



# PRE-MORTUARY SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

UPDATED BY  
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The American Board of Funeral Service Education accredits about 60 mortuary science programs. The majority are two-year associate degree programs offered at community colleges. There are some, however, some states (i.e., Minnesota) that require funeral directors have a bachelor's degree in order to practice within their boundaries. In that case, there are 6 colleges and universities which offer Mortuary Science programs that culminate in a bachelor's degree - the University of Minnesota has such a program. Getting into the University of Minnesota is competitive! It is very important that you are well prepared in order to present your best possible application!

Pre-Mortuary Science is not a major at UND and the Pre-Mortuary Science Program is not a degree granting program. Students planning to finish a 4 year Mortuary Science bachelor's degree at UM may do their first two years of pre-professional coursework at UND.

In order to **join** the Pre-Mortuary Science Program at UND, students must:

1. *Declare* Pre-Mortuary Science
  - Incoming freshmen students should attend Summer Orientation - you can declare Pre-Mort Sci at that time
  - Current or transfer students can declare Pre-Mort Sci by stopping by the Arts & Sciences main office (Mont 125) or by calling us at 701-777-2749
2. *Activate* and use their UND e-mail account

In order to **stay** the Pre-Mortuary Science Program at UND, students must:

1. Attend all required freshmen group advising meetings, and meet individually with the Health Sciences Advisor during fall semester
3. Meet individually with the Health Sciences Advisor during spring semester
4. Complete the UM prerequisite courses with a C grade or better
5. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

UM will consider a variety of factors when reviewing applications:

## 1. Academics

- a. High School Preparation for UM - Please remember that UM also has the following high school preparation requirements – if you did not do these courses in high school, you will need to do them at UND:
  - four years of English
  - three years of mathematics
  - three years of science
  - three years of social studies
  - two years of a single second language
  - one year of visual or performing arts
- b. Undergraduate Preparation
  - You may do up to 2 years of Pre-Mortuary Science at UND (see schedule on page 3)
- c. GPA
  - The minimum cumulative GPA accepted: 2.5
  - Average cumulative GPA of recent UM Mortuary Science matriculants: N/A

## **2. Relevant Life Experiences**

- a. Shadowing - Get a good feel for the profession by shadowing or working in a funeral home.
- b. Keep a log of all hours - Formal documentation for experiences is not needed – just a simple personal log in a small notebook will do.

## **3. Letters of Recommendation**

- a. You will need 2 letters of recommendation or evaluation.
- b. Letters need to objectively evaluate your qualifications as 1) a potential mortuary science student and 2) a future funeral director.
- c. At least one letter of recommendation **must** be written by a supervisor, past or present employer, or a person holding a leadership position within a professional organization of which you are a member and/or have volunteered for/with within the past three years. One letter may also come from a faculty member at a college or university who has served as one of your professors, advisers, and/or work-study supervisors, within the past three years.

## **4. Legal Record**

- a. Keep legal records clean. All minors and felonies will need to be disclosed on applications.
- b. Keep university records clean. Any institutional actions for code of student conduct violations (behavioral, academic, legal, etc.) will need to be disclosed on applications.
- c. Keep personal social media sites clean (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Be sure to demonstrate integrity, maturity, wholesomeness and good taste in all postings (verbal, photos, pictures, etc.).

## **5. Home State Residency**

Mortuary Science schools consider your home state of residency to be where you graduated high school and/or where your parent(s) live. You do not become a resident of a state by just attending college there!

The **UND Pre-Mortuary Science Program** includes the following UM requirements:

1. At least 60 semester college credits (students must complete courses with grades of A, B, C, or S only)
2. UM Mortuary Science Program Requirements
  - 1 semester of General Biology => Biol 111, Biol 111L or Biol 150, 150 Lab
  - 1 semester of General Chem => Chem 115, 115 Lab or Chem 121, 121 Lab
  - 1 semester of Human Anatomy => Anat 204 (204 Lab not required)
  - 1 semester of Accounting => Acct 200
  - 1 semester of English Composition => Engl 110 or 130
  - 1 semester of Speech => Comm 110 or Comm 212
  - 1 semester of Psychology => Psyc 111
  - 1 semester of Sociology => Soc 110
  - 1 semester of Statistics => Soc 326 or Psyc 241
  - 1 semester of Medical Terminology => Med 205
  - 1 semester of Public Health => PHE 101 or PHE 102
3. UM General Education Requirements for a Bachelors Degree (1 semester = 3 credits)\*
  - 1 semester of Arts/Humanities => Art, FA, Humanities, Indian Studies, Music, Philosophy, Religion, Theater
  - 1 semester of Biological Science => Fulfilled with Bio 111+L or 150+L
  - 1 semester of Literature => Engl 226, 227, 228, 271, 320, or 359
  - 1 semester of Historical perspectives => Anthro 172 or Hist 101, 102, 103 or 104
  - 1 semester of Mathematical thinking => Fulfilled with Math 103 or either Stats course
  - 1 semester of Physical Science => Fulfilled with Chem 115+L or Chem 121+L
  - 1 semester of Social Science => Fulfilled with Psyc 111 or Soc 110
  - 1 semester of civic life/ethics => Hum 270, Pols 115, Pols 116, Pols 310
  - 1 semester of U.S diversity/social justice => Fulfilled with Soc 110
  - 1 semester of The Environment => Fulfilled with Biol 150+L
  - 1 semester of Global Perspectives => Fulfilled with Anthro 172 or Hist 101 or Hist 102
  - 1 semester of Technology/Society => Hist 230 or Tech 300
  - Four courses must be designated as writing intensive - at least two must be upper division courses (those two upper division courses are included in the Mort Sci Program Senior year – MORT 3012W and MORT 3022W)

The sample schedule shown below indicates when the Pre-Mortuary Science courses and UM graduation requirements should be taken, and shows the timing for applying to UM Mortuary Science Program:

	<b>Freshman</b>	<b>Sophomore</b>
<b>Fall</b>	Bio 150, 150L Math 103 Engl 110 *UM General Education Requirements	Chem 121, 121L Soc 110 Comm 110 *UM General Education Requirements
<b>Spring</b>	Accounting 200 Engl 130 Psyc 111 Med 205 *UM General Education Requirements	Anatomy 204, 204L? Psyc 241 or Soc 326 PXW 101 *UM General Education Requirements  <b>UM Apps due February 1<sup>st</sup></b>