



## FUNERAL DIRECTOR/EMBALMER

Mortuary Science programs train Funeral directors and/or embalmers. Funeral directors counsel families and next of kin about the conduct and composition of a funeral service of burial, disposition, or cremation for a deceased human body. They also supervise burials, dispositions, and cremations and maintain a funeral home. Embalmers prepare deceased human bodies for such funeral services. This includes, disinfecting and using preservative chemical substances on bodies to clean and purify them.

### CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National Median salary: \$51,570
- » National projected career growth: 2-4%
- » Visit [abfse.org](http://abfse.org) to learn about licensing requirements
- » The degree you need varies based on career aspirations within the field.

### TYPICAL EDUCATION

- » Approximate years of schooling: 4\*
- » Average admittance GPA: 2.0\*\*

### NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- » University of Central Oklahoma
- » Southern Illinois University

### COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Shadow professionals in the field, both licensed and unlicensed, in rural and urban areas
- » Obtain direct experience such as funeral assisting
- » Research program requirements, as program requirements vary by institution and state

### WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS SAY

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Funeral directors are health care professionals who serve others during a time of loss, pain and grief. The Program of Mortuary Science's mission 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.

-University of Minnesota Program Director,  
Michael Lubrant

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I decided to pursue Mortuary Science because I liked that there was a medical aspect and also a counseling-type aspect to the field. The U of M's Mortuary Science Program has allowed me to gain real-world experience by having a hands-on approach to my learning. I feel prepared for entering the field and am excited to utilize what I've learned.”

-Cristina Wagner, U of M Class of 2021

\*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*Data and information from University of Minnesota

Last update: 1.2024

UNO Health Careers Resource Center

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[cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc](http://cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc)

Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">University of Minnesota</a>	<a href="#">University of Central Oklahoma</a>	<a href="#">Southern Illinois University</a>
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*\*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.*

*\*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.*

#### \*University of Minnesota Recommended Prerequisites

Semesters: S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Recommended Biological Sciences: 18 credits			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 – Biology I	5	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 1160 – Terminology of Human Health and Disease	2	F, S, M	

\*Currently, UNO's BIOL 2470, 2480, and 2440 will not transfer to the Mortuary Science Program at the University of Minnesota.

Recommended Chemistry: 8-16 credits			
CHEM 1140 & 1144 – Fundamentals of Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320

Recommended General Studies			
MATH 1300 – College Algebra with Support <b>OR</b>	4	F, S, M	
MATH 1320 – Precalculus Algebra	3	F, S, M	ACT 23 or ALEKS 4 within 2 years
ENGL 1140 – English Composition I with Support <b>OR</b>	4	F, S, M	ACT $\leq 13$ or HS GPA 2.3 or less
ENGL 1150 – English Composition I	3	F, S, M	AP Score 3, ACT 14-26, HS GPA 2.3+
PSYC 1010 – Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	
SOC 1010 – Introduction to Sociology	3	F, S, M	
HIST 1000, 1010, 1110, or 1120 World or US History	3	F, S, M	
CMST 1110 – Public Speaking	3	F, S, M	
CMST 4530 – Intercultural Communication	3	F, S	Junior Standing; GPA of at least 2.25
A United States Diversity Course	3	F, S, M	
A Global Diversity Course	3	F, S, M	
ACCT 2000 – Accounting for Non-Business Majors	3	F, S	ENGL 1150 and MATH 1300 or 1320
A Humanities Course	3	F, S, M	

\*CLEP, AP, Dual Enrollment credit are accepted