

FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION - DEGREE

Limited Entry, Associate of Applied Science Degree Program

Faculty Adviser

Doug Ferrin: 503-491-6940 | Doug.Ferrin@mhcc.edu

The Funeral Service program at MHCC prepares students for the diverse needs involved with taking care of the dead and the bereaved. Students will learn a wide range of topics, such as: embalming; cremation; microbiology; pathology; funeral directing; counseling; and management. The program is six quarters in length, but students who transfer coursework from another college may be able to complete it in less time.

Students must take the National Board Examination (NBE), which is managed by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, as one condition of graduation. Most states will not issue a license to practice funeral directing and embalming without passing the NBE.

National Board Examination pass rates, graduation rates, and employment rates for this and other ABFSE-accredited programs are available at www.abfse.org (<https://www.abfse.org/html/dir-or.html>) in the Directory of Accredited Programs. To request a printed copy of this program's scores and rates, go to room AC1554.

Accreditation

The Funeral Service Education associate degree program at **Mt. Hood Community College** is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097, 816-233-3747, www.abfse.org (<http://www.abfse.org>).

Program Outcomes

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with the 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.

Additional Requirements

The following additional requirement(s) must be fulfilled to be awarded the AAS in Funeral Service Education.

- All courses must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" or higher.
- All core courses (FSE) must be completed within 5 years of starting the program.

Note: When multiple course options are available, the recommended selection is listed first. Before beginning the fourth quarter of the program, complete all non-FSE courses.

General education courses (such as math, writing, health, etc.) can be taken during any term, or before starting the program.

First Quarter

Fall		Credits
M0111	Medical Terminology ★	4
FSE121	Funeral Service Orientation	3
WR121Z or WR122Z	Composition I ★ or Composition II ★	4
Health and Physical Education requirement (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		3
Select one of the following:		4
BA131	Introduction to Business Computing ★	
CIS120 & 120L	Computer Concepts I ★ and Computer Concepts Lab I ★	
Credits		18

Second Quarter

Winter		
FSE122	Funeral Service Sociology	3
MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II ★ (or higher) or Quantitative Reasoning I	4
BI100 or BI121 or BI231	Survey of Body Systems ★ or Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★ or Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★	4
PSY201Z or PSY202Z	Introduction to Psychology I ★ or Introduction to Psychology II ★	4
Credits		15

Third Quarter

Spring		
BA111 or BA211Z	Introduction to Accounting ★ or Principles of Financial Accounting ★	4
FSE124	Funeral Service Law	4
COMM100Z or COMM111Z or COMM115 or COMM218Z or COMM219 or PSY101	Basic Speech Communication ★ or Public Speaking ★ or Introduction to Intercultural Communication ★🌐 or Interpersonal Communication ★ or Small Group Communication or Psychology of Human Relations ★	4
Chemistry (choose one course below):		4-5
CH104	General Chemistry for Health Professions	
CH151	Basic Chemistry	
CH221Z & CH227Z	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	

Credits

16-17

Fourth Quarter**Fall**

Before beginning the fourth quarter of the program, complete all non-FSE courses.

FSE211	Embalming I	4
FSE215	Cremation	2
FSE219	Funeral Service Chemistry	3
FSE221	Funeral Home Management I	3
FSE225	Funeral Directing	3

Credits **15**

Fifth Quarter**Winter**

FSE212	Embalming II	4
FSE214	Restorative Art	3
FSE216 or BI234	Funeral Service Microbiology or Microbiology	3
FSE222	Funeral Home Management II	3
FSE227	Funeral Service Counseling	3

Credits **16**

Sixth Quarter**Spring**

FSE213	Embalming III	3
FSE217	Funeral Service Pathology	3
FSE240	Funeral Service Clinical Practicum ¹	6
FSE245	Funeral Service Issues	3

Credits **15**

Total Credits **95-96**

¹ Students may elect to take the internship for three credits (FSE240A Funeral Service Clinical Practicum) in any two terms, summer, fall, winter or spring.

How to Apply

The funeral service education (FSE) program is a limited-entry program. This means you must meet certain criteria before you can apply (<https://mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/funeral-service-education/get-started/>). Applicants are selected through a point-based system. The program admits 20 first-year students and as space allows for second-year students every fall term. Students of all races, ethnicities, ages, genders, religions, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, nationalities, physical abilities, and cognitive differences are welcome!

The following shows an example of how a student can complete an AAS in Funeral Service Education depending on whether they are admitted into the program as a first-year student or a second-year student. Students must complete all general education courses in their first year in the program to progress into the second year.

Accepted as First-Year Students

Course	Title	Credits
First Quarter		
Fall		
FSE121	Funeral Service Orientation	3
MO111	Medical Terminology ★	4

WR121Z or WR122Z	Composition I ★ or Composition II ★	4
Health and Physical Education		3
Select one of the following:		4

BA131	Introduction to Business Computing ★	
CIS120 & 120L	Computer Concepts I ★ and Computer Concepts Lab I ★	

Credits **18**

Second Quarter**Winter**

FSE122	Funeral Service Sociology	3
MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II ★ or Quantitative Reasoning I	4
BI100 or BI121 or BI231	Survey of Body Systems ★ or Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★ or Human Anatomy and Physiology I ★	4
PSY201Z or PSY202Z	Introduction to Psychology I ★ or Introduction to Psychology II ★	4

Credits **15**

Third Quarter**Spring**

FSE124	Funeral Service Law	4
BA111 or BA211Z	Introduction to Accounting ★ or Principles of Financial Accounting ★	4
COMM100Z or COMM111Z or COMM115 or COMM218Z	Introduction to Communication ★ or Public Speaking ★ or Introduction to Intercultural Communication ★🌐	4
or COMM219 or PSY101	or Interpersonal Communication ★ or Small Group Communication or Psychology of Human Relations ★	

Chemistry (choose one course below): **4-5**

CH104	General Chemistry for Health Professions	
CH151	Basic Chemistry	
CH221Z & CH227Z	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	

Credits **16-17**

Total Credits **49-50**

Accepted as Second-Year Students

All non-FSE courses must be complete prior to beginning the fourth quarter of the program.

Course	Title	Credits
Fourth Quarter		
Fall		
FSE121	Funeral Service Orientation	3
FSE211	Embalming I	4
FSE215	Cremation	2
FSE219	Funeral Service Chemistry	3
FSE221	Funeral Home Management I	3
FSE225	Funeral Directing	3
Credits		18

Fifth Quarter**Winter**

FSE122	Funeral Service Sociology	3
FSE212	Embalming II	4
FSE214	Restorative Art	3
FSE216 or BI234	Funeral Service Microbiology or Microbiology	3
FSE222	Funeral Home Management II	3
FSE227	Funeral Service Counseling	3
Credits		19

Sixth Quarter**Spring**

FSE124	Funeral Service Law	4
FSE213	Embalming III	3
FSE217	Funeral Service Pathology	3
FSE240	Funeral Service Clinical Practicum ¹	6
FSE245	Funeral Service Issues	3
Credits		19
Total Credits		56

¹ Students may elect to take the internship for three-credits (FSE240A Funeral Service Clinical Practicum) in any two terms, summer, fall, winter or spring.

★ Course offered online

🌐 Cultural Literacy course