Function as a caring profession with a meaningful career path

Funeral directors use counseling and planning skills to assist families in coping with grief, adjusting to new situations and helping them make appropriate burial arrangements. The successful funeral director possesses emotional stability and a desire to serve others. Exceptional physical health is important so that a funeral director may withstand working irregular hours and the stress that comes with the position. Students who think they might want to pursue this career path should have exceptional grooming habits, be sympathetic and able to adapt to any situation. Prior coursework in public speaking, accounting and business would be helpful.

If you want to pursue a career that combines thoughtful compassion for people during a difficult time with good business sense and an ever-changing workplace, then this caring profession can lead you down a meaningful career path.

About the program

The funeral directing certificate of specialization prepares students for licensure as a funeral director and entry-level employment in most funeral establishments—both in Missouri and in other states with similar licensing requirements. These non-technical certificate classes are available to students at night on the Forest Park campus or via the college's online website. The program focuses on the art of funeral directing and does not include any courses in embalming. Students interested in further education are encouraged to pursue the associate degree in funeral service education at STLCC.

Approved by the Missouri State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, this certificate program is the only one offered in this state. The program fulfills the educational requirement for the associate degree in funeral service education at STLCC.

One of the many benefits of this program is our Advisory Board that includes a wide range of members from the Missouri State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, officers of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and a number of funeral service professionals. This advisory board works to ensure that the curriculum keeps pace with employment requirements in the field. Additionally, the entire department is a member of the University Mortuary Science Education Association.

This program is designed to meet specific state or professional needs. It is not accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education. Students graduating from this program are not eligible to take the National Board Examination or any state board examination for which graduation from an ABFSE accredited program is required.

Opportunities in this field

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, funeral directors and funeral service manager positions are expected to grow at an 18 percent rate from 2010 through 2020, about as fast as average for most professions. However, due to the increase in retirements and professionals leaving the profession, there is a strong case for an upward trend in hiring in this field.

Salary information

Individual salaries may vary by geographic location, the student's education, experience and certification level and the type and size of the employer. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary for a funeral home manager in May 2010 is approximately $66,720 per year. The average salary for a funeral director is approximately $54,140. Entry level position salaries may be lower.

Fees

Please visit www.stlcc.edu/fees for the most current information. Additional fees apply to some courses. Fees are subject to change.

Contact information

Stephen W. Smith
Program Director
314-644-9266
swsmith@stlcc.edu

You can earn this degree at: Forest Park

You may take general education classes toward this degree at any of our campuses or education centers.
# Certificate of Specialization

**Prerequisites:**
* Student must have a total 2.0 GPA to be admitted.
* Students must be admitted to the Funeral Directing Program.
* Students must be academically prepared to enroll in ENG:101 and RDG:100.

## CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FD:101</td>
<td>Funeral Management/Merchandising</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD:102</td>
<td>Funeral Service Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD:103</td>
<td>History of Funeral Service</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD:104</td>
<td>Funeral Service Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC:100</td>
<td>Applied Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM:101</td>
<td>Oral Communication I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS:103</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours for Program:** 27

[www.stlcc.edu/programs/funeral_directing](http://www.stlcc.edu/programs/funeral_directing)