

## Frequently Asked Questions – Mortuary Science Program

### Where are you located?

The Mortuary Science building is located on the Old Williams Air Force Base off of Power Road and Ray. The physical address is 7440 East Tahoe Avenue Mesa, Arizona 85212 and our phone number is 480-988-8501. Cross-streets are Power and Ray and then Sossaman and Tahoe.

### Can I take the Mortuary Science classes online?

No, at this time all of the Mortuary Science classes must be taken at our building on the Williams Campus. General education and prerequisites can be taken online if available at any regionally accredited college.

### Where can I take my general education classes and prerequisites?

You may complete these classes at any regionally accredited college or university that is close to you. You can then transfer these classes to MCC and be entered into the program. The general education and prerequisite classes must be substantially complete before making application to the program (the final 2 semesters August through May). You must choose classes that are equivalent to the classes we require. Contact MCC Admissions and Recruitment (Lorene Copetillo 480-461-7648) for more information on course transfer. Official transcripts must be evaluated if transferring credits from other institutions. Please arrange for "Official" transcripts to be mailed from the Institution to the MCC Admissions Office.

### What are the general education classes and prerequisites required?

<b>First Year Composition</b> (ENG 101 and ENG 102 or ENG 111)	6 credits
<b>Oral Communication</b> (COM 110 Interpersonal Communication or COM 100 Introduction to Human Communication)	3 credits
<b>Critical Reading</b> (CRE 101 or Test Out – If test out need to substitute 3 credits in any class 100 level or higher)	3 credits
<b>Math:</b> MAT 102 or higher	3 credits
<b>Humanities and Fine Arts</b>	3 credits
<b>Social and Behavioral Science</b> (PSY 101 or PSY 153 – Introduction to Death and Dying)	3 credits
<b>Natural Science:</b> Intro to Anatomy and Physiology	4 credits
<b>Accounting</b> (ACC 107 or 111)	3 or 4 credits
<b>Computers:</b> BPB 101AA or AB	1 credit
<b>Legal, Ethical, Regulatory Issues in Business</b> (GBS 205)	3 credits
<b>Owning and Operating a Small Business</b> (MGT 253)	3 credits

### What are the classes I will take in Mortuary School?

#### First Semester:

<b>MSP 101</b> – Orientation to Funeral Service	1 credit
<b>MSP 201</b> – History and Sociology of Funeral Service	3 credits
<b>MSP 202</b> – Embalming and Lab	4 credits
<b>MSP 203</b> – Microbiology for Funeral Service	3 credits
<b>MSP 204</b> – Chemistry for Funeral Service	3 credits
<b>MSP 205</b> – Mortuary Administration I (Funeral Directing)	3 credits

#### Second Semester:

<b>MSP 206</b> – Mortuary Administration II (Mgmt & Merchandising)	3 credits
<b>MSP 207</b> – Restorative Art and Lab	4 credits
<b>MSP 208</b> – Legal, Ethical, Regulatory Issues in Funeral Service	3 credits
<b>MSP 209</b> – Pathology for Funeral Service	3 credits
<b>MSP 210</b> – Counseling for Funeral Service	2 credits

### How do I get an application?

Call our office and we will mail you a packet (480-988-8501) or you can pick one up at our building at Williams or in the admissions office at MCC Southern and Dobson or at MCC Red Mountain.

**When are applications due?**

Applications are due on **June 1** of every year and must be sent (or taken) to the admissions office to our admissions advisor:

Mesa Community College  
Office of Admissions and Recruitment  
1833 West Southern Avenue  
Mesa, Arizona 85202  
Attn: Lorene Copetillo

**What needs to be turned in by June 1?**

The Mortuary Science Application  
Signed Mortuary Science Disclaimer  
Signed Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Form  
Official High School Transcripts or GED Scores  
Official college transcripts  
Official Mortuary School transcripts (if applicable)  
Proof of Hepatitis B immunization (vaccine requirements)

**How much will it cost?**

The Mortuary Science part of the curriculum is 32 hours. Tuition currently for in-state students is \$71/credit hour and \$286/per credit hour for out-of-state students taking a full credit load. There are two \$500 lab fees assessed each semester to help defray the cost of supplies for the program. There are also fees for books and the National Board Exam.

A link for current tuition is:

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/cashiers/tuition.html>

**What is my schedule going to be while in Mortuary School?**

We have classes Monday through Friday in the Fall Semester – 8 AM until 11:50 AM for the first three weeks (if you have not already taken MSP 101 – Orientation to Funeral Service). After the first three weeks classes run from 8 AM until 10:50 AM. One afternoon a week should be reserved for Embalming Lab. On Tuesday and Thursday classes are from 8 AM until 10:45 AM.

In the spring semester, we usually do not have classes on Fridays. Classes are the same on Monday and Wednesday from 8AM until 10:50 AM and 8 AM until 10:45 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. One day must be reserved for Restorative Art Lab which runs from 11:00 until approx. 12 noon.

**Where do I do my Embalming Labs?**

Embalming opportunities are arranged at off-site funeral homes that have a contract with the Maricopa College District. There are a number of those facilities available throughout the Valley, from Apache Junction to Phoenix, Scottsdale to Peoria. Students must have their own transportation to get to their off-campus labs. Up to three students typically go at one time to a facility so there may be car-pooling opportunities.

**What happens after graduation?**

The National Board Examination for funeral service is taken as a condition of graduation. In Arizona, graduated students begin a one year internship at a funeral home. After that year they take the Arizona State Board Exam for embalmers and, upon passing, are licensed as an embalmer. One year later they can take the Funeral Director Exam at the State Board and, upon passing, are eligible for licensure as a funeral director. Students going back to other states need to check prior to enrollment with their State Boards in their respective states for licensure and educational requirements.

**Who administers the National Board?**

Application is made up to 45 days prior to graduation with the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards [www.theconferenceonline.org](http://www.theconferenceonline.org)

Once payment is cleared, students can locate a Pearson Vue Testing Center and schedule a time to take their exam.

**How much is the Board?**

\$350 for both sections (Arts and Sciences). This expense is the responsibility of the student

**What does a funeral director do?**

- Remove the deceased to a mortuary
- Prepare the remains (if also an embalmer)
- Meet with families and make arrangements
- Plan logistics of the ceremony, coordinate all the services needed (obituary notices, clergy, pallbearers, coordinate with the cemetery, provide transportation (if needed) for mourners and flowers, direct preparation for out-of-state burials
- Prepare paperwork and file legal documents
- Direct the funeral service
- Work with families who want to plan their funerals in advance
- Work long and often irregular hours in a stressful atmosphere

**What is the job outlook?**

Job opportunities are expected to be good, especially for funeral directors who also embalm.

**How much will I get paid?**

Salaries vary greatly based upon education and experience.