The W.L. Philbrick School of Funeral Service Education

Operating since 1964, Miami Dade College's School of Funeral Service Education is the only public college program in the southeast United States offering a degree in mortuary science. It is also one of only 57 schools nationwide accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education. The Funeral Service program provides embalming and cosmetic preparation on campus, as well as a chapel and merchandising room. With these onsite facilities, students have an unparalleled opportunity to work on all aspects of funeral preparation, from embalming, dressing and casketing bodies, through viewing and final services.

Range of Relevant Courses

The following courses are offered in Miami Dade College's funeral service curriculum:

- Accounting
- Anatomy
- Chemistry
- Computers
- Embalming (lecture and laboratory; includes cosmetology)
- Funeral directing
- Funeral home management
- Funeral home operations and administration
- Funeral law
- Microbiology
- Pathology
- Restorative art (lecture and laboratory)
- Thanatology
State-of-the-Art Technology
Hands-On Facilities

Miami Dade College’s School of Funeral Service Education features state-of-the-art technology for embalming, restorative art and cosmetology. Faculty offices are conveniently located in the same building as a large computer laboratory, which offers students the latest and most sophisticated educational environment in funeral home operation and administration.

Embalmimg Lab

The modern embalming laboratory contains three spacious preparation areas and a laboratory amphitheater for additional student seating. An experienced and licensed faculty conducts bi-weekly embalming laboratories using a wide range of embalming instruments and preservation chemicals. More than 100 human remains are prepared each year, giving students an invaluably practical and well-rounded educational experience.

Restorative Art Lab

The restorative art laboratory offers students hands-on experience in facial reconstruction and restoration of disfigured bodies to their natural state for proper viewing. Weekly laboratories featuring sophisticated modeling equipment and instruments are conducted by experienced licensed instructors.
A Career in Funeral Service

Planning

Choosing and planning a career is one of the most important decisions one makes. A career in funeral service offers an opportunity to serve the community, as well as to help others in their greatest time of need. There is always a demand for professionals trained in this field, regardless of existing economic conditions. An even greater demand exists for those individuals who have prepared themselves for management positions by selecting business courses as part of their college programs. The following courses are recommended for high school students interested in the program:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Accounting or bookkeeping
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Typing

Participation in leadership clubs and community service organizations provides opportunities for personal growth and maturity, which are essential for a career in funeral service.

Opportunities

Although a career in funeral service can be demanding, the rewards and personal fulfillment make the demands worthwhile. Helping families to cope with their grief with sensitivity and compassion is one of the most rewarding aspects of this ancient and honorable profession.

The funeral service profession includes the following responsibilities:

- Providing emotional support to the bereaved
- Arranging and directing funeral ceremonies
- Making preparations according to the wishes of survivors and the requirements of law.
Aims and Purposes of the Funeral Service Program

The successful Funeral Service program graduate will:

- Acknowledge the high standards of ethical conduct required to uphold the dignity of funeral services.
- Know the measures of public health, safety and welfare identified with caring for human remains.
- Possess a degree of competence necessary to administer to the needs of the bereaved families served.
- Accept personal responsibility as members of their profession.
- Support efforts of the medical profession and public health sciences in their attempts to further scientific knowledge.
- Work cooperatively with the clergy, social workers, physiologists, mental health and grief therapists and other members of the care-giving professions.
- Continue to familiarize themselves with funerary requirements of the various religious, fraternal and military organizations.
- Develop a spirit of inquiry and research throughout their careers in funeral service.
- Be aware of the need for continued improvement in funeral service education.
- Be active in initiating, effecting and supporting statutory improvements in funeral service education programs for licensed embalmers and funeral directors.
- Work toward becoming leaders of their communities.
- Pass the National Board Exam and be prepared to pass other professional licensing examinations.
Facilities

Cosmetology Experience
The cosmetology laboratory provides an opportunity to learn funeral cosmetology — the art of aesthetic preparation of the body, making it suitable for viewing.

Through the use of a wide range of cosmetics and special lighting systems, students gain practical experience in the latest cosmetology techniques.

Counseling and Marketing Workshops
The department's innovative videotaped workshops provide the opportunity to improve counseling and group dynamic skills through self-observation and analysis. Merchandising techniques can be mastered through role-playing in a fully furnished modern casket display room. In the department's on-campus funeral chapel, students also practice funeral directing techniques under licensed supervision.

Admission Requirements
Admission to Miami Dade College's W.L. Philbrick School of Funeral Service Education is open to high school graduates and transfer students from other colleges and universities. Before an applicant can be accepted as a funeral service education major, he or she must comply with Florida prematriculation requirements. Students desiring licenses in a state other than Florida must comply with preregistration requirements of that state and submit written evidence of compliance.
A minimum of 72 semester hours is needed for an Associate in Science in Funeral Service. Students must serve concurrent one-year embalmer and funeral director internships and pass the state and national board examinations to be licensed as an embalmer and funeral director in Florida.
Accreditation and Affiliation

Accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education
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For More Information

For more information about MDC's program, call 305-237-1244, e-mail rcovert@mdc.edu or visit www.mdc.edu/north/funeralsciences/

All Funeral Service Education students must take the National Board Examination. For MDC, the National Board Examination is required as part of the Funeral Service Professional Review course, which is the final course in the program of study.

The annual passage rate of first-time takers on the National Board Exam (NBE) for the most recent three-year period for this institution and all ABFSE accredited funeral service education programs is posted on the ABFSE Web site (www.abfse.org).

Passing the National Board Exam is a Miami Dade College requirement for graduation for all FSE students.