

Course Description

FSE1000 | Introduction to Funeral Service | 3.00 credits

This course traces the origins of funeral service practice from antiquity to modern day practice. Students will learn the evolution of the funeral profession, the funeral director's role including obligations, fundamental requirements, skills, aptitudes, and qualifications. Requires a grade of C or better to pass the course.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the significance of historical funeral practices by:

1. Describing early Egyptian, Greek, and Roman funeral customs
2. Describing early Christian, Hebrew, and Scandinavian burial
3. Describing federalization and disposition of the dead through the Middle Ages and Renaissance
4. Discussing medical embalmers and the rise of English undertakers
5. Discussing the evolution and birth of American funeral behavior from its European forefathers
6. Explaining the development of the funeral merchandise industry in the United States and its influence on international funeral behavior
7. Explaining rediscovery and refinement of embalming in the United States
8. Describing the pattern of late nineteenth-century funerals
9. Describing the development of funeral industry associations and their role in American industry and society

Competency 2: The student will gain knowledge of the development of funeral service education by:

1. Identifying the evolution of funeral service/mortuary schools and degree programs
2. Describing the development of regulatory agencies at the state and national level
3. Defining the American Board of Funeral Service Education and its role in modern funeral service education
4. Discussing the role of associations and regulatory agencies as it influences funeral service education and professional development

Competency 3: The student will describe the history of cremation as a means of human disposition by:

1. Describing cultures of antiquity where cremation was the prevalent mode of disposition
2. Discussing the factors that contributed to the decline in cremation as a means of disposition in Western civilization from the Dark Ages until the Industrial Era
3. Describing the influences of industrial hygiene and other modern factors that led to the increase in popularity of cremation from the end of the industrial era to the modern day

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities