

# Funeral Service Education

Degree: A.S. - Funeral Service Education

Area: Health & Education

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## Funeral Service Education Program Aims and Purposes

The Funeral Service Education program at American River College is a two-year Associate of Science degree program. The objectives of the program are to prepare students for entry-level positions in the funeral service industry by maintaining and exceeding standards set for by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (38 Florida Avenue, Portland, ME 04103, [207] 878-6530), and to provide a strong theory based curriculum and related clinical experience.

Courses are designed to meet the prerequisites for licensure and employment in the funeral service industry as funeral directors or embalmers through courses that include but not limited to: biology, chemistry, funeral service management, embalming, restorative art, funeral directing, counseling, accounting and funeral service law and ethics. After January 1, 2004, all students are required to take the National Board Examination as a condition for graduation from the program. Upon successful completion of the program and meeting the requirements of the State of California's Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, the student is eligible to take the California Board Examination to become a licensed embalmer.

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. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau at (916) 322-7737. In addition, as a student in the clinical component of the funeral service program, you will be required to undergo a background check that may affect your ability to complete the program.

## Your Career in Funeral Service

Funeral personnel are caring professionals who show others, by example, how to respect the deceased and maintain proper dignity, compassion, and efficiency in serving people of all ages and

backgrounds. There are many opportunities for professionals in every aspect of funeral service. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, career prospects in the field are excellent.

Practitioners become an important part of the community, as they facilitate the social, legal, psychological, religious, and public health issues associated with death. These include removal of the deceased to a mortuary, preparation of the remains (embalming), performance of a ceremony that honors the deceased and addresses the spiritual needs of the family, and the burial or disposition of the remains. Funeral directors and embalmers must be licensed to work in their profession; most funeral directors are trained, licensed, and practicing embalmers.

## Requirements for Pre-Enrollment to the Program

1. Graduation from an accredited high school in the United States, or successful completion of GED or CHSPE.
2. A grade of "C" or better in the following courses: BIOL 102 and FSE 100
3. A minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.5
4. A completed pre-enrollment application
5. Current curriculum planning sheet (within the semester in which the pre-enrollment packet is being submitted)

## Pre-enrollment Deadlines

Pre-enrollment applications may be obtained from the Health and Education Division Office or the Coordinator of the Funeral Service Education Program after September 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications must be submitted **no later than the first Monday in December by 4:00 p.m.** to the Health and Education Division Office.

## Enrollment

1. Only students who meet the pre-enrollment requirements and follow the pre-enrollment procedures will be considered for the program.
2. Selection is based on a random selection process should the number of applicants exceed available space in the program.
3. Students admitted to the Funeral Service Education program are required to have a physical examination and required inoculations by the completion of the first semester within the program. Students are responsible for any costs incurred related to meeting the health requirements.

**Requirements for Degree Major 51 units**

Courses Required	Units
ACCT 101	3
BIOL 130	3
CHEM 130	4
CISC 300	1
ENGWR 103 or BUS 310 or ESLW 337	3
PSYC 390	3
SPEECH 301 or 331	3
FSE 110	3
FSE 111	2
FSE 120	3
FSE 121	2
FSE 130	3
FSE 140	1
FSE 150	3
FSE 155	3
FSE 160	3
FSE 170	3
FSE 297	5

**General Education Graduation Requirements:** In addition to completing the degree requirements, students must also complete the general education graduation requirements for an A.A./A.S. degree. See ARC graduation requirements.

**FSE 100 Introduction to Funeral Service Education 1 Unit**

Formerly: FSE 50  
 Prerequisite: None  
 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.  
 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.  
 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 3 Units**

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Funeral Service Education Program.  
 Corequisite: FSE 130.  
 Hours: 54 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.