



Associate Degree in Funeral Service

Prepare for a rewarding career
honoring life.





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Provide compassion and support when families need it most.

As a Funeral Service professional, you'll play an important role in helping families navigate proceedings following the death of a loved one. It will be your responsibility to manage funeral service processes from the initial death call to the final disposition of human remains. It is critical that you gain an in-depth understanding of the biological and technical processes involved in the funeral industry, as well as the business management aspects of the profession. You'll communicate with families during their most vulnerable moments, so it is important that you explain the funeral service process using compassion and understanding.

When you earn your associate degree in Funeral Service at Goodwin University, you'll gain the technical and interpersonal skills needed for a successful career. For many of the individuals you work with, death will be an uncomfortable topic to navigate — as a Funeral Service professional, it's up to you to ensure their loved ones are laid to rest with the love and honor they deserve.

Say hello to Program Director Jesse Gomes.



“Goodwin University’s Funeral Service program is Connecticut’s only funeral service program. With practicing embalmers and funeral directors as faculty, we are a privileged group of professionals that consider our program a close community.”

The Funeral Service program adequately prepares students for the National Board Exam’s arts and sciences sections. In preparation for licensure through internships at functioning funeral homes, our students gain first-hand experience and confidence for their future careers.

As program director, it is my goal to provide students with the best education possible so that they become well-rounded funeral service professionals.

Get ready to take pride in your education and professional future. I hope to see you soon.”

Jesse M. Gomes, Program Director

Jesse Gomes has earned his associate degree in mortuary science and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biomolecular science.

Hard at work to hone his craft, Jesse is a licensed funeral director and embalmer, executive board member for the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, certified funeral service professional (CFSP), crematory operator, funeral service celebrant and pre-planning consultant, and was even inducted into the British Institute of Embalmers.

For Jesse, the best part about being the program director of Funeral Service is his ability to call former students his colleagues. To him, there is nothing more rewarding than running into a former student and seeing the true professional they have become.

“Program director Jesse Gomes’ excitement while teaching was incredibly infectious — you couldn’t help but stay engaged during class. He has a unique ability to break down and explain seemingly complicated subject matters in fun ways to be easily remembered.”

-Lauren Gee, Graduate

Become a trusted industry professional with an associate degree in Funeral Service.

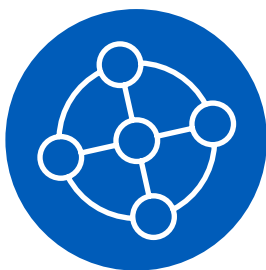
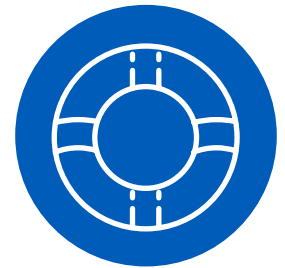


Prioritize dignity and respect.

The Funeral Service industry is built on the concepts of dignity and respect, both for the living and the deceased. Your responsibility as a Funeral Service professional is to lay the deceased to rest in a way that honors the life they lived and the impact they had on others. By showing reverence for the dead and compassion for their loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Provide support to grieving families.

The loss of a loved one can be crippling for some families, and the added stress of funeral arrangements can be extremely overwhelming. As a Funeral Service professional, you'll aim to lighten that burden as much as possible by providing the necessary information, organizing services, and reassuring families that their loved ones will be treated with dignity and respect. By removing these barriers, you'll make it possible for families to grieve without worrying about logistics.



Gain experience in all areas of the field.

Goodwin University's Funeral Service program will prepare you for work in all areas of the field. You'll be introduced to the biological aspects of the funeral industry, such as embalming and restorative art, as well as best practices for event planning and business management. When you graduate, you'll be ready to sit for the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards and pursue licensure in the field.

Earn your degree at Goodwin University.



Gain experience with an internship.

When earning your degree, there's nothing more valuable than hands-on training experiences. At Goodwin University, our Funeral Service students participate in internships at funeral homes across the state. You'll work alongside trained professionals and gain first-hand experience in embalming, restorative art, and business management. By the time you graduate, you'll be prepared to jump right into your career!



We put you first.

At Goodwin University, we have a completely student-centered approach to learning. Our expert faculty are dedicated to giving you the one-on-one attention you deserve, and we offer a wide variety of student resources such as counseling services, financial aid, and more. While you're earning your degree, we'll be there to support you every step of the way!



Flexible class schedules

Whether you're working full-time or taking care of your family, we believe that your personal life is just as important as earning your degree. We offer flexible class schedules, including afternoon classes that can be completed full or part-time — so you can earn your degree in as few as 24 months! You shouldn't sacrifice time with the people you love to further your career, and at Goodwin, you don't have to



A focus on career readiness

Pursuing an associate degree in Funeral Service can be a pathway to more fulfillment and better compensation in your career – that's why Goodwin University is committed to preparing you for success in your field. Our curriculum is tailored to give you the skills and experience to excel in the field of Funeral Service. The hands-on experience you gain in our program will make you a more marketable job candidate once you graduate.

Curriculum

| General Education Core - 19 Credits | | |
|---|---|---|
| ENG 101 | English Composition | 3 |
| ENG 1XX | English Elective | 3 |
| CAP 115 | Learning and Working Through Digital Technologies | 3 |
| MATH 1XX | Mathematics (MATH) | 3 |
| BIO 120 | Human Biology | 4 |
| | Humanities (HIS, PHIL, SPAN, HUM) | 3 |
| Non-Major Core Requirements - 7 Credits | | |
| BUS 101 | Introduction to Management | 3 |
| BIO 235 | Microbiology | 4 |
| Funeral Service Core Requirements - 39 Credits | | |
| First Semester | | |
| SCI 124 | Humans and Disease | 3 |
| FNS 202 | Funeral Service Management and Communication | 4 |
| FNS 205 | Restorative Art with Lab | 4 |
| Second Semester | | |
| ACC 101 | Principles of Accounting I | 3 |
| FNS 209 | Funeral Service Law and Socio-Ethics | 3 |
| FNS 218 | Embalming I and Thanato-Chemistry | 4 |
| Third Semester | | |
| FNS 216 | Funeral Service History and Merchandising | 4 |
| FNS 220 | Embalming II and Cremation | 3 |
| Fourth Semester | | |
| PSY 315 | Psychology of Death and Dying | 3 |
| FNS 297 | Funeral Service Internship | 5 |
| FNS 298 | Funeral Service Seminar | 3 |

TOTAL CREDITS IN THE PROGRAM: 65

Course format

When you start your career as a Funeral Service professional, it is critical that you are prepared with hands-on experience. That's why our Funeral Service program is offered in an entirely on-campus format.

- **On-campus classes**

Engaging in in-person training is an essential part of becoming a Funeral Service professional. When you come to campus, you'll receive hands-on training and experience doing restorative art and embalming. You'll be able to watch closely as our expert faculty showcase their years of experience, so you'll graduate with the important professional skillsets for success in the field.

We know that you're busy taking care of your personal responsibilities— that's why we offer flexible class schedules. At Goodwin, you can be with the people you love while advancing your career.

Classes are offered in the afternoons and can be completed full- or part-time.

Funeral Service admissions requirements

All applicants to the Funeral Service program must:

- Complete the application for admission into Goodwin University. Applicants to the Funeral Service program must first meet the requirements for admission and be accepted into Goodwin University.
- Complete the Funeral Service program application.
- Earn a minimum GPA of 2.7 in the most recent university course work. University GPA is based on a minimum of 12 completed credits.
- Complete the required university placement evaluations. Applicants must test into ENG 101. All remedial courses must be completed before entering the program.
- Complete all prerequisite courses.
- Complete Human Biology – BIO 120 (Goodwin University) or equivalent with laboratory component with a grade of a "C" or better:
- Complete Microbiology – BIO 235 (Goodwin University) or equivalent with laboratory component with a grade of a "C+" or better. This course must be completed within the last ten years.

The Point System

Funeral Service applicants who have satisfied all of the admission criteria will be selected according to the point system as specified below:

| Previous University Education | Score |
|--|--------------|
| Associate Degree or >60 Credits | 2 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 3 |
| Master's Degree | 4 |
| Completion of courses taken at Goodwin University | |
| 1 course | 1 |
| 2 courses | 2 |
| 3 courses | 3 |
| 4 courses | 4 |
| 5 courses | 5 |
| 6 courses | 6 |
| 7 courses | 7 |
| Cumulative GPA (applicable for Goodwin University courses only, based on a minimum of 12 credits) | |
| 2.7 - 3.0 | 1 |
| 3.1 - 3.4 | 2 |
| 3.5 - 3.8 | 3 |
| 3.9 - 4.0 | 4 |
| Total Possible Points | 15 |

Applicants will be selected for admission based on their cumulative score.

Financial Aid information

Paying for college doesn't have to be stressful — we make it easy to understand the costs of your education before classes even begin.

We are committed to helping you earn your degree at a cost that is affordable to you. At Goodwin, there are a variety of financial aid opportunities available to you, including scholarships, grants, and student loans that need to be repaid, and work-study opportunities that provide a regular paycheck.

Check out our [financial aid page](#) to find out how Goodwin University can help you pay for your education.

Testimonials



“Goodwin is an excellent place to go if you want to be a funeral director! The professors, who all work in the field, show you everything you need to do to be successful. I graduated well prepared for my licensing exams and for my career.”

James Integlia, Graduate



“I can confidently say my professors are the best I’ve ever had. They are there for their students whenever we need help or advice. They help to truly prepare us as funeral professionals.”

Molly Vargo, Student



“My experiences with the professors at Goodwin were fantastic. Their knowledge and personal experiences allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the profession. Their ability to connect with students created a safe, welcoming, and judgment-free atmosphere. They made each of us feel as though we were their equal and ensured that our success was their top priority.”

Lauren Gee, Graduate



“An occupation in the Funeral Service field is a second career for me. The support and flexibility of online classes, along with a variety of course offerings made it all achievable. Now, I am a proud Goodwin graduate!”

Carie Burns-Smith, Graduate

Student resources and support

At Goodwin University, we are invested in the continued success of our students. We believe that you deserve great support services and resources to help you achieve your goals!

Academic Resources

- Academic Advising
 - Admissions
 - Financial Aid
 - Registrar's Office
-

Academic Support

- Academic Success Center
- Library
- Math Lab
- Tutoring

College Experience

- Clubs and Organizations
 - Student Engagement
-

Personal Support Services

- AccessAbility Services
 - Ann B. Clark Co-op
 - Counseling
-

Professional Development

- Lifetime Career Services



Contact us today!

Call: 800-889-3282

Text: 860-467-1511

www.goodwin.edu/funeralservice

Goodwin University is a nonprofit institution of higher education and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly known as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

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