

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-\$75,660
- » National projected career growth: 2-4%
- » Visit abfse.org to learn about licensing requirements
- » The degree you need varies based on career aspirations within the field

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School: 4*
- » Minimum Entering GPA: 2.0

NEARBY SCHOOLS

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

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS 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 PROFESSIONAL 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 W., University of Minnesota graduate

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*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC

Last update: 9.2024

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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Minnesota	University of Central Oklahoma
Southern Illinois University	

*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

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

***Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 12)**

Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab	5	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry

*Currently, UNO's BIOL 2470, 2480, and 2440 will not transfer to the program at U of M.

Chemistry

CHEM 1140/1144 Fund of College Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320
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Recommended General Education

MATH 1300 College Algebra with Support	4	F, S, M	
OR			
MATH 1320 Pre-Calculus Algebra	3	F, S, M	ACT 22 or ALEKS 4
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, 110, or 1120 (World or US)	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		
A Global Diversity Course	3		
ACCT 2000 Accounting for Non-Business Majors	3	F, S	ENGL 1150 and MATH 1300 or 1320
A Humanities Course	3		

CLEP, AP, and DUAL Enrollment credit are accepted.