

Course Description

FSE2061 | Funeral Service Counseling & Ethics | 3.00 credits

This course emphasizes the psychological and sociological dynamics of death, dying, and bereavement and the funeral director's role in counseling families through the process. A clear understanding of the grief process and its variations among individuals as influenced by psychological factors is addressed. Ethical and moral decisions involving end of life and the funeral arrangement process are discussed. The course also addresses the funeral director as a facilitating agent for effective mourning through personal interaction and the design and implementation of the funeral. Prerequisites: ENC1101, FSE1000

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will learn how family structures change after death by:

1. Differentiating the several standard sociological family types (nuclear, extended, etc.)
2. Identifying how a death event changes the family structure based on who dies
3. Defining the coping mechanisms that family members can use when suffering a loss

Competency 2: The student will examine issues of grief, death, and coping mechanisms of children and adolescents by:

1. Identifying the cognitive levels of children from birth until adolescence
2. Explaining how attachment theory can affect the grief responses of children and adolescents
3. Identifying everyday age-related stressors that impact how children and teens cope with grief

Competency 3: The student will identify positive traits of effective counselors by:

1. Differentiating between verbal and non-verbal communication
2. Comparing the levels of proficiency and how skills are improved
3. Describe the benefits of effective communication and counseling techniques on the funeral process

Competency 4: The student will apply critical thinking to determine the best application of ethical and moral behavior by:

1. Examining and evaluating arguments for and against various ethical issues that arise during the pre-death period as they pertain to funeral service
2. Examining and evaluating arguments for and against various ethical issues arising during funeral arrangements and federalization processes
3. Examining and evaluating arguments for and against various ethical issues during the after-funeral, aftercare period
4. Defining key vocabulary terms relating to ethics
5. Describing theoretical frameworks for the resolving of ethical dilemmas

Learning Outcomes:

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures including global and historical perspectives
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society