

Program Accreditation

The Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC) Funeral Services Technology (FST) program is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). The ABFSE serves as the national academic accrediting agency for colleges and universities offering programs in Mortuary Science or Funeral Service. The ABFSE is the sole accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education in this field.

American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097; phone: (816) 233-3747; fax: (856) 579-7354

Web: www.abfse.org

PROGRAM INFORMATION - Northwest Mississippi

Year	Total enrolled	# of New Students	# of Grads	Timely Grad*	Graduation rate	Did not finish**	Overall % Employed	Employed In FS
2019	21	17	4	4/4	80%	13	100%	75%
2018	30	17	6	6/6	86%	8	100%	100%
2017	22	12	4	3/4	61%	4	75%	75%

*Timely graduation = complete program in 1½ times designated program length.

**Left before completing the program; did not finish.

NATIONAL BOARD STATISTICS - Northwest Mississippi

3 year Average	% Pass Arts	% Pass Sciences
2019 - 2017	73%	64%
2018 - 2016	67%	74%
2017 - 2015	68%	86%
Most recent	# Takers	# Passed
2019 Arts	2	2
2019 Sciences	2	1

Accreditation

Program Accredited by ABFSE: Associate in Applied Science - Funeral Service Technology

Initial Accreditation 1977/Last comprehensive review 2017/Next comprehensive review 2024

Re-accreditation: April 2017 for period of 7 years with Focus Visit to verify 3 stipulations - Assessment plan, recordkeeping and curriculum distribution.

Most recent Accreditation decision: October 2018 accepted response to Focus Visit to verify response to stipulations.

To request a printed copy of NWCC FST National Board exam scores and graduation rates, go to office 222 at the NWCC DeSoto Center or by email at edukes@northwestms.edu or by telephone at 662.280.6137.

The central objective of Northwest Mississippi Community College's ABFSE-accredited Funeral Service Technology program is 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 objective, NWCC has adopted the following Learning Outcomes:

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the accredited program, students will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with the families and communities they serve.
2. Identify standards of ethical conduct in funeral service practice.
3. Interpret how federal, state, and local laws apply to funeral service in order to ensure compliance.
4. Apply principles of public health and safety in the handling and preparation of human remains.
5. Demonstrate technical skills in embalming and restorative art that are necessary for the preparation and handling of human remains.
6. Demonstrate skills required for conducting arrangement conferences, visitations, services, and ceremonies.
7. Describe the requirements and procedures for burial, cremation, and other accepted forms of final disposition of human remains.
8. Describe methods to address the grief-related needs of the bereaved.
9. Explain management skills associated with operating a funeral establishment.
10. Demonstrate verbal and written communication skills and research skills needed for funeral service practice.

Caution: Many states may or may not issue professional funeral service licensure to individuals with a criminal history or felony convictions. Often states will not have a mechanism to offer potential students a preliminary review of their criminal record before making a licensure application; therefore, students with such a history should be very pragmatic in making the decision whether to invest the time and money in obtaining a professional funeral service education if there is a significant possibility that the student's criminal record will ultimately prevent them from obtaining such licensure.

Equal Access-Equal Opportunity

Northwest Mississippi Community College adheres to the principle of equal education and employment opportunity without regard to race, sex, color, creed, national origin, or disability.

Tuition and Fees

Information on in-state and out-of-state tuition including housing and meal plans may be found on our website at http://www.northwestms.edu/index.php/?page_id=453 or in the current Northwest Mississippi Community College Bulletin. For information on Financial Aid, including how to begin your Financial Aid Application you may visit our DeSoto campus office of Student Development or you may go to our webpage at: http://www.northwestms.edu/index.php/?page_id=13295

Admission Requirements

Students who meet the NWCC college entrance requirements and have a minimum ACT score of 18 (ACT Scores are waived if applicant has obtained a Baccalaureate degree) are allowed entrance into the Funeral Service Program provided:

1. Completed Northwest Mississippi Community College Application for Admission.
2. Complete Funeral Service Technology Application
3. Official transcripts from all high schools and colleges attended.
4. Although college credit is not required for application to the program, applicants with any college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be considered for selection
5. Once your documents have been received, with the minimum ACT score of 18 or transcripts showing conferment of a B.S. or B.A. degree, you will be invited for an interview for program admission.
6. If accepted into the program, you must attend a mandatory orientation period prior to registration.

******The deadline for program applications for spring admittance is November 15 of the previous year. The deadline for program applications for fall admittance is July 15 of the same year. Evening school program begins in the Fall of every odd year, deadline for application is July 15******

Students who are transferring credit for course work completed at a college or university other than NWCC are required to have official transcripts sent directly from the college or university to the Admissions office of Northwest Community College.

Any funeral service coursework being transferred into the Northwest Mississippi Community College program must have been from a Mortuary Science/Funeral Service Program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) and passed with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.

Additional Information:

Students that have been admitted to the Funeral Service Technology (FST) Program, but have not been attending the program for two years or more must repeat all FST courses.

Any subject that is on the National Board Exam (NBE) must be taken within a year of entering the Program to be accepted.

Transfer students are accepted on a case by case basis and under the purview of the program director.

You may contact the NWCC Funeral Service Program at the following address:

Ebonē Dukes, Program Director
Funeral Service Technology Program
5197 W.E. Ross Parkway
Southaven, MS 38671

Application for Admission
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Funeral Service Technology
5197 W.E. Ross Parkway
Southaven, Mississippi 38671
662.342.1570
www.northwestms.edu

Date _____

Applicant's Name

Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Social Security Number _____ Student ID Number _____

ACT composite Score _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Name of Nearest Relative to Notify in Case of Emergency: _____

Telephone Number _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes _____* No _____

*Many states may or may not issue professional funeral service licensure to individuals with a criminal history or felony convictions. Often states will not have a mechanism to offer potential students a preliminary review of their criminal record before making a licensure application; therefore, students with such a history should be very pragmatic in making the decision whether to invest the time and money in obtaining a professional funeral service education if there is a significant possibility that the student's criminal record will ultimately prevent them from obtaining such licensure.

Have you attended any other funeral Service Programs? _____

If yes where: _____

Reason for transfer? _____

Do you have any relatives in funeral service? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is their relationship? _____

Have you had any work experience in funeral service? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, list names(s) and addresses of employers:

Job description:

Please give information about the other Colleges/Schools you have attended/Educational Background:

College(s)

Name

City

Course of Degree obtained

When do you desire to enter the Funeral Service Technology Program? Year _____ Semester _____

Evening Program _____ or Day Program _____

Please attach a **typed** statement regarding why you would like to pursue Funeral Service as a career and what qualities you have that would make you a good candidate for our program.

Please submit the application and application requirements to: edukes@northwestms.edu or you may bring the application to office 222 at the DeSoto campus. If you have any questions, please email edukes@northwestms.edu.

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Day Program

Academic Core Requirements (To be taken in other semesters or prior to FST entry)

PSY 1513	General Psychology
ENG 1113	English Composition I
BOA 2613	Business Communication
CHE 1313	Principles of Chemistry**
CHE 1311	Principles of Chemistry Lab**
	Math / Science (Elective)
	Humanities/ Fine Art (Elective)
SPT 1113	Public Speaking
CSC 1113	Introduction to Computers

First Semester (Fall)

BOT 1433	Business Accounting**
FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising
FST 1213	Embalming I
FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I

Second Semester (Spring)

FST 1224	Embalming II
FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II
FST 1523	Restorative Art/Color and Cosmetics
FST 2623	Microbiology
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law

Third Semester (Summer I)

FST 1314	Funeral Directing (June – July)
FST 2713	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death

Fourth Semester (Summer II)

FST 2633	Pathology
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Fifth Semester (Fall)

MMT 2513	Entrepreneurship
FST2823	Current Issues in Funeral Service Technology
FST 2812	Comprehensive Review*

(*Taking the National Board Examination is a component of FST 2812 and is a requirement of NWCC FST program for graduation.)

Evening Program (matriculates in the fall of every odd year)

First Semester (Fall)

ENG 1113	English Comp	Mini Term
SPT 1113	Public Speaking	Mini Term
	Principles of Biology	Mini Term
BOA2613	Business Communications	Mini Term

Second Semester (Spring)

FST 1113	Mortuary Anatomy I	Full Semester
PSY 1513	General Psychology	Mini Term
MMT2513	Entrepreneurship	Full semester
CSC 1113	Intro to Computers	Mini Term
FST 2323	Funeral Merchandising	Full Semester

Third Semester (Summer)

FST 1314	Funeral Directing	Full Semester
	Humanities / Fine Arts	Full Semester
FST 1123	Mortuary Anatomy II	Full Semester

Fourth Semester (Fall)

FST 2623	Microbiology	Full Semester
FST 2633	Pathology	Full Semester
FST 1213	Embalming I	Full Semester
FST 1413	Funeral Service Ethics and Law	Full Semester

Fifth Semester (Spring)

BOT 1433	Business Accounting	First Mini Term
	Psychosocial Aspects of Grief and Death	Full Semester
FST 2713		Full Semester
FST 1224	Embalming II	Full Semester
FST 1523	Restorative Art	Full Semester

Sixth Semester (Summer)

FST 2823	Current Issues in FST	Full Semester
CHE 1313	Principles of Chemistry Lecture	Full Semester
CHE 1311	Principles of Chemistry Lab	Full Semester
FST 2812	Comprehensive Review*	Full Semester

(*Taking the National Board Examination is a component of FST 2812 and is a requirement of NWCC FST program for graduation.)