

Funeral Service

Certificate of Proficiency

The Funeral Service certificate program completes the educational requirements for licensure in funeral service. Admission to the certificate program and/or enrollment in any FUN course requires two years (60 credits) of prior college education at a regionally accredited institution of higher education (or completion of the Funeral Service Preparatory program). Class size is limited.

Applicants to the certificate program must complete prerequisite courses of Anatomy and Physiology I and II (BIO 106 fulfills this requirement), accounting, business law, chemistry, psychology, and English composition with a minimum grade of C. An overall C+ cumulative grade point average is required for admission.

Students are responsible for securing part-time employment in an approved New Jersey or eastern Pennsylvania funeral home in order to complete the field experience and practicum courses. This employment requires the student to be registered as an intern with the New Jersey State Board of Mortuary Science or as a student/trainee with the Pennsylvania Board of Funeral Directors.

The goals and objectives of the MCCC Funeral Service programs are: to provide students with professional training in preparation for licensure in funeral service; to prepare students to embark upon a career in a service-oriented, care-giving profession; to provide an academic environment which encourages student research and successfully integrates the theoretical, practical, and technical aspects of funeral service; and to foster the concept of education as a life-long process necessary to meet the demands of an evolving workplace with current emphasis on emerging ethical, environmental, and social issues.

Academic emphasis includes the areas of business management; public health; the social, behavioral, and natural sciences; as well as the legal, technical, and regulatory aspects of funeral service.

Students must take the National Board Exam to be eligible for graduation. Graduates are then eligible to take state licensing examinations.

Successful graduates will be able to:

- evaluate the service needs for the pre-need, at-need, and aftercare time frames;
- create and plan activities and ceremonies designed to meet the needs of those who mourn;
- educate the consumer regarding funeral and cremation memorialization and merchandise options;
- evaluate and describe solutions to current embalming and restorative art situations;
- assemble and formulate appropriate information for death certificates, obituaries, and other necessary forms and documents;
- evaluate legal, professional, and ethical issues facing funeral service;
- demonstrate effective verbal and written communication skills in face to face meetings, in front of small groups, and via electronic means.

Certificate Curriculum

Code	Course (lecture/lab hours)	Credits
FUN 206	Introduction to Funeral Service (3/0)	3
FUN 247	Principles of Embalming I (3/0)	3
FUN 203	Funeral Service Principles (3/0)	3
FUN 223	Funeral Service Pathology (3/0)	3
FUN 215	Funeral Service Law (3/0)	3
FUN 295	Funeral Service Field Experience (2/0/2 days) ¹	3
ENG —	English Composition elective (3/0) ²	3
<hr/>		
FUN 249	Principles of Embalming II (2/0)	2
FUN 217	Funeral Service Management (3/0)	3
FUN 227	Restorative Art (2/2)	3
FUN 229	Funeral Service Counseling (3/0)	3
BIO 215	Principles of Microbiology (3/0)	3
FUN 251	Embalming Lab and Practicum (0/3/2 days) ¹	3
FUN 220	Funeral Service Laws, Rules and Regulations (1/0)	1
		<hr/>
		39

NOTE: Enrollment in any FUN course requires the approval of the Director of Funeral Service Programs.

¹ In addition to lab and/or seminar, these courses include two days (16 hours per week) of supervised off-campus field experience in an approved funeral service firm for each semester. Students must also be registered as an intern with the New Jersey State Board of Mortuary Science or as a student/trainee with the Pennsylvania Board of Funeral Directors. Registration with the New Jersey State Board of Mortuary Science enables the student to receive credit toward the New Jersey internship requirement.

² Students having completed ENG 101, 102, 112, 209, 215, or 224 have fulfilled this requirement.

Note: With proper planning, students anticipating Fall matriculation into the certificate program can complete the prerequisites in one Spring semester. Full-time matriculation is only available beginning in Fall semesters; part-time night matriculation is available Spring and Fall semesters.

The Funeral Service program at Mercer County Community College is accredited by:

American Board of Funeral Service Education

3414 Ashland Ave., Suite G
St. Joseph, MO 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 website (www.abfse.org).

NOTE: All program listings are subject to periodic updates. Please consult your program advisor, academic division, or www.mccc.edu/programs_certificate

