

Funeral Service Technology

Program CIP: 12.0301 – Funeral Service and Mortuary Science

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The Office of Curriculum and Instruction (OCI) was founded in 2013 under the Division of Workforce, Career, and Technical Education at the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB). The office is funded through a partnership with The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), who serves as Mississippi's fiscal agent for state and federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) Funds. The OCI is tasked with developing statewide CTE curriculum, programming, and professional development designed to meet the local and statewide economic demand.

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National Certification & Standards

Certification

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

The International Conference is a not-for-profit voluntary association providing examination services, information, and regulatory support to funeral service licensing boards and educators, governmental bodies and other regulatory agencies.

Their goals are to:

1. Define and enhance the identity and the role of The Conference to increase stakeholder understanding.
2. Increase the effectiveness of The Conference through the development of the Board and staff.
3. Enhance and expand communication to member boards, associate members, and exam candidates for understanding the purpose of The Conference.
4. Expand and enhance The Conference member services to support the regulatory community.

Standards

The American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE)

The ABFSE serves as the national academic accreditation agency for college and university programs in Funeral Service and Mortuary Science Education. Although its roots go back to the 1940's, the ABFSE became an autonomous agency in 1962. The accrediting function of ABFSE is recognized by the US Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

Industry Job Projection Data

A summary of occupational data is available from the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

<https://mdes.ms.gov/information-center/labor-market-information/>

Articulation

Check with the local community college CTE administration for articulation agreements.

Industry Credentials, Certifications, and Professional Licensure

As curricula are revised or developed for Career Technical Education (for credit) programs at Mississippi's community colleges, appropriate industry credentials/certifications/professional licensure are identified (where applicable).

Each community college cooperating with businesses/industries in their college district determines if and when industry credentials/certifications/professional licensure are warranted.

Contact each community college for more information.

Dual Enrollment

See the "Procedures Manual for Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs"

http://www.mississippi.edu/cjc/dual_enrollment.asp

Research Abstract

In the fall of 2023, the Office of Curriculum and Instruction (OCI) met with the different industry members who made up the advisory committees for the Funeral Service Technology program. An industry questionnaire was used to gather feedback concerning the trends and needs, both current and future, of their field. Program faculty, administrators, and industry members were consulted regarding industry workforce needs and trends.

Industry advisory team members from the college involved with this program were asked to give input related to changes to be made to the curriculum framework. Specific comments related to soft skills needed in this program include having a positive attitude, being at work every day and on time, and having reading and writing skills to complete work orders and other forms. Occupation-specific skills stated include knowing how to communicate with the customers, basic math skills, troubleshooting with customer concerns, and understanding the importance of confidentiality.

Included in this curriculum revision is the creation of four courses. Those courses are Restorative Art I (FST 1513), Restorative Art II (FST 1533), Microbiology/Pathology (FST 2613), and Current Issues in Funeral Service Technology (FST282(1-3)). In addition, Embalming II (FST 1224) credit hours were reduced from 5 to 4.

Revision History

2010, Revised, Research and Curriculum Unit, Mississippi State University
2017, Revised, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Mississippi Community College Board
2024, Revised, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Mississippi Community College Board

Program Description

The Funeral Service Technology curriculum is a 2-year program leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree. The curriculum required for educating prospective funeral service professionals is a structured series of course experiences. This program is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097; phone, 816-233-3747). *

The goal of the program is to provide training that prepares students for entry-level positions after graduation and licensure. The curriculum is designed to:

- enlarge the background and knowledge of students about the funeral service profession
- educate students in every phase of funeral service and to help enable them to develop proficiency and skills necessary for the profession
- educate students concerning the responsibilities of the funeral service profession to the community at large
- emphasize high standards of ethical conduct
- provide a curriculum at the post-secondary level of instruction
- encourage student and faculty research in the field of funeral service

The mission of an ABFSE-accredited program must be to educate students in every phase of funeral service so that program graduates are prepared for entry-level employment in funeral service. In support of this mission, a program must adopt at least the following Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of an accredited program, students will 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.

Suggested Course Sequence

Accelerated Integrated Career Pathway

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours	SCH Breakdown			Credit Hour Breakdown		Certification Information
			Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Lecture	Lab	Certification Name
FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 1214	Embalming I	4	3	2	0	45	30	
FST 1313	Funeral Directing	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law	3	3	0	0	45	0	
	Other approved elective(s) per local community college	2						
	Total	15						

Funeral Service Required Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours	SCH Breakdown			Credit Hour Breakdown		Certification Information
			Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Lecture	Lab	Certification Name
FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 1214	Embalming I	4	3	2	0	45	30	
FST 1313	Funeral Directing	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics & Law	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 1224	Embalming II	4	3	2	0	45	30	
FST 1513	Restorative Art I	3	2	2	0	30	30	
FST 2613	Microbiology/Pathology	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 2713	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising and Management	3	3	0	0	45	0	
FST 2811	Comprehensive Review	1	1	0	0	15	0	
	Other approved elective(s) per local community college	10						
	Total	45						

General Education Core Courses

To receive the Associate of Applied Science Degree, a student must complete all of the required coursework found in Funeral Services Required Course listing and the General Education Core courses as outlined in the table below. Each community college will specify the actual courses that are required to meet the General Education Core Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree at their college. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools¹ (SACS) Commission on Colleges Standard 2.7.3 from the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement² describes the general education core.

Section 2.7.3 In each undergraduate degree program, the institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the collegiate level that (1) is substantial component of each undergraduate degree, (2) ensures breadth of knowledge, and (3) is based on a coherent rationale. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent. These credit hours are to be drawn from and include at least one course from the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. The courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.

General Education Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours	SCH Breakdown		Certification Information
			Lecture	Lab	Certification Name
	English Composition I	3			
	Humanities/Fine Arts	3			
	Social/Behavioral Sciences	3			
	Math/Science	3-4			
	Academic electives	6			
	TOTAL	17-19			

¹ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. (2019). *The principles of accreditation: Foundations for quality enhancement*. Retrieved from <https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/2018PrinciplesOfAccreditation.pdf>

² American Board of Funeral Service Education <https://abfse.org/>

Funeral Service Courses

*Any course not listed as a required course may be used as an elective

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours	SCH Breakdown			Certification Information
			Lecture	Lab	Clinical	
FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	3	3	0	0	
FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II	3	3	0	0	
FST 1214	Embalming I	4	3	2	0	
FST 1224	Embalming II	4	3	2	0	
FST 1231	Clinical Embalming I	1	0	0	3	
FST 1241	Clinical Embalming II	1	0	0	3	
FST 1313	Funeral Directing	3	3	0	0	
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law	3	3	0	0	
FST 1513	Restorative Art I	3	2	2	0	
FST 1523	Restorative Art/Color Cosmetic					
FST 1533	Restorative Art II	3	2	2	0	
FST 2251	Clinical Embalming III	1	0	0	3	
FST 2261	Clinical Embalming IV	1	0	0	3	
FST 2273	Thanatochemistry	3	3	0	0	
FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising and Management	3	3	0	0	
FST 2423	Business Law	3	3	0	0	
FST 2523	Color and Cosmetics	3	2	2	0	
FST 2613	Microbiology/Pathology	3	3	0	0	
FST 2623	Microbiology	3	3	0	0	
FST 2633	Pathology	3	3	0	0	
FST 2713	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death	3	3	0	0	
FST 281(1-3)	Comprehensive Review	1-3	1-3	0	0	
FST 282(1-3)	Current Issues in Funeral Service Technology	1-3	1-3	0	0	
	All other electives approved by instructor per local community college policy					

Course Descriptions

Course Number and Name: FST 1113 Mortuary Anatomy I

Description: The study of the human body with particular emphasis on those systems providing the foundation for embalming, pathology, public health, and restorative art.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Define anatomical terminology and body organization sufficient to communicate effectively with the public, public officials, and health professionals.
2. Compare and contrast anatomical guides, linear guides, and anatomical limits; and explain selected topographical regions.
3. Compare and contrast the different categories of articulations, listing examples of each.
4. Identify and describe the major layers and accessory structures of the integumentary system.
5. Identify major subdivisions of the skeletal system, including individual bones, their numbers, and their important functions.
6. Identify major and accessory organs of the digestive system and chart ingested items from entry to exit through the system.
7. Identify organs of the urinary system and trace the flow of urine.

Course Number and Name: FST 1123 Mortuary Anatomy II

Description: The study of the human body with particular emphasis on those systems providing the foundation for embalming, pathology, public health, and restorative art. This course is a continuation of FST 1113 Mortuary Anatomy I.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: Mortuary Anatomy I

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify major organs of male and female reproductive systems.
2. Identify the major organs of the respiratory system, trace the flow of air during inhalation and exhalation, and differentiate between internal and external respiration.
3. Identify and describe the flow of blood through the heart and major vessels of the cardiovascular system.
4. Identify the major structures and functions of the cardiovascular system, the blood vascular system, arterial and venous circulation, and components of the blood.
5. Identify the major organs and vessels of the lymphatic system.
6. Identify the location and function of selected endocrine structures.
7. Discuss the major structures and subdivisions of the nervous system.
8. Locate and identify selected skeletal muscles.

Course Number and Name: FST 121(3-4) Embalming I FST 1123

Description: This course is a survey of the process of chemically treating human remains to reduce the presence and growth of microorganisms to temporarily inhibit organic decomposition, and to restore an acceptable physical appearance. The subject includes the study of death of the human body, government regulations applicable to the embalming process, embalming analysis and reports, instrumentation, arterial fluid, and various conditions encountered with human remains.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45
4	3	0	3	90

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the concepts of disinfection, temporary preservation and restoration of human remains.
2. Evaluate how the handling, treatment and disposition of human remains meets sociological, psychological, ethical and regulatory requirements.
3. Differentiate between the various professional agencies and their responsibilities with respect to human remains.
4. Demonstrate and describe the use of embalming instruments, equipment and supplies.
5. Assess the general principles and use of embalming chemicals and summarize their components.
6. Demonstrate and explain safe work practices concerning exposure to bloodborne pathogens and hazardous chemicals.
7. Analyze anatomical considerations for injection point selection.

Course Number and Name: FST 1224 Embalming II

Description: This course is a survey of the process of chemically treating human remains to reduce the presence and growth of microorganisms to temporarily inhibit organic decomposition, and to restore an acceptable physical appearance. The subject includes the study of death of the human body, government regulations applicable to the embalming process, embalming analysis and reports, instrumentation, and various conditions encountered with human remains. This course is a continuation of Embalming I.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
4	3	0	3	90

Prerequisite: FST 1214 Embalming I

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Analyze anatomical considerations for injection point selection.
2. Describe how the vascular system is used to distribute embalming chemicals to the tissues of the body.
3. Analyze body conditions that will affect the choice of various embalming techniques and the implementation of the proper procedures.
4. Explain the need and apply proper procedures for cavity treatment.
5. Complete all documentation associated with the care and preparation of human remains.
6. Describe the preparation of unembalmed remains for identification viewing and removal of medical devices for disposition.
7. Integrate information from the studies of Microbiology, Pathology, Anatomy, Chemistry and Restorative Art.

Course Number and Name: FST 1313 Funeral Directing

Description: The Funeral Directing curriculum focuses on the basic duties, responsibilities, and expectations of those practicing funeral service. This includes notification of death, transfer of remains, conduct of the arrangement conference, prefunded/preplanned funerals, religious practices, fraternal funerals and military honors, shipment of remains, final disposition, aftercare, and regulatory and legislative compliance.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the primary responsibility of the funeral practitioner, including regulatory and legislative compliance, and adherence to ethical standards.
2. Explain the order in which the services of the funeral practitioner are typically provided (i.e. pre- need, at-need, and post funeral follow up).
3. Describe and apply appropriate initial notification procedures.
4. Relate the process of transferring human remains from the place of death to the funeral establishment using generally accepted procedures, equipment, and forms.
5. Apply communication skills necessary for the arrangement conference and all funeral processes.
6. Identify and describe various religious and secular funeral customs as practiced in North America.
7. Describe fraternal funeral procedures and military honors.
8. Discuss prefunded/preplanned funerals
9. Discuss requirement and options for the shipping of human remains.
10. Apply vocabulary associated with funeral service.
11. Describe the forms of final disposition.

Course Number and Name: FST 1413 Funeral Service Ethics and Law

Description: Comprehensive review of the ethical and legal aspects involved in funeral service.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply the laws, rules and regulations affecting funeral service.
2. Identify legal relationships, rights, duties and liabilities between the funeral service practitioner, the dead body and the consumer.
3. Recognize the legal issues and importance of due diligence in funeral practices and compliance to help minimize exposure and/or liability.
4. Examine the importance of completing proper documentation in funeral service.
5. Distinguish situations when legal and other professional services are required for death planning and estate administration.
6. Define ethics and terms associated with ethical issues and practices.
7. Outline the foundation of ethics.
8. Identify sources of ethics.
9. Differentiate between legal and ethical issues.
10. Apply a standard of ethical behavior in personal and professional conduct.
11. Distinguish between ethical and unethical funeral service practices.
12. Understand the purpose of the FTC and its effect on Funeral Service.
13. Identify who must comply with the Federal Trade Commission Funeral Industry Practices Rule and how to comply with The Rule.
14. Recognize the specific price disclosures required by the Federal Trade Commission Funeral Industry Practices Rule.
15. Understand what misrepresentations are prohibited by the Federal Trade Commission Funeral Industry Practices Rule.

Course Number and Name: FST 1513 Restorative Art I

Description: A survey of the basic principles of Restorative Art as they relate to Funeral Service. Stressed are the techniques of restoring and recreating an acceptable physical appearance of the deceased.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the importance of obtaining authorization to perform and document restorative procedures.
2. Understand the relationship between restorative art and embalming procedures.
3. Identify locate the major bony structures of the skull and explain how each influences surface form.
4. Identify locate the major muscles of the face and explain how each influences surface form and expression.
5. Identify and describe the natural and acquired facial markings of the face and neck.
6. Describe and explain facial proportions and how they relate to the natural form of the facial features and facial restoration.
7. Identify and describe the forms of the head and face from the profile, frontal and bilateral views.
8. Restore and/or reconstruct decedents in all conditions.

Course Number and Name: FST 1533 Restorative Art II

Description: A survey of the basic principles of Restorative Art as they relate to Funeral Service. Stressed are the techniques of restoring and recreating an acceptable physical appearance of the deceased. This course is a continuation of FST 1513 Restorative Art I.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: FST 1513 Restorative Art I

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and describe the four major facial features, their parts and variations.
2. Describe the principles of color theory as it applies to restorative art.
3. Apply the correct colorants to achieve a natural appearance under various conditions.
4. Identify, describe, and apply the various cosmetic materials, treatments, and associated equipment.
5. Employ the principles of illumination.
6. Restore and/or reconstruct decedents in all conditions.

Course Number and Name: FST 2273 Thanatochemistry

Description: This course is a survey of the principles of chemistry as they relate to funeral service. Emphasis is on the chemical principles and precautions involved in the preservation and disinfection of the dead human body.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Pre/ corequisite: FST 1214 Embalming I

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand why general chemistry is a basis for embalming chemistry.
2. Identify potentially harmful chemicals used in the funeral home and describe pertinent state and federal regulations regarding use, storage, etc.
3. Identify chemical components of embalming fluids and describe their respective functions.
4. Describe the essential characteristic processes of decomposition.
5. Relate organic chemistry to the preparation for disposition of human remains.
6. Define the basic characteristics of carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins.

Course Number and Name: FST 2323 Funeral Merchandising and Management

Description: This course is a broad overview of the basic principles of Funeral Service Management designed to introduce students to the basics of merchandising, current trends, and disaster preparedness. Emphasis is given to effective communication, business formation, development, management, and marketing.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Differentiate the goals and objectives of funeral service management.
2. Relate management functions to funeral service practice.
3. Identify and apply concepts of funeral service management related to client-families, community, employees, professional associates and other funeral service related organizations.
4. Correlate various areas of management (human resource, financial, marketing, facilities, and office) to funeral service practice.
5. Apply the Servant Leadership model to the practice of funeral service.
6. Compare and contrast motivation theories as applied to employee behavior.
7. Create and apply operational policies and procedures specific to funeral service.
8. Discuss procedures and responsibilities related to disaster readiness.
9. Explore trends in funeral service and how they impact management functions.
10. Recognize the importance of regulatory compliance for funeral service operations.
11. Identify situations requiring the advice of other professionals/experts in fields such as legal, accounting, financial and insurance.
12. Demonstrate merchandising knowledge of funeral and cemetery goods and services to facilitate communications with families, allied professionals, and funeral service suppliers.
13. Identify the component parts of funeral and cemetery goods, including materials, styles, finishes, dimensions and functions.
14. Demonstrate conceptual and practical knowledge of factors and strategies for determining product mix.
15. Demonstrate between methods of price determination.
16. Demonstrate methods of price quotation.
17. Demonstrate techniques for the effective presentation of goods and services.
18. Defend the importance of evaluating sales.
19. Explain the characteristics of a small business.
20. Explain the functions of management.
21. Identify and describe legal forms of business organizations.
22. Discuss the various factors of establishing a small business.
23. Understand and explain the fundamental accounting equation.
24. Discuss the importance of market analysis.
25. Identify and discuss the elements and importance of a business plan.
26. Explain how location and design impact small business.
27. Describe inventory management procedures.
28. Identify and discuss pricing policies and strategies.
29. Apply marketing strategies in small business.
30. Describe and analyze financial statements.
31. Discuss cash flow.
32. Explain the concepts of business valuation.

33. Define the terms of depreciation.
34. Demonstrate an understanding of the payroll process.
35. Explain risk management and the role of human resource management.
36. Explain how technology impacts a business.
37. Demonstrate the elements of verbal communication.
38. Distinguish the meanings of nonverbal communication.
39. Explain effective listening skills.
40. Recognize interpersonal communication skills.
41. Produce and deliver effective verbal and written communications.
42. Summarize the role of technology in communication.
43. Evaluate the appropriate form of communication.
44. Describe communication skills for the workplace.

Course Number and Name: FST 2423 Funeral Service Business Law

Description: This course is a survey of the basic principles of business law as they relate to funeral service. Included are the bodies of law and the judicial system found in the United States of America, contracts, sales, consumer protection, bailments, employment, agency, business organizations, and insurance.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the structure of the American system of jurisprudence including the federal and state court systems and sources of law.
2. Distinguish between torts and crimes, and breach of contracts.
3. Describe the elements of, requirements for and defenses to contracts.
4. Relate the Uniform Commercial Code to the sale of goods.
5. Discuss consumer protection laws relating to business operations.
6. Explain the duty of care related to bailments.
7. Describe the roles of employers, employees, and independent contractors.
8. Analyze and explain the legal issues regarding principal-agent relationships.
9. Identify the basic forms of business organizations.
10. Contrast between real and personal property, and method of acquiring and transferring through purchase, sale, and inheritance.
11. Identify components of, parties to, and types of life insurance.

Course Number and Name: FST 2613 Microbiology/Pathology

Description: This course is a survey of the basic principles of microbiology. It relates these principles to Funeral Service Education especially as they pertain to sanitation, disinfection, public health, and embalming practice. The development and use of personal, professional and community hygiene and sanitation are discussed.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Pre/corequisite: FST 1113 Mortuary Anatomy I

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Examine microbial morphology and physiology.
2. Evaluate interspecies relationships.
3. Relate the knowledge of sanitation and sterilization to personal hygiene and environmental disinfection.
4. Describe the infection process and specific and non-specific defense mechanisms against disease.
5. Understand the transmission and cycle of disease and be able to apply methods of control with emphasis on protecting of the funeral practitioner and public.
6. Demonstrate a knowledge of diseases and related terminology which will enable competent communication with members of the medical community, allied professionals and surviving family members.
7. Describe the value of the postmortem examination, anatomical gifts, tissue transplantation and medical research.
8. Identify the pathological conditions and etiological factors which require special procedures in the removal, handling, preparation and disposition of human remains.
9. Correlate the relationship between disease processes and the preparation of human remains for disposition.

Course Number and Name: FST 2713 Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death

Description: This course is a survey of the basic principles of psychology, counseling and sociology as they relate to funeral service. Especially stressed are the psychological concepts in the areas of grief, bereavement, mourning, aftercare, and crisis intervention with emphasis on the role of the funeral practitioner. Emphasis is placed on family structures, social structures, and the factors of change that relate to funeral practices.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Define critical Sociology terms and how sociology is applied to funeral service practices.
2. Identify the cultural requirements of each individual decedent and their family.
3. Connect elements associated with social function and culture to their funeral service applications.
4. Identify the family governing systems found in contemporary society and explain the implications for funeral service.
5. Classify and Describe changing social factors which affect funeral rites and families that are served by funeral practitioners.
6. Identify the role of the deceased in the family structure and the effect of that death on the funeral rite.
7. Identify how technology affects funeral service sociology.
8. Recognize the application of general psychology to funeral service.
9. Describe the values and purposes of the funeral rite for the family and friends.
10. Recognize all types of grief reactions and responses.
11. Describe the theories of grief.
12. Describe issues relating to children and death.
13. Explain how grief affects families.
14. Differentiate between the types and styles of counseling therapy.
15. Recognize the major goals of counseling as well as the functions of the counselor.
16. Utilize basic counseling skills and techniques.
17. Recognize pre-need, at-need, and post-funeral counseling opportunities.
18. Recognize and understand how loss and stress affect the funeral practitioner.
19. Develop strategies for self-care of the funeral practitioner.
20. Recognize when and demonstrate how to make referrals to appropriate community or professional resources.

Course Number and Name: **FST 281(1-3) Comprehensive Review**

Description: This course offers a review of the entire curriculum, culminating with an exam designed to prepare students for the National Board Examination.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
1	1	0	0	15
2	2	0	0	30
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: To be taken during the final semester of coursework. Student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Review material to pass the National Board Examination.
 - a. Discuss exam content areas.
 - b. Discuss test-taking skills.
2. Participate in exams to prepare for the National Board Examination.
 - a. Perform weekly exams.
 - b. Complete a comprehensive exam.

Course Number and Name: FST 282(1-3)Current Issues in Funeral Service Technology

Description: A course that identifies the contemporary trends and their historical roots in Funeral Service and their impact on the funeral service profession and society.

Hour Breakdown:

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Contact Hours
1	1	0	0	15
2	2	0	0	30
3	3	0	0	45

Prerequisite: Instructor Approved

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Research the historical foundations of funeral service practices in order to better serve client families and honor the dead through meaningful memorialization.
2. Examine the development of funeral service in order to bring significance to current practices.
3. Recognize enduring values of various cultures as expressed in their funeral practices.
4. Describe the evolution of memorialization products and service enhancements, funeral transportation, final disposition and funeral providers.
5. Outline the progression and necessity of funeral service education.
6. Relate the value of funeral service associations and their purposes.
7. Identify the historical foundations of various funeral practices.
8. Discuss the historical significance and evolution of cremation and methods of alternative disposition.
9. Discuss the historical significance of cremation.
10. Identify service options.
11. Identify statutory and regulatory requirements.
12. Describe additional recommendations when using third party crematories.
13. Explain the importance of using appropriate documentation, including forms required by law and those designed for legal protection.
14. Distinguish between cremation containers, containers for cremated remains, and other merchandising options.
15. Explain the FTC Funeral Rule as it applies to cremation.
16. Interpret statistical trends in cremation.
17. Describe options for disposition of cremated remains including legal restrictions and local customs.
18. List shipping and transportation requirements for cremated remains.

Appendix A: Recommended Tools and Equipment

Capitalized Items

1. Aspirator, Electric 1/4 HP, Dual Water Attachment
2. Autoclave w/Dryer (1 per program)
3. Cabinet, Instrument, Glass Doors Locking (1 per program)
4. Casket Bier
5. Cemetery Canopy (15 ft by 15 ft)
6. Chapel Setting
7. Computer, PC with accessories (1 per 4 students)
8. Cot, Mortuary/Ambulance, One-person (1 per program)
9. Devotional Setting
10. Embalming Machines, one of each type (2 per program)
11. Eye Wash Station, Water in-line (1 per program)
12. Heart Model
13. Human Torso
14. Lowering Device with Placer and Riser (telescopic)
15. Manikin, Weighted (105-lb min.)
16. Porto-Lift Casket/Body, Hydraulic (1 per program)
17. Printer (1 per 2 computers)
18. Skeleton
19. SynDaver
20. Table, Dressing, Variable Heights (1 per program)
21. Table, Embalming, Hydraulic, Stainless Steel (1 per program)
22. Table, Embalming, Portable, Stainless Steel (1 per program)
23. Truck, 3 Position, Casket, Church (1 per program)
24. Water Control Unit with Air Suction (1 per program)
25. Formaldehyde Test Indicator (1 per clinical site)

Other equipment items can be added when deemed appropriate by the community college industry craft committee or by industry/business training requirements.

Non-Capitalized Items

1. Aneurysm Hooks, Retractor, Stainless Steel (2 per program)
2. Aneurysm Hooks with Vessel Expander (1 per program)
3. Arm and Hand Positioner (1 per program)
4. Arterial Tubes, Curved, various sizes (1 per size, 6 total per program)
5. Arterial Tube, "Y" Fitting with twin stopcocks (1 per program)
6. Artificial Grass (15 ft by 15 ft)
7. Aspirator, Autopsy, Non-clogging, Chrome (1 per program)
8. Body Mover, Plastic Board (1 per program)
9. Body Positioner (3 per program)
10. Cart, Utility, 3 Shelf Stainless Steel (1 per program)
11. Chairs, Folding, Aluminum/Metal (12 per program)
12. Casket Display Stand
13. Cosmetic Makeup Kit
14. Drainage Tubes, various sizes (6 per program/various sizes)
15. First Aid Kit (1 per program)
16. Forceps, Drainage, 7 in., Spring (1 per program)
17. Forceps, Stainless Steel, various sizes (1 per size, 6 total per program)
18. Groove Director, Stainless Steel (1 per program)

19. Head Block/Rest (1 per program)
20. Head, Human, Anatomical, 6 part (1 per program)
21. Hemostats, Stainless Steel, various sizes (1 per size)
22. Incision Spreader, Stainless Steel, Spring (1 per program)
23. Injector, Cavity, Chemical, Stainless Steel (1 per program)
24. Injector, Needle, Mouth Closure, Stainless Steel (1 per program)
25. Injector, Needle, Electric (1 per program)
26. Needle, Surgical Stainless Steel, various sizes (1 of each)
27. Personal Protective Kits (10 sets per student, minimum)
28. Scissors, Stainless Steel, various sizes (1 of each size)
29. Shower, Emergency Drench (1 per program)
30. Spill Kit (1 per program)
31. Stand, Instrument, Stainless Chrome (1 per program)
32. Table, Laboratory, Student (1 per 4 students)
33. Trocar, Cavity, various sizes (1 of each size)
34. Trocar, Hypodermic Handle Value, 16 1/2 in., 3/16 in. (1 per program)
35. Trocar, Infant, with Stopcock
36. Tube, Nasal Aspirating, Curved, Slip Hub (1 per program)
37. Utility Shear, Dressing, Heavy Duty (1 per program)

Other equipment items can be added when deemed appropriate by the community college industry craft committee or by industry/business training requirements.

Recommended Instructional Aids

It is recommended that instructors have access to the following items:

1. Computer Workstation, Wood (1 per computer)
2. Interactive Whiteboard (1 per program)
3. Projector, Overhead (1 per program)
4. Projection System
5. Stand, TV/DVD, 2-shelf w/electrical cord (1 per program)
6. TV (35 in.)
7. DVD

Appendix B: Curriculum Definitions and Terms

- Course Name – A common name that will be used by all community colleges in reporting students
- Course Abbreviation – A common abbreviation that will be used by all community and junior colleges in reporting students
- Classification – Courses may be classified as the following:
 - Career Certificate Required Course – A required course for all students completing a career certificate.
 - Technical Certificate Required Course – A required course for all students completing a technical certificate.
 - Technical Elective – Elective courses that are available for colleges to offer to students.
- Description – A short narrative that includes the major purpose(s) of the course
- Prerequisites – A listing of any courses that must be taken prior to or on enrollment in the course
- Corequisites – A listing of courses that may be taken while enrolled in the course
- Student Learning Outcomes – A listing of the student outcomes (major concepts and performances) that will enable students to demonstrate mastery of these competencies

The following guidelines were used in developing the program(s) in this document and should be considered in compiling and revising course syllabi and daily lesson plans at the local level:

- The content of the courses in this document reflects approximately 75% of the time allocated to each course. The remaining 25% of each course should be developed at the local district level and may reflect the following:
 - Additional competencies and objectives within the course related to topics not found in the state framework, including activities related to specific needs of industries in the community college district
 - Activities that develop a higher level of mastery on the existing competencies and suggested objectives
 - Activities and instruction related to new technologies and concepts that were not prevalent at the time the current framework was developed or revised
 - Activities that include integration of academic and career–technical skills and course work, school-to-work transition activities, and articulation of secondary and postsecondary career– technical programs
 - Individualized learning activities, including work-site learning activities, to better prepare individuals in the courses for their chosen occupational areas
- Sequencing of the course within a program is left to the discretion of the local college. Naturally, foundation courses related to topics such as safety, tool and equipment usage, and other fundamental skills should be taught first. Other courses related to specific skill areas and related academics, however, may be sequenced to take advantage of seasonal and climatic conditions, resources located outside of the school, and other factors. Programs that offer an Associate of Applied Science Degree must include all of the required Career Certificate courses, Technical Certificate courses **AND** a minimum of 15 semester hours of General Education Core Courses. The courses in the General Education Core may be spaced out over the entire length of the program so that students complete some academic and Career Technical courses each semester. Each community college specifies the actual courses that are required to meet the General Education Core Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree at their college.
- In order to provide flexibility within the districts, individual courses within a framework may be customized by doing the following:
 - Adding new student learning outcomes to complement the existing competencies and suggested objectives in the program framework
 - Revising or extending the student learning outcomes
 - Adjusting the semester credit hours of a course to be up 1 hour or down 1 hour (after informing the Mississippi Community College Board [MCCB] of the change)

Appendix C: Course Crosswalk

Course Crosswalk					
Funeral Service Technology					
Previous			Existing		
2010 MS Curriculum Framework			2017 MS Curriculum Framework		
Course Number	Course Title	Hours	Course Number	Course Title	Hours
FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	3	FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	3
FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II	3	FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II	3
FST 1214	Embalming I	4	FST 1214	Embalming I	4
			FST 1224	Embalming II	4
FST 1225	Embalming II	5			
FST 1231	Clinical Embalming I	1	FST 1231	Clinical Embalming I	1
FST 1241	Clinical Embalming II	1	FST 1241	Clinical Embalming II	1
FST 1313	Funeral Directing	3	FST 1313	Funeral Directing	3
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law	3	FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law	3
			FST 1513	Restorative Art I	3
FST 1523	Restorative Art	3	FST 1523	Restorative Art/Color Cosmetics	3
			FST 1533	Restorative Art II	3
FST 2251	Clinical Embalming III	1	FST 2251	Clinical Embalming III	1
FST 2261	Clinical Embalming IV	1	FST 2261	Clinical Embalming IV	1
FST 2273	Thantochemistry	3	FST 2273	Thantochemistry	3
FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising and Management	3	FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising and Management	3
FST 2423	Business Law	3	FST 2423	Business Law	3
			FST 2613	Microbiology/Pathology	3
FST 2623	Microbiology	3	FST 2623	Microbiology	3
FST 2633	Pathology	3	FST 2633	Pathology	3
FST 2713	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death	3	FST 2713	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death	3
FST 281(1-3)	Comprehensive Review	1	FST 281(1-3)	Comprehensive Review	1-3
			FST 282(1-3)	Current Issues in Funeral Service Technology	1-3

Course Crosswalk

Funeral Service Technology

Note: Courses that have been added or changed in the 2024 curriculum are highlighted.

Revised					
2024 MS Curriculum Framework					
Course Number	Course Title	Hours			
FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	3			
FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II	3			
FST 1214	Embalming I	4			
FST 1224	Embalming II	4			
FST 1313	Funeral Directing	3			
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law	3			
FST 1513	Restorative Art I	3			
FST 1533	Restorative Art II	3			
FST 2273	Thanatochemistry	3			
FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising and Management	3			
FST 2423	Funeral Service Business Law	3			
FST 2613	Microbiology/Pathology	3			
FST 2713	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death	3			
FST 281(1-3)	Comprehensive Review	1-3			
FST 282(1-3)	Current Issues in Funeral Service Technology	1-3			

Appendix D: Recommended Textbook List

Recommended Textbook List		
CIP 12.0301 Funeral Service and Mortuary Science		
Book Title	Author(s)	ISBN
Anatomy for Funeral Service	Professional Training Schools	978-8-8888-8230-7
Black's Law Dictionary 8 th Ed.	Garner, B. A.	978-0-3141-5199-5
Chemistry for Funeral Service	Professional Training Schools	978-0-0004-5892-6
College Accounting 22 nd Ed.	Heintz, J.A., & Parry, R.W.	978-1-3056-6618-4
Color and Cosmetics	Mayer, J. Sheridan	978-5-500-10512-7
Complying with the Funeral Rule	Federal Trade Commission Website	N/A
Embalming: History, Theory, and Practice 5 th Ed.	Mayer, R. G.	978-0-0717-4139-2
Ethics in Funeral Service	Klicker, R.	978-0-9647-9670-6
Federal Trade Commission Funeral Industry Practices Revised Rule. 16 CFR 453	Federal Trade Commission	N/A
Fires of Change: A Comprehensive Examination of Cremation	Fritch, J. & Altieri, J.	978-0-9979-2618-7
Fundamentals of Funeral Directing: Building a Professional Cornerstone	Fritch, J. & Altieri, J.	978-0-9979-2613-2
Funeral Directing & Funeral Service Management	Klicker, R. L.	978-1-7344-8050-4
Funeral Service Merchandising: An Introductory Text for Students	DeArmond, Phillip R.	978-1-8830-3103-9
Funeral Rights and Customs	Dallas: Professional Training Schools	978-1-7366-1013-8
Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling	Klicker, R.	978-0-9647-9673-7
Funerals: A Consumer Guide	Federal Trade Commission Website	978-1-4848-2375-0
Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy 4 th Ed.	Worden, J. W.	978-0-8261-0120-4
History of American Funeral Directing	Habenstein, R. W. and Lamers, W.M.	978-0-6159-8940-2
Interpersonal Skills Training	Wolfelt, A.D.	978-8-1309-1061-1
Law for Business 19 th Ed.	Ashcroft, J.D., Ashcroft, K.M., & Patterson, M.A.	978-1-3056-5492-1
Microbiology for Funeral Service 1 st Ed.	Professional Training Schools	N/A
Mortuary Law 11 th Ed.	Gilligan, T. Scott & Stueve, Thomas FH.	978-1-8830-3114-5
One World: Sociology and Funeral Service	Fritch & Steward	978-0-6926-7592-2
Pathology and Microbiology for Mortuary Science 1 st Ed.	Mullins, D.	978-1-4018-2519-5
Pathology for Funeral Service 1 st Ed.	Professional Training Schools	N/A
Restorative Art	Mayer, J. Sheridan	978-0-9979-2616-3
Restorative Art and Science	Klicker, Ralph L., Ph.D.	978-0-9647-9672-0

Small Business Management: An Entrepreneurial Emphasis 18 th Ed.	Longenecker, J. G., Moore, C. W., Petty, J. W., & Palich, L. E.	978-1-3054-0574-5
Sociology for Funeral Service	Dallas: Professional Training Schools, Inc.	978-9-6585-6845-2
Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary 22 nd Ed.	Venes, D.	978-0-8036-2977-6
Thanatochemistry: A Survey of General, Organic, and Biochemistry for Funeral Service 3 rd Ed.	Dorn, James M., & Hopkins, Barbara M.	978-0-1365-4195-0
The Psychosocial Aspects of Death and Dying 2 nd Ed.	Canine, J.	978-0-9979-2615-6
Turning Art Into Science - Applying Chemistry to Funeral	de la Cruz, Damon, & Holmes, Robert	978-0-9988-1310-3
Types of Funeral Services and Ceremonies 2 nd Ed.	National Association of Colleges of Mortuary Science - FSERC	978-0-6926-7590-8