

Degree: A.S. - Funeral Service Education

Area: Health & Education
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Funeral Service Education Degree

The Funeral Service Education program is a two-year associate of science degree that prepares students for entry-level positions in funeral service. The program is designed to meet the prerequisites for licensure and employment in the field of funeral service as funeral directors or embalmers.

NOTE: All courses require a grade of "C" or better and the National Board Examination must be completed before graduation.

Career Opportunities

The student is eligible to take the state board examination to become a licensed funeral director in California. The student also meets the criteria to take the state embalmer's examination.

Enrollment Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment in the program, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Graduation from an accredited high school in the United States, or successful completion of General Educational Development (GED) Test or California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE).
- BIOL 102 and FSE 100 with a grade of "C" or better.
- Minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.0.
- A Curriculum Planning Summary Sheet dated within the semester the enrollment packet is submitted.
- A completed pre-enrollment application

Enrollment Process

Eligible students are selected for the program according to the following steps:

- Pre-enrollment applications to the program may be obtained from the Health and Education Division Office, the Coordinator of the Funeral Service Education program, or at www.arc.losrios.edu/fse. Applications for Spring admission will be available mid-September and must be submitted to the division office no later than the second Friday in December by 4:00 p.m. Applications for the Fall semester will be available mid-April and must be received no later than the second Friday in July by 4:00 p.m.
- Only students who meet the pre-enrollment requirements and follow the pre-enrollment procedures will be considered for the program.
- Selection is based on a random selection process should the number of applicants exceed available space in the program.
- Students admitted to the Funeral Service Education program are required to have a physical examination, required inoculations, drug screen, and background check by the completion of the first semester of the program. Students are responsible for any costs incurred related to meeting the health requirements.
- If a minimum number of qualified applicants are not received, enrollment will be delayed until the following semester, at which time, applicants will need to reapply.

Pre-enrollment Deadlines

Pre-enrollment applications to the program may be obtained from the Health and Education Division Office, the Coordinator of the Funeral Service Education program, or at www.arc.losrios.edu/edhealth/FSE.html. Applications for Spring admission will be available mid-September and must be submitted to the division office **no later than the second Friday in December by 4:00 p.m.** Applications for the Fall semester will be available mid-April and must be received **no later than the second Friday in July by 4:00 p.m.**

Requirements for Degree Major 57.5-58.5 units

ACCT 101	Fundamentals of College Accounting	3
BIOL 102	Introduction to Concepts of Human Anatomy and Physiology	4
BIOL 130	Microbiology for Funeral Services	3
BUS 310	Business Communications (3)	3-4
or ENGWR 103	Practical Communication (3)	
or ENGWR 300	College Composition (3)	
or ESLW 340	Advanced Composition (4)	
CHEM 130	Chemistry for Funeral Services	4
CISC 300	Computer Familiarization	1
FSE 100	Introduction to Funeral Service	2
FSE 110	Funeral Directing I	2
FSE 111	Funeral Directing II	2
FSE 120	Embalming I	3
FSE 121	Embalming II	2
FSE 130	Restorative Art	3.5
FSE 140	Pathology	2
FSE 150	Funeral Service Management	3
FSE 155	Merchandising in the Funeral Service Industry	3
FSE 160	Funeral Service Law and Ethics	3
FSE 170	Funeral Services Counseling	3
FSE 297	Internship in Funeral Service Education	5
PSYC 390	Psychology of Death and Dying	3
SPEECH 301	Public Speaking (3)	3
or SPEECH 331	Group Discussion (3)	

Associate Degree Requirements: The Funeral Service Education Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

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).

National Board Exam			
Year	# of First-Time Takers	# of First-Time Takers Who Passed Both Parts of NBE	% of First-Time Takers Who Passed Both Parts of NBE
2004	1	1	100%
2005	25	21	84%

Funeral Service Education

FSE 100 Introduction to Funeral Service Education 2 Units

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: BUS 310 or ENGWR 103; or placement through the assessment process.

Hours: 36 hours LEC

This course is a survey of the history of the funeral service industry. A comprehensive overview of the field of funeral service is covered. Emphasis is on the role and skills of the funeral service practitioner. The course provides insight into the funeral service industry and the career opportunities available.

FSE 110 Funeral Directing I 2 Units

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: BUS 310 or ENGWR 103; or placement through the assessment process.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Funeral Service Education program.

Hours: 36 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 cultural differences, 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 3.5 Units

Prerequisite: FSE 140 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: FSE 120.

Hours: 54 hours LEC; 27 hours LAB

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 2 Units

Prerequisite: CHEM 130 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: BIOL 130.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Funeral Service Education program.

Hours: 36 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

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: FSE 110.

Advisory: BUS 310 or ENGWR 103; or placement through the assessment process.

Enrollment Limitation: Acceptance into the Funeral Service Education program.

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces law and the judicial system as they pertain to the funeral industry. 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

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: FSE 121, FSE 170, and PSYC 390.

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 onsite lab experience program at an approved off-campus preceptor site.

**FSE 1000 California Embalmer's Examination Review
.5 Units**

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: FSE 120.

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course reviews embalming, restorative art, embalming chemistry, pathology, microbiology, safety, and California laws pertaining to the profession of embalming. The course identifies areas to study while preparing for the California Embalmer's Examination. Credit/No Credit only.