

MORTUARY SCIENCE

Mortuary Science Associate in Applied Science Degree and Mortuary Science Accelerated Option

Carl Sandburg College offers both a traditional and an accelerated associate degree program for students interested in a career in mortuary science.

MORTUARY SCIENCE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Prepares students to serve within the funeral service profession and adheres to the institutional commitment to student success in both human development and achievement of educational goals. This challenge is met by educating students in all phases of funeral service, with special attention being given to the high ethical standards within the funeral service profession. These goals are accomplished through a wide variety of educational experiences aimed at developing the many skills needed in order to successfully serve within the funeral service profession. This curriculum is based upon the American Board of Funeral Service Education curriculum outlines. Several of the mortuary science classes require some outside work as well as research about various aspects of the funeral service profession; especially the responsibilities of the funeral service profession to both the families and the communities that each will serve. Upon completion of the mortuary science program, each graduate will have attained those skills necessary to uphold and foster the dignity of the funeral service profession.

NATURE OF THE WORK

Funeral directors arrange the details and handle the logistics of funerals. They interview the family to learn what they desire with regard to the nature of the funeral, the clergy members, or other persons who will officiate and the final disposition of the remains. Sometimes the deceased leave detailed instructions for their own funerals. Together with family members, funeral directors establish the location, dates and times of wakes, memorial services, and burials. Funeral directors also prepare obituary notices and have them placed in newspapers, arrange for pallbearers and clergy, schedule the opening and closing of a grave with the cemetery, decorate and prepare the sites of all services, and provide transportation for the remains, mourners, and flowers between sites. Most funeral directors are also trained and licensed embalmers. Embalming is the cosmetic and preservative process through which the body is prepared for interment.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities are excellent with many openings in the funeral service profession. These include, but are not limited to; funeral directors, embalmers, grief facilitators, and pre-need sales. Most funeral homes are family-run businesses, and the funeral directors either are owner operators or employees of the operation.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Mortuary Science program has specific admission requirements and a separate application process. Students who have successfully completed all of the prerequisite courses contained within the mortuary science program course of study are eligible for the accelerated option. Students must apply and be accepted into the program in order to enroll. Completed applications may be submitted beginning Oct. 1 every year for classes that start the next academic year. Admission to the program is on a rolling basis, but new students are only admitted for the fall semester each year. Mortuary science admission requirements are:

1. Meet admission requirements of Sandburg
2. Complete all general education courses
3. Complete an application for the mortuary science program
4. Submit all transcripts (H.S., College or GED) to Sandburg
5. Submit proof of interview with a licensed funeral director
6. The Hepatitis B Vaccination is required prior to admission

Enrollment in the program is limited to a specific number of students due to accreditation requirements. The accelerated program is designed to meet the needs of those applicants who have already attained the necessary educational requirements in order to complete the required Mortuary Science major courses in a two-semester sequence. Students who enroll in the program must earn a minimum grade of "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) in all courses required in the mortuary science program. Failure to attain these grade requirements will result in dismissal from the program with an option to reapply to the program only available on a onetime basis.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to purchase required clothing or protective equipment used in the program. Additional living and incidental expenses should be expected by the student.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

2400 Tom L. Wilson Blvd.
Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: 309.341.5299

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Welcome Center
Phone:309.345.3500
welcomecenter@sandburg.edu

FOR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

See the graduation policies and procedures page for details.

Mortuary Science AAS

Note: [Students must apply for admission to this program. Please click here to view to the program's page for admission requirements.](#)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Summer Session		
ENG.101	Freshman Composition 1	3
Fall Semester		
MTS.150	Psychology of Grief & Death	3
BIO.111	Anatomy & Physiology Fundamentals	4
CHM.100	Concepts of Chemistry	3
MTS.110	History of Mortuary Science	3
MTS.120	Mortuary Law	3
Spring Semester		
MTS.130	Introduction to Microbiology - Mort Sci	2
MTS.131	Introduction to Pathology-Mortuary Sci	2
MTS.210	Funeral Service Counseling	4
BUS.205	Management Fundamentals	3
BLA.202	Business Law	3
ACC.100	Procedural Accounting	3

Second Year**Fall Semester**

MTS.140	Embalming 1	4
MTS.160	Funeral Service Administration	5
MTS.170	Restorative Art	4
MTS.215	Introduction-Mass Fatalities Incidents	2
MTS.225	Thanatochemistry	3

Spring Semester

MTS.220	Funeral Directing (First 8-Week Session)	4
MTS.230	Embalming 2 (First 8-Week Session)	4
MTS.240	Funeral Service Seminar (First 8-Week Session)	1
MTS.250	Funeral Service Practicum (Second 8-Week Session)	3
MTS.260	Restorative Arts/Embalming Practicum (Second 8-Week Session)	3
MTS.270	Exam Review Seminar (Second 8-Week Session)	1
Total Semester Hours		70

NOTE: Students enrolled in the Mortuary Science program must complete all MTS courses with a grade of "C" or better in order to be eligible to register for subsequent courses. In order to graduate, students must complete all required courses with a grade of "C" or better.

Optional Accelerated Program of Study for Mortuary Science

Note: Students must apply for admission to this program. Please click here to view the program's page for admission requirements.

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Fall Semester		
MTS.150	Psychology of Grief & Death	3
MTS.110	History of Mortuary Science	3
MTS.120	Mortuary Law	3
MTS.140	Embalming 1	4
MTS.160	Funeral Service Administration	5
MTS.170	Restorative Art	4
MTS.215	Introduction-Mass Fatalities Incidents	2
MTS.225	Thanatochemistry	3
Spring Semester		
MTS.130	Introduction to Microbiology - Mort Sci (First 8-Week Session)	2
MTS.131	Introduction to Pathology-Mortuary Sci (First 8-Week Session)	2
MTS.210	Funeral Service Counseling (First 8-Week Session)	4
MTS.220	Funeral Directing (First 8-Week Session)	4
MTS.230	Embalming 2 (First 8-Week Session)	4
MTS.240	Funeral Service Seminar (First 8-Week Session)	1
MTS.250	Funeral Service Practicum (Second 8-Week Session)	3
MTS.260	Restorative Arts/Embalming Practicum (Second 8-Week Session)	3

MTS.270	Exam Review Seminar (Second 8-Week Session)	1
Total Semester Hours		51

NOTE: Students enrolled in the Mortuary Science program must complete all MTS courses with a grade of "C" or better in order to be eligible to register for subsequent courses. In order to graduate, students must complete all required courses with a grade of "C" or better.

Matthew Kendall

Associate Professor, Mortuary Science

Timothy Krause

Professor, Mortuary Science
Coordinator, Mortuary Science

Kristina Gray

Dean, Department of Health Professions

All of our Mortuary Science courses are taught in newly constructed, state-of-the-art facilities located on the Main Campus in Galesburg. This facility includes two main classrooms, restorative art laboratory, chapel area, arrangement and merchandising areas, fully operational preparation room for embalming and dissection, student lounge areas and offices for the teaching and support staff.

The Mortuary Science program at Carl Sandburg College is accredited by the: American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) 922 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097 Phone: 816-233-3747 www.abfse.org