility of the student. The Internship Coordinator and/or Program Director will assign the internship location. Prior to participation in the internship, students may be required to undergo an "Internship Site Required" criminal background check and drug screening. Students are required to have a driver's license before going out on their practicum internship. Faculty members in the professional courses are licensed funeral directors and embalmers with experience in the profession. The program's Advisory Committee is composed of mortuary science and funeral service professionals.

The student is required to complete the Hepatitis B vaccine series before participating in the laboratory classes. The vaccine may be acquired at the SIU Carbondale Student Health Center, a local health department, or through a private physician. The cost of this vaccine is the responsibility of the student and documentation showing completion of the vaccine series must be presented to the advisor prior to registration. In addition to the Hepatitis B vaccine requirement, a laboratory uniform, personal protective equipment and instruments must be purchased.

National Board Examination pass rates, graduation rates, and employment rates for this and other ABFSE-accredited programs are available at [www.abfse.org](http://www.abfse.org). To request a printed copy of this program's rates, go to ASA 116, 1365 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901 or by e-mail at [health.sciences@siu.edu](mailto:health.sciences@siu.edu), or by telephone at 618-453-5698. Since laws governing the profession are enacted at the state level, licensing and qualification requirements vary among states. Prospective students should contact the licensing body of the state in which they wish to attempt licensure.

The Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program can be completed at Southern Illinois University Carbondale or in combination with other institutions of higher education.

All MSFS courses that are requirements for the major must be passed with a grade of "C" or better. These courses can be retaken once if not passed with a "C". If a student does not pass the course with a grade of "C" or better the second time, they are released from Mortuary Science and Funeral Service program and required to submit a change of major form. If a student fails 2 courses in the major they are removed from the program.

## Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Mortuary Science and Funeral Service Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
CHEM 106, CMST 101, ENGL 101 and ENGL 102, MATH 101 or MATH 108, PHIL 104, PSYC 102, SOC 108, ZOOL 115/ZOOL 118, Fine Art Elective, Humanities Elective, Human Health and Multicultural Elective.	
Requirements for Major	78
ACCT 220; AH 105, AH 241; FIN 270; MSFS 101, MSFS 108, MSFS 240, MSFS 256, MSFS 257, MSFS 275, MSFS 325A, MSFS 325B, MSFS 340, MSFS 345A, MSFS 345B, MSFS 351, MSFS 352, MSFS 355, MSFS 360, MSFS 364, MSFS 401, MSFS 410, MSFS 411, MSFS 412.	
Approved Career Electives	3
Total	120

## Capstone Option for Transfer Students

The SIU Carbondale Capstone Option may be available to eligible students who have earned an associates degree or the equivalent. The Capstone Option reduces the University Core Curriculum requirements from 39 to 30 hours, therefore reducing the time to degree completion. See the Capstone Option section for more information on this option.

## Mortuary Science and Funeral Service Courses

**MSFS101 - Orientation to Funeral Service** Students will trace the history of funeral services from ancient times through contemporary practices with emphasis on the development of funeral practices in the United States. Students study the customs of various cultures throughout the world including customs in the United States. They will demonstrate a knowledge of funeral service organizations and will discuss current topic areas of the profession. Lecture three hours. Restricted to MSFS majors. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS108 - Funeral Service Psychology** Designed to provide the student with an overview of psychology in funeral service as applied to death, grief and mourning. Students will examine interpersonal and public relations as they affect the funeral service practitioner. This course is writing intensive and reflects the College's Communication-Across-the-Curriculum initiative. Lecture three hours. Prerequisite: ENGL 101 with a grade of C or better. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS240 - Mortuary Regulations** The student will have knowledge of the federal, state and local regulations pertaining to the funeral profession. Studies will include the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, Americans with Disabilities Act, Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Federal Trade Commission requirements, Rules and Regulations for the Control of Communicable Disease and other such regulations governing funeral service. Lecture three hours. Restricted to MSFS majors. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS256 - Introductory Microbiology** The student will survey microbiology: morphology, physiology, populations of microbial organisms, microbial destruction, immunology, and pathogenic agents. Lecture three hours. Prerequisite: PLB 115 or ZOOL 115 or 118 and CHEM 106. Restricted to major. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS257 - Pathology** Students will be introduced to the study of the cause, course and effects of diseases upon the human body, with stress on ways in which tissue changes affect the embalming process. Lecture three hours. Prerequisite: MSFS 256 and AH 241. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS275 - Changing Landscapes in Green Funeral Service** This course primarily explores the growth of ethical, compassionate, and environmentally sustainable green funeral services. Growing numbers of funeral consumers are expressing a strong interest in living-and dying-with a lighter hand on the land, creating a demand for innovative products and authentic services that they may not perceive to be available in standard services. Many consumers have been drawn toward home funerals, home vigils, and green (or natural) burials, as well as biodegradable, fair-market, and footprint-conscious products. This course explores in depth the rise in environmentally conscious products and practices, aesthetics and ethics. Learn how the contemporary perception of funerals is changing and how funeral service providers can meet their needs with integrity-and stay in business at the same time. Students who take and pass this course will be eligible to earn a Certificate of Proficiency in Green Funeral Service from the Green Burial Council. Credit Hours: 2

**MSFS299 - Individual Study** Provides students with an opportunity to explore studies that fit a particular need or interest. Enrollment provides access to the resources of the facilities of the entire institution. Each student will work under the supervision of a sponsoring staff member. Restricted to MSFS majors. Credit Hours: 1-16

**MSFS325A - Embalming Theory and Practice I** The student will be introduced to techniques of embalming through a study of the body, sanitation, embalming agents, instruments and methods of embalming. The student studies the theory, practices and techniques of sanitation as well as restoration and preservation of deceased human remains. Laboratory experiences consist of embalming deceased remains and of other related activities. Lecture three hours. Laboratory two hours. Prerequisite: MSFS 345A, MSFS 345B, MSFS 257, Allied Health 241 or equivalent Anatomy with grades of C or better and proof of Hepatitis B vaccine or Titre test. Restricted to Mortuary Science and Funeral Service majors. Lab fee: \$50. Credit Hours: 4

**MSFS325B - Embalming Theory and Practice II** The student will study the anatomy of the circulatory system, the autopsied case, the cavity embalming, the contents of the thoracic and abdominal cavities and various embalming treatments. Laboratory experience is a continuation of 325A. Lecture three hours. Laboratory two hours. Must be taken in A, B sequence. Prerequisite: MSFS 345A, MSFS 345B, MSFS 257, Allied Health 241 or equivalent Anatomy with grades of C or better and proof of Hepatitis B vaccine or Titre test. Restricted to Mortuary Science and Funeral Service majors. Lab fee: \$50. Credit Hours: 4

**MSFS340 - Mortuary Law** Deals with the statutory laws and practices pertaining to funeral service. The student will trace the laws that govern the funeral director and the embalmer and their legal responsibilities to the consumer. Knowledge will be gained concerning the legal status of a dead human body, necessities of disposition, methods of disposition, rights and parties undertaking responsibility of disposition, custodial rights of the dead human remains, contract laws, right of disposition, control of the funeral, general rules of priority pertaining to next of kin, mental anguish, photographs, confidentiality, negligent acts by the funeral director and/or embalmer, mutilation laws, injury to pallbearers, Clergy and staff, physical impact, collection against an estate, primary obligor, estate liability, cremation, authorization, commingling of remains, personal effects, storage and shipping of remains. Lecture three hours. Prerequisite: MSFS 256, MSFS 345A and MSFS 345B with grades of C or better. Restricted to major. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS345A - Restorative Art Applications I** Students will build upon knowledge of the anatomical structures of the cranial and facial areas of the human skull gained through anatomy. Students will develop a knowledge of facial proportions, modeling, facial expressions, materials, and techniques necessary to rebuild the human face destroyed by traumatic and/or pathological conditions. Laboratory assignments will include bone and tissue restoration, along with other applications needed for facial reconstruction. Prerequisite: AH 241. Lab fee: \$150. Credit Hours: 4

**MSFS345B - Restorative Art Applications II** The student will learn advanced procedures and techniques for restoration and cosmetology. Special attention will focus on reconstruction and color arrangement needed to complete the natural appearance of the deceased. Students will focus on pigments, visual aspects of color and color schemes, lighting, complexion types and materials, corrective shaping, rouging, waxing, and powdering. Prerequisite: MSFS 345A with a C or better. Lab fee: \$50. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS350 - Mortuary Science and Funeral Service Subjects** In-depth competency and skill development and exploration of innovative techniques and procedures used in business, industry, professions, and health service occupations offered through various workshops, special short courses, and seminars. Hours and credit to be individually arranged. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Restricted to MSFS majors. Credit Hours: 1-32

**MSFS351 - Funeral Service Management** The student will learn skills necessary to effectively manage a funeral home. Included are the funeral director's responsibilities from the first call to the completion of the funeral service. Topics include completing pre-need and post-need forms, human resource management, financial management, facilities management, maintenance of records, religious ceremonies, and professional ethics. Lecture four hours. Prerequisite: MSFS 240 with a C or better. Co-requisites: MSFS 352, 360 and 401. Credit Hours: 4

**MSFS352 - Funeral Service Merchandising and Marketing** The student will learn the fundamentals of merchandising, product mix and pricing of funeral service merchandise (i.e., caskets, burial vaults, urns, etc.). Other topics include developing a funeral home marketing plan and applying small business marketing techniques to funeral homes. Lecture three hours. Co-requisite: MSFS 351, 360, and 401. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS355 - Embalming Chemistry** The student will study the chemistry of the body, sanitation, toxicology, chemical changes in deceased human remains, disinfection, and embalming fluids. Laboratory experiences in 325A will complement lecture material. Lecture three hours. Co-requisite: MSFS 325A. Prerequisite: CHEM 106 and MSFS 240 or concurrent enrollment in MSFS 240. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS358 - Funeral Home Small Business Management** Exploration of small business management, its benefits and risks. Emphasis is given to business formation, development, management, and marketing. Human resources, accounting, trends, and the use of technology are also analyzed. Lecture three hours. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS360 - Advanced Embalming Procedures** The student will study the proper procedures of embalming and other necessary preparations of special cases. Studies will include techniques and procedures used for embalming unique cases such as decomposition cases, burn victims, car accident victims, and other traumatic faces of death. Students will be required to submit several written research papers and present oral presentations of specific topics throughout the semester. Lecture four hours. Prerequisites: MSFS 257, 325A, 325B, 345A, 345B and 355 with grades of C or better. Co-requisites: MSFS 351, 352 and 401. Credit Hours: 4

**MSFS364 - Principles and Practices of Cremation** The student will focus on the important considerations when working with those that choose cremation as a form of disposition. This includes proper identification, legal authorization, use of third party crematories, required forms, cremation containers, containers for cremated deceased, cremation merchandise, services in conjunction with cremation, arranging for disposition of cremated deceased, shipping cremated deceased, FTC compliance, and the history of cremation. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS369 - Cremation and the Disposing of the Dead** The student will study the process of dying and the history of death disposal with emphasis on cremation. The student will examine how religion has played a part in the increase/decrease in acceptance as cremation being a method of disposing of the dead. Students will review cremation trends in the U.S. and the legal formality of cremation authorization and the cremation process. Students will explore how the death care industry is marketing cremation and analyze how the industry has adapted to consumer demands. Credit Hours: 3

**MSFS375Q - Research Project** This course requires the selection and investigation of a research topic culminating in a paper to satisfy the research requirement for the Bachelor of Science degree in Mortuary Science and Funeral Service. Credit Hours: 4-8

**MSFS401 - Funeral Service Counseling** The student will be taught specific counseling procedures when counseling the bereaved family. Specific attention will be paid to the counseling and communication techniques and skills that will assist individual family members with handling grief and the mourning process. In addition, students will explore the concepts of pre-need and after-care services. Prerequisites: MSFS 108 or PSYC 102 with a C or better or consent of school. Co-requisites: MSFS 351, 352, and 360. Credit Hours: 2

**MSFS410 - Funeral Service Internship-Management** Students will be assigned to a University approved funeral home learning in actual practice situations: functional organization, procedures, and policies of the establishment. The course is 13 weeks in length. Not for graduate credit. Prerequisite: all other requirements of the MSFS major must be met including a grade point average of at least 2.0 in major. Co-requisites: MSFS 411 and 412. Credit Hours: 5

**MSFS411 - Funeral Service Internship-Embalming** Students will be assigned to a University approved funeral home to be given the opportunity to learn embalming techniques by active participation in the preparation room under the direct supervision of a licensed embalmer. The course is 13 weeks in length. Not for graduate credit. Restriction: all other requirements of the MSFS major must be met including a grade point average of at least 2.0 in major. Co-requisites: MSFS 410 and 412. Special approval needed from the advisor. Credit Hours: 5

**MSFS412 - Funeral Service Seminar** Formal discussions are held to evaluate the experiences and progress of the participants in the internship program. The student will participate in mock funeral arrangements and will evaluate themselves on style, knowledge, and confidence via video. The second part of the seminar is a review for the National Board Exam. The student must pass the Mock Board Exam, given only two attempts, to successfully complete the course. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Not for graduate credit. Co-requisites: MSFS 410 and 411. Credit Hours: 2

## Mortuary Science and Funeral Service Faculty

**Broomfield, Robert A.**, Assistant Instructor, Mortuary Science and Funeral Service, M.S.Ed., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2000; 2020. Restorative art.

**Fleege, Anthony T.**, Associate Professor, Mortuary Science and Funeral Service, M.B.A., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1999; 1999. Funeral service history, cremation.

**Griffith, Cydney**, Associate Professor, Mortuary Science and Funeral Service, M.S.Ed., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1991; 1992. Embalming and restorative art.

**Sullivan, Webb**, Clinical Instructor, Mortuary Science and Funeral Service, M.B.A., McKendree College, 2011; 2019. Embalming and cremation.

---

Last updated: 04/16/2025