

PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE

BULLETIN
2023-2025*

Revised May 2023



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****This Bulletin contains policies, facts, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. The governing personnel at PIMS reserve the right and authority to alter any and/or all of the statements contained herein.***

NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

This policy affirms the commitment by the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity, and the pursuit of diversity. PIMS does not discriminate on the basis of:

race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national and ethnic origin, age (40 years and older) , veteran's status, marital status, or disability in administration of its educational policies and programs, activities with respect to employment, admission, scholarship and loan programs, and other school- administered events.

The policy is in accord with local, state, and federal laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination of 1975, and the Pittsburgh Human Relations Act. Inquiries regarding any of the previous regulations and policies, as well as complaints regarding such regulations and policies, should be referred to the PIMS Program Director, Dr. Barry T. Lease phone number 412-362-8500 x106 or sent via email to blease@pims.edu.

Inquiries specifically regarding Title IX and the Title IX regulations should be referred to the person designated as the PIMS Title IX Coordinator, Michael S. Burns, Dean of Faculty and Students. Dean Burns may be reached at mburns@pims.edu, 412-362-8500 x 119, or Office of Dean of Faculty and Students, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc., 5808 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

MISSION OF PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science through its campus-based and distance education programs:

- promotes and delivers a pathway for student achievement and professional success in funeral service through academic rigor (knowledge) and practical advancement (skills), while embracing technological innovation; and
 - promotes, fosters, and conducts continuing education programs for licensed and practicing professionals to assist them in maintaining and updating their professional skills and licensing requirements.

PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE VISION AND VALUES

Embracing such ideals as diversity, integrity, and kindness, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) provides a robust, yet ethical learning environment in which all stakeholders are considered, and students are inspired to practice service excellence. By valuing such virtues and emphasizing service, the family of faculty and administrative professionals at PIMS are empowered to provide an educational experience that epitomizes the need to respect the specific wishes of every bereaved family served, while honoring the decedents entrusted to their care. Whether it is on campus or online, the vision of the Pittsburgh Institute is to always provide an educational experience that helps to shape the future of the global death care community, while addressing the pragmatic business needs of individual funeral homes to continue compassionately serving the public at large.

PIMS STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) offers an extensive program designed to prepare students for the many challenges they will encounter as funeral service professionals. The diversified curriculum continually evolves to address the changing needs and expectations associated with contemporary funeral services.

PIMS continues to provide thorough training in the mortuary arts and sciences. This training includes a theoretical understanding as well as personalized practical instruction by licensed funeral directors and embalmers. The school not only utilizes the facilities in its own building but also works in cooperation with numerous regional funeral homes, the Center for Organ Recovery—the local organ procurement organization, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and the County Medical Examiner's Office to enhance the student's exposure to a wide range of applied experiences.

The curriculum is also changing to reflect the current and future trends in the funeral profession. There is an appreciation of the complexities confronting today's funeral practitioner in such diverse areas as business development including recruitment and management of human resources, psychology, and counseling, as well as marketing and public relations. PIMS students have access to industry experts and professional speakers throughout the program; these "voices from the field" are designed to keep students abreast of the different facets influencing the profession.

The faculty members exhibit a wide range of interests and come from different backgrounds both within the funeral profession and within their own areas of expertise. This allows for an individualized learning experience whereby the student becomes acquainted with the skills required of the funeral professional. The students are encouraged to actively participate in this experience and are supported in this effort by the faculty and the administration.

The Institute strives to provide relevant information on all topics surrounding the death care profession, thereby allowing both students and licensees to make informed choices about their career. In addition to professional development, the Institute is keenly aware of the need to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as a sense of social consciousness; such ideals synchronize with the growing responsibilities and

obligations of the funeral service professional. Ultimately, the Pittsburgh Institute aspires to provide its graduates with the resources and the confidence to represent funeral service as a well-rounded professional caregiver focused on serving their community.

Funeral Service Oath

I do solemnly swear by that which I hold most sacred:

**That I shall be loyal to the Funeral Service Profession,
and just and generous to its members,**

That I shall lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honor;

That into whatsoever house I shall enter,

It shall be for the benefit and comfort of those bereaved;

**That I shall not let the constant relationship and familiarity with death
give me cause to yield to carelessness**

or to violate my obligation to society or to the dignity of my profession;

That I shall abstain from every voluntary act of misconduct and corruption;

That I shall obey the Civil Laws;

That I shall not divulge professional confidences;

And that I shall be faithful to those who have placed their trust in me.

While I continue to keep this oath unviolated,

may it be granted to me to enjoy honor in my life and in my profession;

and may I be respected by all people for all time.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) and the Embalming and Funeral Directing Diploma Program, the Specialized Technology Associate Degree Program, the Specialized Business Associate Degree Program offered by PIMS are accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097 (816) 233-3747. Web: www.abfse.org

NATIONAL BOARD STATISTICS

National Board Examination pass rates, graduation rates, and employment rates for PIMS available at and other ABFSE-accredited programs are available at www.abfse.org in the Directory of Accredited Programs. NBE pass rate information may also be found at <https://pims.edu/national-board-exam-stats/>. School pass rate is based on 1st time test takers within one year of graduation. Contact the program directly for information regarding success of Distance Education graduates.

LICENSED BY:

State Board of Private Licensed Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126-0333.

APPROVED FOR:

- Training of veterans
- Training of foreign students by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Vocational rehabilitation
- Online programs via NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement)

MEMBER OF:

- Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association
- American Board of Funeral Service Education, Inc.
- College and University Professional Association for Human Resources Cremation Association of North America, Inc.
- International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States, Inc.
- International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association, Inc.
- International Memorialization Supply Association
- National Association of College Admission Counselors
- National Association of Colleges of Mortuary Science, Inc.
- Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association

This Bulletin contains policies, facts, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. The governing personnel of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science reserve the right and authority to alter any and/or all of the statements contained herein at any time.

In keeping with the educational mission of the Pittsburgh Institute, the educational and financial policies and procedures are continually changing. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and must be used solely as a general informational guide.

PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE
www.pims.edu

A Non-Profit Educational Institution incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Founded 1939



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The offices of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

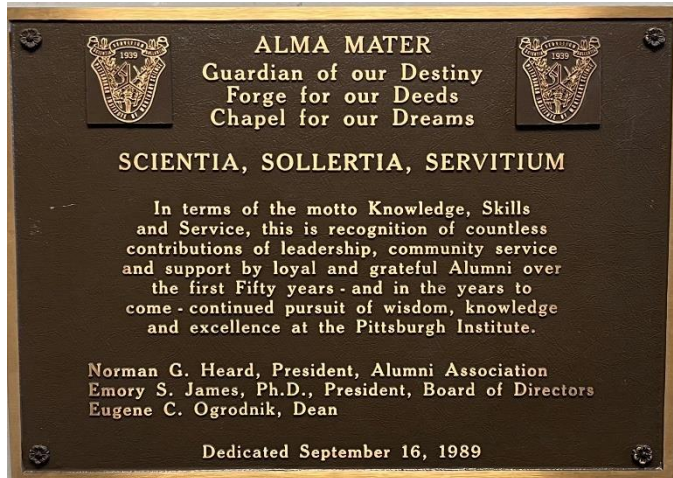
Table of Contents

Statement of Vision and Values/Mission Statement	1
Funeral Service Oath	4
Accreditation Statement/NBE Statistics	5
Location and Description of Facilities	9
Instructional Aims and Objectives	12
Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	13
Board of Directors/Administrative Staff/Faculty Council	14
Faculty	15
General Information about Admission to the Institute	17
Admissions Requirements and Procedures	17
International Students	18
Enrollment Dates/Registration	19
Student Technology Requirements	20
Termination/Cancellation of Enrollment Agreement	22
Refunds and Withdrawals – Campus/Online	23
Tuition and Fees – Campus	24
Tuition and Fees - Online	25
Academic Programs	25
Educational Objective/Learning Outcomes/Program Overview	26
Credit Hour Policy	27
Licensing Requirements	28
AST Degree (Funeral Service Arts and Sciences)	30
Diploma (Embalming and Funeral Directing)	30
ASB Degree (Funeral Service Management)	31
Cooperative Bachelor’s Degree Programs	33
Online Program	35
Online Students: Co-Requisite Courses/The Curriculum	36
Description of Courses	36
Students Rights and Responsibilities	44
Academic Policies	44
Attendance and Tardiness Policies	45
Complaint Procedures/Grievance Policy/Withdrawal and Military Leave	47
Grading System	48
Confidentiality of Records/Release of Records	49
Satisfactory Academic Progress	49
Academic Probation	52
Transfer Credit	54
Dismissal/Readmission Policy	55
Special Lectures and Field Trips	56
Clinical Instruction	56
Funeral Service Practicum	57
Auditing Courses	58
Credit for Prior Learning	58
Test Out Policy	58
PIMS Comprehensive Exam Policy	58
Graduation Requirements	59
National Board Examination	59
Commencement	60
Honorary Degrees/Awards and Honors	61

Library Facilities	62
Student Services and Advisement	62
Employment Assistance	62
Referral Services	63
Parking on Campus	63
Housing/Spiritual and Worship Sites	63
Student Government and Activities	64
PIMS Gear and Merchandise/Class Pictures	64
Financial Assistance	64
Third Party Funded Scholarships	65
Regulations for Veterans	66
History	67
Academic Calendar – Online	74
Academic Calendar – Campus	0

OVERVIEW

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc. (PIMS) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, post-secondary institution that, since 1939, provides a funeral service education to an international student population. The motto of the Pittsburgh Institute since its inception, “Scientia, Sollertia, Servitium,” translated to “Knowledge, Skills, and Service,”



is embodied in the school’s mission, vision, and values. These guiding principles also reflect the limitless potential for the future at PIMS. With both campus-based and, as of 2001, distance education classes, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science offers flexible and adaptable learning environments, that evolve with the changing market demands and technologies used in education, while maintaining the focus of preparing students for a successful and professional career in funeral service.

THE LOCATION

The “City of Bridges,” Pittsburgh is no longer the "smoky city" of years ago. Through its "Renaissance" development, Pittsburgh has emerged as one of the most livable cities in the nation. The "new Pittsburgh" consists of thriving businesses, expanding universities, and numerous teaching hospitals.

Like its city, the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) has undergone a "Renaissance." Once centrally located in the university and cultural center, PIMS has relocated in the Shadyside area of Pittsburgh. This developing area is rich with culture, history, and social activities.



PIMS is within several minutes of the heart of the downtown area and an array of unique activities. The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, the Pittsburgh Symphony performing at the Heinz Hall for Performing Arts, as well as numerous theatrical offerings are excellent opportunities for those culturally attuned. For the sports enthusiast, Pittsburgh is unparalleled. No matter the season, opportunities abound as Pittsburgh is home to the 5X Stanley Cup Champion Penguins, 6X Super Bowl Champion Steelers, as well as the Pirates who play at one of America's greatest ballparks, PNC Park. For the college sports fans, a number of local universities and colleges host a plethora of sports teams that play throughout the year.



Pittsburgh is fast becoming known for its eclectic array of restaurants, gastropubs, microbreweries, and other dining spots sure to appease the tastes of any "foodie." The Institute is within driving distance of many of these food and drink destinations. Additionally, a variety of entertainment events open freely to the general public include: the Three Rivers Arts Festival, the nearby Shadyside Arts Festival, Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, Aviary, Phipps Conservatory, the Carnegie Museum and others.

The many opportunities available in the Pittsburgh community provide an excellent atmosphere for engendering a versatile learning experience.

FACILITIES

The campus of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science includes the main building and a fully operational clinical embalming/decedent care center. Being a commuter campus, the Institute provides three spacious lots for student off-street parking. The main building is a historic, five-story structure with over 20,000 square feet.

The first floor includes offices for faculty, staff, and administration. The second floor featuring two classrooms, a library, a break room for students, and a modern funeral service merchandise room allowing students to simulate making service arrangements and details with client families. In its commitment to DEI initiatives, the second floor provides for two non-binary restrooms.

The third floor is home to the Alumni Center where special events, guest speakers, and continuing education programs are offered at various times through the school year.





The fourth floor is something unique and exclusive to PIMS! The newest addition to this floor is the beautifully appointed Student Lounge dedicated in honor of Dr. Joseph Marsaglia's legacy as the Dean of Faculty and Students at PIMS for many years. The new structure was designed with a "big city, urban loft, coffee house feel" to provide comfort, entertainment, and technological amenities for the student body. This new addition is courtesy of a generous grant from Schoedinger Funeral Services in Columbus, Ohio; we are thankful to the Schoedinger family for their benevolence in support of funeral service education.

The fourth floor is also home to a brand-new laboratory which enables a Restorative Art Residency experience like no other in funeral service education. In fact, exclusive to PIMS, are synthetic traumatically or pathologically damaged heads AKA "PIMS Headzos" (as they have come to be known).



These brand-marked models were carefully crafted by a Hollywood special effects artist with the feel of "embalmed tissue". In the lab, the latest restorative "tools of the trade" are also provided allowing PIMS students to simulate the challenges of a major restoration event.





To further authenticate this unique experience, the PIMS RA team of instructors created and fused together the “bones of the calvarium” with man-made synthetic materials that truly feel like human bone. The idea of offering these “cranial caps” to PIMS students in RA lab was to simulate the various techniques for cranial bone reconstruction and restoration. Making the decedent care simulation experience complete, the Institute purchased an authentic 200 lb. mannequin used in fire and rescue instruction. “Rescue Randy” enables PIMS students to simulate a decedent transfer, including best practices for the physical transfer as well as first-call counseling and comforting the emotional needs of the bereaved “at the death scene.” While part of the fourth floor and the entire fifth floor remain undeveloped, alternative disposition trends provide ideas for the future use of this space.

The fully operational embalming and decedent care center is adjacent to the main building and features chemicals and supplies from the leading manufacturers of such items. With a patient lift device that can move up to 1000 lbs., a ventilation system with air exchanges well beyond the standard limit, and, of course, full application of personal protective equipment, PIMS students safely gain real time embalming experience. PIMS students (under direct supervision of a licensed embalmer funeral director) are entrusted to care for more than 500 decedents per year; with the large case volume, PIMS students are held to some of the most rigorous standards and requirements for clinical applications in funeral service education. Simply put, we believe the experiences that PIMS students gain at our physical campus (whether enrolled in the distance or campus program) are second to none! Stay tuned as major renovations are planned for the decedent care center in Spring 2023!



INSTITUTIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The administration of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is constantly aware of its obligations as a school and of its responsibilities to its students, to the funeral service profession and to the public. The school motto, "Scientia, Sollertia, Servitium," expresses these objectives in part. Translated from Latin, the motto means "Knowledge, Skills and Service.

The major aims and objectives of The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc. are:

- To offer a post-secondary level curriculum and educational program that will enlarge the background and knowledge of funeral service which are essential in meeting the student's needs for licensure and successful funeral service practice.
- To foster and promote ideas in every phase of funeral service, enabling the student to develop proficiency and skills necessary for the profession, while at the same time sensitize the student to ecological and environmental concerns that apply.

- To engender a sense of social consciousness and awareness within each student that serving as a practicing funeral director entails obligations and responsibilities that are met most effectively through highly ethical professional practices, community service, and good citizenship.
- To foster the true image of the funeral director as a member of the caregiving professions engaged in community health and welfare service.
- To instill a desire for continuing education, intellectual and spiritual growth throughout the years of professional life.
- To encourage cooperation with all individuals and groups concerned with the advancement of the standards of education and research for funeral service among faculty and students, alike.
- To uphold and pursue the principles of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) thereby establishing a performance excellence framework within the following operational categories of the Institute: leadership, strategy and strategic management, students and stakeholders, measurement, analysis, and knowledge management, employment and workforce, tactical operations, and results.

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

Consistent with our Institutional Aims and Objectives, The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, in all of its forms. While advocating to all of our stakeholders the respect for the traditions of the funeral service, the Institute promotes a culture of inclusion that values individual uniqueness, thus providing the requisite support to help all individuals thrive. We are dedicated to providing a safe, ethical, and inclusive educational environment in which we uphold the necessary rigor and respect endemic to the funeral service profession while maintaining an environment that elevates cultural awareness and reflects the diversity of our stakeholders at large.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James O. Pinkerton, CFSP, Chairman	Pittsburgh, PA
Dr. Barry T. Lease, President and CEO	Pittsburgh, PA
Karen West Butler, Vice-President	Pittsburgh, PA
Patrick Lanigan, Secretary	Pittsburgh, PA
Kevin Dieterle, Treasurer	Pittsburgh, PA
F. Glenn Fleming	State College, PA
Michael Nicodemus	Virginia Beach, VA
James Lowry	Charleston, WV
Eugene C. Ogrodnik, CFSP, President Emeritus	Pittsburgh, PA

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Barry T. Lease, President and CEO/Program Director
Nicole Elachko, Registrar/Director of Administrative Staff and Student Services
Michael Burns, Dean of Faculty and Students
Jenett Moyer, Financial Aid Administrator
Anne L. Cerutti, Business Office Advisor/Social Media Coordinator
Maria Sproull, Administrative Coordinator
Cecilia Obermeier, Admissions Advisor
Eugene C. Ogrodnik, President Emeritus
Dr. Joseph A. Marsaglia Jr., Dean Emeritus

FACULTY COUNCIL

Kathleen B. Entenmann, Esq., Chair
John N. Elachko
Patrick M. McGowan
Nicholas A. Ricci
Allen Siverls

FACULTY

Outstanding professional men and women make up the Institute's faculty. In addition to being thoroughly educated in their specialties, they bring to the student's practical experience accumulated over years of practice in their chosen professions.

These educators, who combine the best of the theoretical and the practical, are well qualified to provide in-depth understanding of their disciplines. Real meaning is thus brought to the textbook-laboratory method of instruction.

This Institute has adopted as its credo the belief that the student can best learn by constant practice of the theories which are taught. The dedicated educators teaching "the future of funeral service" are listed below with the classes they teach and the year they started with at Institute:

- **Betts, Fredericka** (October 2022), Pathology I & II, Human Anatomy, Microbiology
 - Education: A.S., Kent State University, B.A., Kent State University; M.F.S., National University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director
- **Burns, Michael S.**, (August 2016), Pathology I & II, Embalming Orientation, Embalming I, Embalming II, Regulatory Compliance, Restorative Art Principles, RA Lab Supervisor, Clinical Embalming Supervisor, Strategies for Success, Certified Celebrant Trainer.
 - Education: B.S., Point Park University; M.Ed., Point Park University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant, Certified Crematory Operator
- **Catalfu, Jason L.**, (September 2018), Cremation Principles.
 - Education: B.S., Point Park University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Crematory Operator
- **Cerutti, Annie L.**, (February 2021), Funeral Service Ethics.
 - Education: B.F.A. Ringling College of Art & Design; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant
- **Chandler, Bryan** (June 2009), Thanatology in Society, Communication Skills, Funeral Management I.
 - Education: B.S., Point Park University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director
- **Cush, Chelsea**, (June 2021), Pathology I & II, Microbiology, Human Anatomy, Embalming I, Microbiology, Environmental Science, Risk Management. Clinical Embalming
 - Education: B.S., Point Park University; M.S. Point Park University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant, Certified Crematory Operator
- **Elachko, John** (January 2012), Psychology of Grief & Counseling, Death and Children, Regulatory Compliance, World Religions, General Psychology.
 - Education: B.A., Duquesne University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Crematory Operator
- **Entenmann, George C., Esq.** (September 1977), Business Law, Economics, Funeral Service Law,
 - Education: B.S., University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Duquesne University

- **Entenmann, Kathleen B., Esq.** (September 1998), English Composition, Social Psychology, General Psychology.
 - Education: B.A., Rutgers College; J.D., Duquesne University
- **Falcone, Nick**, (January 2023), Clinical Embalming
 - Education: B.A., Slippery Rock University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant, Certified Crematory Operator
- **Johnson, Lisa D.**, (April 2015), Clinical Embalming.
 - Education: B.S., Point Park University, PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director
- **Karish, Randi** (April 2023), Clinical Embalming.
 - Education: Community College of Allegheny County, PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director
- **Lease, Dr. Barry T.** (April 1996), Gerontology, Human Resource Management.
 - Education: B.S., Waynesburg College; M.B.A, Point Park University; Ed.D., Walden University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant, Certified Crematory Operator
- **McGowan, Patrick M.** (January 1993), Funeral Management I, Funeral Management II , Clinical Embalming.
 - Education: B.S., California University of PA; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant
- **Parzynski, Michael**, (August 2009) Human Anatomy, Embalming Orientation, Embalming I, Embalming II, Microbiology, Pathology I, Pathology II.
 - Education: B.S., St. Vincent College; M.S., Pennsylvania State University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director
- **Ricci, Nicholas A.** (January 2016), Accounting, Contemporary Professional Issues, Funeral Service Ethics, Funeral Service Marketing, Small Business Management, Thanatology, Clinical Embalming
 - Education: B.A., Duquesne University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant, Certified Crematory Operator
- **Siverls, Allen** (January 2010), Small Business Management, Funeral Management II, Funeral Service Ethics, Communication Skills.
 - Education: B.A., St. Lawrence University; M.B.A, Clarkson University; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director, Certified Celebrant
- **Silvis, Benjamin W.** (August 2008), Clinical Embalming
 - Education: B.A., St. Vincent College; PIMS
 - Licensed Funeral Director

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ADMISSION TO THE INSTITUTE

It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science to admit students who are best qualified to profit from the opportunities offered at the Institute for intellectual, spiritual, and social growth to assume the professional responsibilities of a licensed embalmer and director.

Admission to study at PIMS is a privilege. The Institute reserves the right to withdraw this privilege at any time it may appear to be in the best interest of the student, the student community, or the Institute.

It is also the policy of the PIMS that contact with perspective students is to be informative; high-pressure tactics are prohibited as the nature of the program does not appeal to a broad student base. The fact is that not everyone is called to a career in funeral service.

Accordingly, before deciding to attend the Institute (campus or online) a student should be familiar with the fact that the functions of funeral service will require candidates to perform many tasks. The goal of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is to that ensure our graduates become gainfully employed. For this reason, we ask that the prospective student acknowledges the following:

- Funeral service is physically demanding and will require an individual to have the capacity to lift at least 45 pounds, to be able to bend at the waist and the knees, and be able to stand for prolonged periods of time.
- Funeral service professionals are faced challenging and difficult situations in counseling the bereaved and caring for their decedent loved ones, therefore it will require a prospect to possess a high degree of emotional intelligence.
- Death is not a scheduled event, therefore most funeral homes will require directors to work unpredictable and sometimes long hours. Additionally, a prospect wants to be aware that on call time will be expected, and working nights, weekends, and holidays is standard practice.
- Due to the personal nature of funeral service, prospective students should consider their social media presence; anything posted that might be perceived by a bereaved family to be controversial or offensive in any way may affect the ability of this candidate to secure a position in the funeral service.
- Be advised that being an insurable driver with a valid license to operate a motor vehicle may be a requirement for a position at most funeral homes and other organizations related to funeral service/
- While fashion and appearance is a personal choice, be advised that many funeral homes and organizations related to funeral service have specific expectations for dress code, grooming, and personal hygiene.
- Prospective candidates should be aware that an internship is required in most states prior to licensure; it should also be noted that passing a comprehensive national exam may be required to begin such an internship and a passing a state exam may be necessary during/after the internship may be required for licensure.
- While specific state requirements for licensure will vary, most states will require a criminal background check for licensure. A prospect should consider the potential results for such a background check before applying; a student who would be unable to be licensed due to this requirement may want to reconsider application for admission as PIMS specifically provides a funeral service education to prepare candidates for licensure in any state.

The above recommendations are not intended to discourage a candidate from considering funeral service education or a career in the funeral service, however, these recommendations are designed to educate prospective about details endemic to this vocation. In the interest of the student prospect the recommendations above have been codified into the Admission Health and Wellness Acknowledgement Form; all students will be asked to read, review, and acknowledge receipt of this document.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Application for admission must be completed online at www.pims.edu. All information requested must be given by the applicant. Each student must submit the following with the official online application:

1. A \$50 application fee. The application fee is refundable if request for cancellation is made within 5 calendar days of submitting the application.

2. A recent headshot photograph, for identification purposes only with a white or light-colored background; emailed to admissions@pims.edu.
3. An official transcript of the applicant's complete high school record or, in lieu thereof, evidence of a high school equivalency acceptable to the licensing agency is required. If an applicant has graduated from high school with a final GPA of less than 2.3 (effective January, 2022), the applicant will need to provide PIMS with an official college transcript presenting at least 12 liberal arts or general education credits with a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or higher (**to be submitted directly to PIMS by the school or college otherwise not considered official**).
4. All official college transcripts, including mortuary school, if applicable (**to be submitted directly to PIMS by the school or college otherwise not considered official**).
5. Completion of the **Admission Health and Wellness Acknowledgement Form by the student and qualified health professional**, which can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to admissions@pims.edu once completed by the applicant and a physician or other qualified medical professional.
6. Proof of healthcare insurance coverage; a copy of a health insurance card can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to admissions@pims.edu.

Some states require college courses as a prerequisite for admission to mortuary school. Others require an apprenticeship period be served prior to mortuary training. The administrative team at the Institute will assist each student in understanding licensing requirements; to reinforce the importance of this topic it is introduced in the Strategies course as a student begins online or on campus. Furthermore, assistance with any/all paperwork will be provided by our administrative team upon request. It is important that prospective students become familiar with the licensing requirements of the state in which they are wishing to practice prior to enrolling. The Institute will gladly answer any questions concerning such special requirements and provide assistance when possible in working with such requirements; such assistance may include but not be limited to helping/providing contact to the funeral director/embalmer state board in consideration of said special requirements. However, the student agrees to accept responsibility to ensure their education and credentials meet their states requirement.

Enrollment is competitive for both campus and online programs, therefore it is the policy of the Institute to admit students that are the best qualified to meet state licensure requirements and those that will be able assume the professional responsibilities of a licensed embalmer and funeral director.

To ensure that our students are employable after graduation, qualitative considerations, such as an evaluation by a member of the Admissions Committee of a prospect's Internet presence and social media activity. All students attending the Institute agree to comply with commonly accepted rules of good behavior and professional guidelines put forth by the funeral service at large. A candidate with infractions or behavior inconsistent with such professional guidelines may serve as a disqualifying event for acceptance into the Institute because they may have issues obtaining gainful employment in the funeral service. While funeral service is an evolving business, the profession is still grounded with traditional roots, practices, and conduct. In reviewing all application materials, the Admission Committee does its due diligence to takes into account not just the quantifiable factors such as academic achievement and previous education, but also other variables that may adversely impact a prospective student's opportunity in the funeral service.

Application materials will be destroyed, including transcripts, if the applicant does not matriculate into courses within one year of the application date. Applications can be deferred beyond a year if the applicant contacts the Admission Office to place their application on hold. After the designated hold period the Admissions Office has the right to discard those application materials without notification to the student.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is currently not accepting applications from international students, pursuant to the policies and regulations set forth by the United States Department of Homeland Security regarding the acceptance of international students. For details on such policies and regulations, please visit: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>.

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Official notification of acceptance or rejection will be made by email after the applicant's records have been carefully reviewed and verified by the Admissions Committee.

ENROLLMENT DATES

Enrollment for campus and online is conducted three times yearly, once in spring, summer and fall. The detailed campus Academic Calendar is located at the end of this document. The modular format of the distance program provides for start and completion dates for each of the cohorts, which typically begin in January, June, and October. Once again, these calendars can be found at the end of this document.

REGISTRATION

Registration is done by the Registrar's Office within the PIMS student administrative system (SAS); currently the portal for students SAS is managed through Sonis. Upon acceptance into the Institute, students are registered for the cohort, campus or online, for which they applied. Communications with the student are maintained via the SAS (see below).

**PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF
MORTUARY SCIENCE**

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PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE



The Institute conducts an orientation process within a week of their course start date (see below for more details on the orientation process). Schedules are provided to the student following orientation. If a student wishes to discuss their schedule or make adjustments, they must contact the Registrar's Office.

On-campus students can select to take the accelerated or the standard pace of progression. The program result is the same; the accelerated pace is 20 credits per term and the student attends at a minimum one year, and the standard pace is 8-12 credits per term and the student attends at a minimum of two years. If the student has questions or wishes to change paces of attendance, they must consult with the Registrar Office.

The student that pursues a distance education alternative will note that the courses are offered in an accelerated,

but modular, time-line of eight-week courses. Online courses are offered in a specific and logical sequence to optimize the pace and progression of the online student. All distance students are provided with a schedule of the entire modular sequence for their specific cohort at the outset of the program.

Due to the shorter-term lengths, there are no terms in which more than 7 credits are offered. With a modular format, only certain courses will be offered during any particular term. Any other request for course registration which requires a departure from the normal sequence will be determined solely on a case-by-case basis; students interested in such an inquiry must contact the Registrar's Office.

ORIENTATION

Prior to start of coursework either online or on campus, students are given a comprehensive orientation which, consistent with ABFSE Standard 9.3, includes an overview of safety and health guidelines, student administrative and academic policies, financial aid, facilities, and expectations for academic success. PIMS uses Canvas as its LMS or learning management system (see below); this LMS provides the entire orientation for distance learning students as well as offering a virtual repository of videos and other resources for campus-based students. That said, the orientation process is typically completed for campus students on ground within one week prior to start.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS



Virtual educational resources are available for BOTH PIMS campus and online students. Therefore, any student attending the Institute, online or campus, should have a COMPUTER available with an Internet browser (note: Google optimizes the experience of our current learning management system or LMS) capable of accessing the Internet, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and an email account. The current LMS used by the Institute is a platform known as **Canvas**.

It is important to note that every electronic internet connected device will allow the user partial access to the itslearning. Thus, quick check ins to the LMS using a phone or tablet may be available to allow students to: read assignments, check discussion posts, instant message their teachers and classmates. In some devices, may work on tablets and even smartphones.

Another virtual educational resource specifically for online students is the use of the **Examity** test proctoring system. This system works in sync with the Canvas LMS, as a deterrent to academic dishonesty during test. Specific assessments (midterm and final exam) a student will take in the online program will be monitored through the Examity test proctoring system and test browser tool. A student is responsible for the cost of using the Examity system throughout a term, which may be billed to their student account at the outset of term (cost indicated below).



Due to the use of Examity test proctoring it is absolutely critical that a student owns/uses a device that is compatible and allowing for optimal engagement of the application. Such devices include:

- Any Laptop made by virtually every manufacturer WITH AN ONBOARD WEBCAM
- Any Desktop made by virtually every manufacturer WITH AN ONBOARD WEBCAM OR ONE THAT CAN BE ADDED.

Devices THAT MAY NOT BE USED DURING EXAMITY PROCTORED TESTS include all of the following:

- Any Chromebook made by any manufacturer (Google, Samsung, Lenovo, etc.)
- Any iPad made by Apple
- Any Tab (tablet) made by Samsung/Android
- Any Tab (tablet) made by Lenovo
- Any Slate made by Google
- Any Surface made by Microsoft
- Any Fire made by Amazon
- Any MediaPad made by Huawei
- Any Iconia made by Acer
- Any Chuwi made by Chuwi
- Any number of other tablet-like devices.

In short, ANY REMOTE SMARTPHONE, TABLET, OR OTHER TYPE OF REMOTE/MOBILE DEVICE WILL NOT WORK FOR THE TEST PROCTOR BECAUSE THE EXAMITY SOFTWARE CANNOT MONITOR THE TESTING ENVIRONMENT. A student needs to be in a quiet, uninterrupted environment with optimal connectivity. This demonstrates a student should take Examity proctored tests in their personal space with a desktop or laptop computer, with either having a strong Internet connection, and, of course, a webcam.

It is also strongly suggested that students have access to printers and scanners for document transfer and/or to have written versions of lessons in the courses.

Once again, users should also be sure they are using Google Chrome as the browser, the COMPUTER should use the be updated to use the latest available operating systems and the Java function must continually be updated throughout the tenure of the program to ensure operational capacity of the entire platform.

Finally, the ability to view videos embedded within the courses in the LMS is a necessity. Additionally, some videos may be download and thus it is strongly recommended that online students download the VLC media player application (see <https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>) to ensure playability. Students must also have software available to them for word processing and spreadsheet use as well as a presentation program.

This equipment while it may be convenient to purchase, does not have to be purchased by the student. Public libraries provide equipment and Internet access for consumers at no cost. The following provides a breakdown of costs a student may incur for the suggested technology requirements for campus or online education:

Equipment	Approximate Cost
Personal computer	\$500.00
Pro Streaming Webcam (if needed to purchase)	\$40.00
Printer	\$100.00
Microsoft Office (Student Edition)	\$150.00
Internet Service (estimated but depends on provider)	\$100.00/month
Scanner (optional)	\$100.00

SECURITY PASS FOBS AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM

Since its inception, the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science has been sensitive to ensuring the safety, health, and welfare of its employees and students. A security system has been installed that provides for ease of entry by authorized parties by the use of a fob.

All students are provided with a fob that will enable easy access to the building when desired, during times when school is in session. This policy will assist in maintaining a secure environment for all concerned with minimum disruption to administrative personnel.

Additionally, a surveillance camera system has been installed throughout the campus. The surveillance cameras have been installed at strategic locations at the perimeter of the PIMS campus and at the front entrance way. These cameras are operational 24/7 and provide an additional layer of security and piece of mind for those who are on the PIMS campus.



TERMINATION/CANCELLATION OF ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

After seven calendar days following the date of the enrollment contract, but prior to the beginning of classes, if an applicant cancels or fails to attend, all monies in excess of the application and matriculation fees will be refunded.

REFUNDS AND WITHDRAWALS- CAMPUS STUDENTS

In withdrawing from school, the student should submit a letter or email of resignation to the Registrar. In the event that a student does not submit notice of resignation, the date of last attendance shall constitute the basis for tuition refunds.

Whenever a student enrolls and withdraws or is discontinued after the trimester has begun but prior to completion of the trimester, the following tuition refunds shall apply:

Week 1 (first 7 calendar days)....75%	Weeks 5-8 (days 29-56)..... 30%
Weeks 2-4 (days 8-28).....55%	After Week 8 (57+) No Refund

Or, for all students receiving Title IV funds who withdraw completely at or before the 60% point of the trimester, the return of Title IV funds refund policy will also be computed.

For students who change their credit number of courses taken during the trimester (by dropping or adding courses), the student will be charged on the amount per credit rate and the refund shall be calculated per the refund policy listed above.

RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS POLICY

Return of Title IV funds will be determined by calculating the amount of Title IV aid the student earned. Unearned Title IV funds will be returned to the Department of Education. Student aid earned will be calculated by dividing the number of days completed by the number of days in the enrollment period. The resulting percentage will be multiplied by the total Title IV aid disbursed and that could have been disbursed for the period of enrollment. The result will represent the total Title IV aid to be disbursed or returned by the school and/or student under this policy. This refund will be disbursed in the following order: Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan, Federal Pell Grant Program, FSEOG, and any other Title IV programs.

An appeals process exists for students or parents who feel that individual circumstances warrant exceptions from published policy.

The Pittsburgh Institute shall make the appropriate refund within 30 days of the date the student fails to enter or to terminate training.

REFUNDS AND WITHDRAWALS-ONLINE STUDENTS

The Institute shall calculate earned tuition on a weekly basis. For refund computation purposes, termination date is the last date of participation. Attendance for PIMS Online is defined as present and active participation with regards to discussion forums and course assignments. There will be no refunds for books and supplies after such items have been issued.

In withdrawing from school, the student must submit a letter or email of resignation to the Registrar. If no resignation is received, the date of last attendance shall constitute the basis for tuition refunds. This day will be determined by the last time the student had participated in the forum discussions or submitted an assignment. In accordance with regulations of the PA State Board of Private Licensed Schools, whenever a student enrolls and withdraws or is discontinued after the term has begun, but prior to completion of the term, refunds shall apply. Each term of study is 8 weeks long (up to 56 days). Tuition refunds shall apply as follows for online students:

First 10% of the term-6 calendar days	Days 1-6	90%
Completion of 11%-25% of the term	Days 7-14	75%
Completion of 25%-50% of the term	Days 15-28	50%
Completion of over 50% of the term	Days 29+	No refund

For all students receiving Title IV funds who withdraw completely at or before the 60% point of the term, the Title IV funds policy will be computed.

An appeals process exists for students or parents who feel that individual circumstances warrant exceptions from published policy.

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc. shall make the appropriate refund within 14 days of the date the student fails to enter or to terminate training.

RETURN OF MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) is awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of TA funds originally awarded.

To comply with the new Department of Defense policy, the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science will return any unearned TA funds on a prorated basis through at least 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided. TA funds are earned proportionally during an enrollment period, with unearned funds returned based upon when a student stops attending. These funds are returned to the military service branch.

Instances when a Service member stops attending due to military ser obligation, the educational institution will work with the affected Service member to identify solutions that will not result in the student debt for the returned portion.

The following TA refunds shall apply:

Week 1 (first 7 calendar days)....75%	Weeks 5-8 (days 29-56)..... 30%
Weeks 2-4 (days 8-28).....55%	After Week 8 (57+) No Refund

CAMPUS TUITION AND FEES*Effective September 2020

Note: The PIMS Board of Directors, in response to the pandemic and general economic conditions, has voted to “Freeze Tuition” for three consecutive academic years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23

Total cost of tuition for the Diploma Program and AST Degree Program is \$19,800, the total cost for the ASB Degree Program is \$26,730 if 81 credits are required, and the total cost for the ASB Degree Program is \$32,010, if 97 credits are required. The prescribed amounts are listed below; the per credit cost is \$330. Each trimesters’ tuition and fees are billed in advance of each term and must be paid by the end of each term. In addition to tuition, there are costs for supplies, laboratories & other fees, as listed below.

	Diploma & AST 60 credits	ASB Degree 81 or 97 credits
# Application Fee (with application) or Reapplication Fee	\$ 50.	\$ 50.
Matriculation Fee (non-refundable)	\$ 75.	\$ 75.
++ Textbooks (estimated)	\$ 1,500.	\$ 2,700.
* RA Laboratory Supplies and Fees (campus visit)	\$ 3,575.	\$ 3,575.
* Embalming Lab Fee	\$ 710.	\$ 710.
Technology Fee	\$ 300.	\$ 300.
Graduation Fee including NBE Resources and Practice exams	\$ 250.	\$ 250.
*** Virtual Funeral Service Skills Practicum Site Accreditation Visit	\$ 50.	\$ 50.
TOTAL BOOKS, SUPPLIES & FEES (estimate)	\$ 6,360.	\$ 7,560.
Tuition beginning of Non-CORE 16		\$ 5,280. (if required)
Tuition beginning of First Trimester	\$ 6600.	\$ 6,600.
Tuition beginning of Second Trimester	\$ 6600.	\$ 6,600.
Tuition beginning of Third Trimester	\$ 6600.	\$ 6,600.
Tuition beginning of Non-CORE 21		\$ 6,930.
TOTAL TUITION		\$26,730. (81 credits)
TOTAL TUITION	\$19,800 (60 credits)	\$32,010. (97 credits)

Application Fee or Reapplication Fee is refundable if a request for cancellation is made within (5) calendar days of submitting the application.

* Subject to change; includes instruction, use of facilities, transfer services (EMB), proprietary equipment (RA), and necessary supplies. Students can opt to purchase some supplies on their own, pending school approval. A breakdown will be provided prior to these labs. The Embalming Lab Fee applies in either case to a) one required case on campus for assessment purposes, or b) performing all cases, or clinical requirements on campus.

*** If a virtual site accreditation visit for the funeral service practicum is not desired or cannot be accomplished, then a physical visit may occur at a fee of \$250 plus all expenses related to the visit.

++The amounts listed above are only budgeted estimates for textbooks.

ONLINE TUITION AND FEES *Effective October 2020

Note: The PIMS Board of Directors, in response to the pandemic and general economic conditions, has voted to “Freeze Tuition” for three consecutive academic years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23

The cost of tuition for the full-time Online Diploma & AST Degree Program (11 terms) is charged at the rate of \$390 per credit + \$50 administrative fee per course, payable in eleven installments by the end of each term. The prescribed amounts are listed below. In addition to tuition, there are costs for supplies and laboratory & other fees which are billed in advance of each term.

DIP & AST DEGREE (11 TERMS)	
# Application Fee (with application) or Reapplication Fee	\$ 50.
Matriculation Fee (non-refundable)	\$ 100.
Tuition (54 credits @ \$390/ credit)	\$ 21,060.
* RA Laboratory Supplies and Fees (campus visit)	\$ 3,575.
* Embalming Lab Fee	\$ 710.
Technology Fee	\$ 300.
Course Administrative Fees (22 courses @ \$50/course)	\$ 1,100.
***Virtual Clinical Embalming Site Accreditation Visit	\$ 50.

***Virtual Funeral Service Skills Practicum Site Accreditation Visit	\$ 50.
Graduation Fee including NBE Practice Resources	\$ 250.
++Textbooks (Estimated)	\$ 1,500.
+++Examity Test Monitoring Services Fee \$60/term	\$600.
TOTAL BOOKS, SUPPLIES & FEES (estimate)	\$ 8,685.
TOTAL TUITION	\$ 21,060.

Application Fee or Reapplication Fee is refundable if a request for cancellation is made within (5) calendar days of submitting the application.

* Includes instruction, use of facilities, transfer services (EMB), proprietary equipment (RA), and necessary supplies. Students can opt to purchase some supplies on their own, pending school approval. A breakdown will be provided prior to these labs. The Emb Lab Fee applies in either case to a) one requisite case on campus for assessment purposes, or b) performing all cases, or clinical requirements on campus.

*** If a virtual visit is not desired or cannot be accomplished, then a physical visit must occur at a fee of \$250 plus all expenses related to the visit.

++The amounts listed above are only budgeted estimates for textbooks.

+++Note: Examity Test Monitoring Services may be used at the discretion of the student for the PIMS Comprehensive Examination and "Test Out" situations in lieu of visiting the PIMS campus for such assessments. The cost for this use of Live Proctoring Examity Services will be \$30 per test/per student/per take. Additional fees may be assessed by Examity if a student "no shows" for a schedule assessment.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Courses of Study

- (1) **The Diploma Program (Embalming and Funeral Directing)** is a 60-semester credit course consisting of 1096 contact hours of study available to those who desire licensure in a state whose law requires it. This program can be taken at an accelerated pace in 3 trimesters on-campus, a standard pace in 6 trimesters on campus, or two calendar years online. Upon graduating from this program, a student is awarded a Diploma in Embalming and Funeral Directing.
- (2) **Associate in Specialized Business Degree (Funeral Service Management)** is 97 semester credit program that is offered on-campus only. This program acts as a coordinated curriculum for certain states regarding licensure requirements (E.g., specifically the Pennsylvania). This program consists of at least 1651 contact hours of both classroom and laboratory work and 5 trimesters if attending at an accelerated pace; if attending at a standard pace, this program will require a minimum of 8 trimesters. Upon graduating from this program, a student is awarded a Associate in Specialized Business Degree/Funeral Service Management.
- (3) **Associate in Specialized Technology Degree (Funeral Service Arts and Sciences)** requires a minimum of 30 semester (45 quarter) credits of previous college education (transfer credits) distributed in two general areas and consists of a minimum of 1096 contact hours (60 semester credits) on campus and online. Total credits (including the 30 transfer credits) required for the AST Degree is 90 semester credits. This program can be taken at an accelerated pace in 3 trimesters on-campus, a standard pace in 6 trimesters on campus, or two calendar years online. Upon graduating from this program, a student is awarded a Associate in Specialized Technology Degree/Funeral Service Arts and Sciences.
- (4) Cooperative bachelor's degree programs are available in which the student can combine course work from the Pittsburgh Institute with education from one of the four cooperative college programs. Details are described later in this publication. This is an on-campus only option.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The purpose of all the approved programs at PIMS (see previous section) is to educate students in every phase of the funeral service so that graduates of any approved program are prepared for entry-level employment in funeral service. The typical entry-level employment in the funeral service profession involves an internship or apprenticeship period, which ultimately may qualify a candidate to earn a state license to practice. Note: Because licensure requirements to practice funeral directing and embalming differ from state to state, PIMS student services provides advisement to help guide candidates throughout the entire process.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science endeavors 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 goal, the Institute has adopted the program learning outcomes from the Accreditation Standard 2.1 of the American Board of Funeral Service Education, therefore, upon completion of the program students will be able to:

- Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with the families and communities they serve.

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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



In and out of the classroom PIMS students are trained to be compassionate caregivers which guide bereaved families they serve through the numerous details in planning a funeral while providing shelter and care to their decedent loved ones. In classes like Funeral Management, Psychology of Grief, Thanatology, and Professional Communication Skills, students are taught how to advise families about service options, merchandise options, cultural or religion customs, decisions that need to be made regarding final disposition as well as the numerous administrative details a funeral director provides for bereaved families in their care. Some of these details include: filing of death certificates, burial/transit permits, survivor benefit forms, obituary notices, veteran’s forms, and other legal documents necessary for final disposition options. Continuum of care services are also offered by funeral service professionals in terms of after care and pre-need arrangements. The Funeral Service Practicum experience helps a student

apply these didactic learning concepts in the field (See **Section: Funeral Service Practicum for more details**). Additionally, the PIMS program offers a student the basics for managing business operations in funeral service as well as how to ensure a safe work environment for their employees.

Students will take courses in allied health sciences such as Anatomy, Pathology, and Microbiology; these core science classes establish fundamentals needed for the specific lessons they will learn regarding the transfer, sheltering and care of the decedents whom they will be called upon to serve. These specific funeral service science classes include Embalming, Embalming Chemistry, and Restorative Art. Additionally, similar to the “soft skills” listed above in the program, clinical and laboratory instruction supplement the course science courses for all PIMS students.



With a goal of meeting the ABFSE program learning outcomes, PIMS enables its graduates to gain the basic skills

necessary for an entry level position in the funeral service profession. Typically, these positions are internships designed to continue the formal education of a student with the ultimate goal of fulfill the necessary licensure requirements in most states throughout the USA. Once again, PIMS provides advisement to students regarding specifications on licensure for each individual state. Upon completing an internship, job titles include Licensed Funeral Director, Licensed Embalmer, or Licensed Embalmer-Funeral Director (depending upon the State of licensure).

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc. has adopted the following policy for determining the credit hours awarded for courses and programs, regardless of delivery mode or course format, in accordance with commonly accepted practices in higher education as may be determined by the U.S. Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF THE CREDIT HOUR

For purposes of the application of this policy and in accord with federal regulations, a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

1. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practical, studio work, and other academic activities as established by the institution.

At Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc., one semester credit is equivalent to one hour of faculty face-to-face instruction time per week for 15 weeks and a minimum of two hours of student preparation time outside of the classroom each week per credit hour.

Different modes of instruction will meet instructional hour requirements by following the general guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education and the PA Department of Education.

Specifically, the Pittsburgh Institute follows the established curricular credit regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE): 22 Pa. Code Chapter 31, 31.21-31.22. One semester credit is defined as 14 hours of classroom instruction. A three-credit semester or trimester- based course would need to meet for 42 hours of classroom instruction throughout the semester or trimester. In addition, PDE requires that hours of classroom instruction cannot be calculated to include exams. Therefore, a typical trimester course meets for 14 weeks (3 credits equals 42 hours of instruction) with a final exam in week 15 (2 hours). PDE's curricular credit policy allows for determining activities that are the equivalent of classroom instruction.

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science operates on an academic year divided into three trimesters (fall and spring and summer) of approximately 15 weeks in length and grants "semester credit." PIMS Online operates on an 8 week modular terms and grants "semester credit" as each is completed; the entire online program typically takes two years to complete the coursework (unless there are special circumstances such as credits that have been transferred in).

SUMMARY OF PIMS CREDIT HOUR GUIDELINES

For traditionally delivered lecture and discussion courses on campus, one credit hour must include no less than one 50-minute period of direct faculty instruction each week for 15 weeks on campus and a minimum of two hours of out-of- class student work each week. It is understood that the students' work requirements may vary from week to week based on particular assignments.

Equivalent time and effort are required for online study or other shortened instructional periods. For each credit,

the students' workload should require approximately 45 hours of effort.

At least an equivalent amount of work as described above is required for other academic activities, including laboratory courses, internships, clinical practice, field work, and other academic work leading to the awarding of credit. In addition, these forms of academic activities need not bear academic credit but may be simply individual course requirements or institutional requirements.

Credit for courses delivered by e-learning, hybrid, shortened, and other nontraditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort. In determining the amount of course work to achieve learning competencies and outcomes, the Institute will take into consideration alternative delivery methods, measurements of student work, nature of the course expectation and achievement of academic outcomes.

All new courses or substantive changes in course or credit content are not only submitted and approved by the ABFSE, but also the PA Department of Education prior to the course being offered to students and therefore meet all laws, regulations, guidelines, and policies of the department.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS: SPECIAL NOTE TO THOSE STUDENTS SEEKING LICENSES IN ALL STATES EXCEPT PENNSYLVANIA

Since the Institute typically has students with different agendas from many different states attending classes and since there are no uniform licensing requirements throughout the United States or Canada, the student is best advised to let the Institute's personnel assist them in interpreting the intended state's current educational requirements for licensure.

ASSOCIATE IN SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY DEGREE

The Associate in Specialized Technology (AST) Degree was developed to recognize the efforts of many students who had already earned in excess of 30 semester (45 quarter) credits.

The AST Degree in Funeral Service Arts and Sciences requires the student to earn a minimum of 30 semester (45 quarter) credits from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university prior to matriculation into either three or six trimesters on campus, depending if you would like the accelerated or standard pace or two calendar years online.

Those who are seeking licensure in Pennsylvania or West Virginia need 60 credits to enter the online program and/or qualify for the AST on-campus. Students must meet both PIMS and state requirements.

The Associate in Specialized Technology Degree must meet the following distribution requirements for the 30 semester (45 quarter) credits prerequisite to study at PIMS:

To qualify for the AST program on-campus and online:

AREA I

-21 semester credits must come from the following specialty areas:

Biology or other Life Sciences	Business Mathematics
Public Health	Allied Health Science
Chemistry	Behavioral Science
Zoology	Sociology
Business Administration	Political Science
Environmental Health	Other related areas
Computer Business Applications	

AREA II

-9 semester credits from the following other related areas:

English Literature	College Mathematics
English Composition	Computer Science Programming
Public Speaking	Education
History	Fine Arts
Foreign Languages	Humanities
Philosophy	Other related areas

Because colleges and universities title courses differently, it is not always easy to determine by the course title in which distribution category a course might apply. Therefore, course descriptions, etc., may need to be analyzed to properly distribute the credits. This "other related area" category within each distribution area would enable PIMS to distribute the credits appropriately when such a doubt exists.

The above subjects are only representative samples of the types of courses which will meet the distribution requirements. There is a wide variety of course offerings which will equally meet the requirements listed above.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia students can use the Area I and Area II subjects to guidance in scheduling the 60 qualifying credits for those states.

Prospective students who have questions regarding course selection are requested to seek assistance from Institute advisors. The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science reserves the right to analyze and classify the distribution of credits as it deems necessary and appropriate for students applying for the AST Degree.

Campus Trimester Sequence of Courses (Accelerated Pace)
Diploma Program (Embalming and Funeral Directing)
Associate in Specialized Technology Degree (Funeral Service Arts and Sciences)

FIRST TRIMESTER			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
*Practicum hours may be spread over all terms but the total contact hours equal 31 for this experiential learning component					
ANA	110	Human Anatomy	3	3	45
BL	110	Business Law	3	3	45
COM	100	Strategies for Success	1	1	15
BMC	110	Business Math/ Computer Applications	3	3	45
EMB	131	Embalming Orientation	2	2	30
ETH	110	Ethics	1	1	15
PSY	121	General Psychology	2	2	30
MIC	110	Microbiology	3	3	45
SOC	110	Thanatology in Society	2	2	30
		Funeral Service Practicum	N/A	N/A	31*
			20	20	331
SECOND TRIMESTER			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
#Restorative Art Lab is offered as a 3-day intensive with 30 hours of instruction and assessment					
ACC	110	Financial Accounting	3	3	45
MGT	121	Regulatory Compliance	3	3	45
COM	110	Communication Skills	3	3	45
EMB	132	Embalming Theory I	3	3	45
FM	121	Funeral Management I	2	2	30
PAT	121	Pathology I	2	2	30
RA	110	Restorative Art Principles	3	3	45
RA	110L	Restorative Art Lab	1	N/A	30#
		Clinical Embalming	N/A	N/A	36
			20	23	351
THIRD TRIMESTER			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
CR	110	Cremation Principles	3	3	45
EMB	133	Embalming Theory II	2	2	30
FM	122	Funeral Management II	3	3	45
FSL	110	Funeral Service Law	3	3	45
PAT	122	Pathology II	2	2	30
PSS	110	Professional Seminar Series	1	3	45
PSY	122	Psychology of Grief and Counseling	3	3	45
MGT	122	Small Business Management	3	3	45
		Clinical Embalming	N/A	N/A	54
		TOTALS	20	22	384
			60		1066

ASSOCIATE IN SPECIALIZED BUSINESS DEGREE

The Associate in Specialized Business Degree (ASB) is available to campus students whose state of licensure requires an associate degree in mortuary science and/or post-secondary general studies pre-requisite courses. The students can select the accelerated or the standard pace and may need 81 or 97 credits depending on prior qualifying credits for program completion. The non-core 16 credit trimester is only offered in the summer and will be transferred in if the student has 16 qualifying credits (see below). This summer trimester may be taken before or after the sequence of the program. If the non-core 16 credit trimester is eliminated from the student's schedule, 81 credits will be required. If the student does not have the full 16 qualifying credits, 97 credits will be required to graduate with the Associate in Specialized Business from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

Since there are no uniform licensing requirements within the United States and Canada for funeral directors and embalmers, the actual number of credits required prior to matriculation is determined by the pre-professional credits required by the state in which the student intends to practice.

For example: West Virginia and Pennsylvania will accept the Associate in Specialized Business or 60 prior pre-professional credits plus the PIMS Associate in Specialized Technology. These states among others will allow for the coordination of pre-professional and mortuary science credits, hence the Associate in Specialized Business option.

With this in mind, students are advised to check directly with the state licensing boards for current information regarding licensing requirements. Institute officials will be happy to assist any student in obtaining this information. If the student desires to complete sixteen semester credits from another institution, these credits from the sending institution must come from the following two general areas:

To Eliminate Non-Core 16:

AREA I

-12 semester (18 quarter) credits must come from the following specialty areas:

Biology or other Life Sciences	Business Mathematics
Public Health	Allied Health Science
Chemistry	Behavioral Science
Zoology	Sociology
Business Administration	Environmental Health
Political Science	Other related areas
Computer Business Applications	

AREA II

-4 semester (6 quarter) credits from the following other related areas:

English Literature	College Mathematics
English Composition	Computer Science Programming
Public Speaking	Education
History	Fine Arts
Foreign Languages	Humanities
Philosophy	Other related areas
Religion	

The above subjects are only representative samples of the types of courses which will meet the distribution requirements. There is a wide variety of course offerings which will equally meet the requirements listed above. Prospective students who have questions regarding course selection are requested to seek assistance from Institute officials. The Pittsburgh Institute reserves the right to classify the distribution of credits for students applying for the ASB Degree. These credits must be taken at a regionally or nationally accredited institution.

CAMPUS ASSOCIATE IN SPECIALIZED BUSINESS DEGREE (Accelerated Pace)

(Funeral Service Management)

Non-Core 16			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
BIO	210	Environmental Health	3	3	45
HRM	210	Human Resource Management	3	3	45
PSY	210	Psychology of Death	3	3	45
SOC	210	Social Psychology	3	3	45
REL	210	World Religions	4	4	60
			16	16	240
FIRST TRIMESTER *Practicum hours may be spread over all terms but the total contact hours equal 31 for this experiential learning component			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
ANA	110	Human Anatomy	3	3	45
BL	110	Business Law	3	3	45
COM	100	Strategies for Success	1	1	15
BMC	110	Business Math/ Computer Applications	3	3	45
EMB	131	Embalming Orientation	2	2	30
ETH	110	Ethics	1	1	15
PSY	121	General Psychology	2	2	30
MIC	110	Microbiology	3	3	45
SOC	110	Thanatology in Society	2	2	30
		Funeral Service Practicum	N/A	N/A	31*
			20	20	331
SECOND TRIMESTER #Restorative Art Lab is offered as a 3-day intensive with 30 hours of instruction and assessment			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
ACC	110	Financial Accounting	3	3	45
MGT	121	Regulatory Compliance	3	3	45
COM	110	Communication Skills	3	3	45
EMB	132	Embalming Theory I	3	3	45
FM	121	Funeral Management I	2	2	30
PAT	121	Pathology I	2	2	30
RA	110	Restorative Art Principles	3	3	45
RA	110L	Restorative Art Lab	1	N/A	30#
		Clinical Embalming	N/A	N/A	36
			20	19	351

THIRD TRIMESTER			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
CR	110	Cremation Principles	3	3	45
EMB	133	Embalming Theory II	2	2	30
FM	122	Funeral Management II	3	3	45
FSL	110	Funeral Service Law	3	3	45
PAT	122	Pathology II	2	2	30
PSS	110	Professional Seminar Series	1	3	45
PSY	122	Psychology of Grief and Counseling	3	3	45
MGT	122	Small Business Management	3	3	45
		Clinical Embalming	N/A	N/A	54
			20	22	384
Non-Core 21			SEMESTER CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK	CONTACT HOURS PER TRIMESTER
ENG	210	English Composition	3	3	45
CPI	210	Contemporary Professional Issues	3	3	45
DC	210	Death and Children	3	3	45
ECO	210	Elements of Economics	3	3	45
GER	210	Gerontology	3	3	45
MKT	210	Funeral Service Marketing	3	3	45
RM	210	Risk Management	3	3	45
			21	21	315
Grand Total			97		1621

COOPERATIVE BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Science Degree Option: Point Park University (PPU) Capstone Program

Obtaining a total professional education cannot be accomplished any faster than through the creative approach developed by the officials from Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and Point Park University. To better meet the needs of students who have a personal goal of earning a bachelor's degree, the two schools have developed a "must consider" capstone approach to attaining this award. The novel approach to earning the degree requires the student to matriculate at Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science into its Specialized Associate Degree Program.

During the professional education, the student is able to take all of the "core" courses in embalming and funeral directing, as well as more in depth study in psychology (Death and Children, Gerontology, Psychology of Death, Social Psychology), Business Management (Economics, Funeral Service Marketing, Risk Management, Human Resource Management), World Religions and Environmental Health. Upon successful completion of this coordinated part of the program the student could earn both the Diploma in Embalming and Funeral Directing as well as the Associate in Specialized Business Degree in Funeral Service Management.

The student would make application to Point Park University for the "capstone" cooperative program. Further upper division study in the humanities, as well as a focus in either business administration or environmental health must be taken. These upper division studies should enable the student to graduate over the next 2-3 semesters with a Bachelor of science degree and to participate in the traditional commencement ceremonies that are held at the university.

Students interested in the Point Park capstone program can receive an educational plan upon request. The

degree to be awarded after successful completion of the capstone program will be a Bachelor of Science Degree in Funeral Service.

Other baccalaureate degree programs have been developed and are available in cooperation with PennWest University, Gannon University and Thiel College. College credit is given for training received at the Pittsburgh Institute. Further information can be obtained from the Pittsburgh Institute or from:

PennWest University

Department of Biology, California Campus
Frich Hall

250 University Ave., Campus Box 45

California, PA 15419

Phone: 724-938-4214

Dr. Jesse Eiben, Assistant Professor of Invertebrate Zoology

eiben@pennwest.edu

Point Park University

Wood Street and Boulevard
of the Allies Pittsburgh, PA.

15222

Phone: 412-392-3869

Dr. Mark Marnich, Academic Advisor for Funeral Services

mmarnich@pointpark.edu

Gannon University

Social Work Program

University Square Erie, PA 16541

Phone: 814-871-7781

Dr. Parris J. Baker, Assistant Professor, Social
Work Program Director,

baker002@gannon.edu

Thiel College

Department of Business Administration and
Accounting

Greenville, PA 16125

Phone: 724-589-2244

Dr. Anthony Kos, Professor of Business
Administration and Accounting, Department
Chair

akos@thiel.edu

ONLINE PROGRAM

While the delivery of such courses is different depending upon campus or online, the content is the same. The online program is two calendar years unless the applicant has mortuary credits or can show proficiency by testing out (see transfer of credit policy). This does not apply to the co-requisites, see the co-requisite policy. All students must take the courses in the following order and modules cannot be combined.

Sequence of Courses for Embalming and Funeral Directing Dp Diploma Program/distance and Associate in Specialized Technology/Distance

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite :	Business Math	3 credits	
Preapprovals required for Business Math or Accounting courses, however, PIMS may offer both courses	Accounting	3 credits	6 credits
Module 1:	Thanatology	2 credits	
	Communication Skills	3 credits	
	Strategies for Success	1 credit	6 credits
Module 2:	Human Anatomy	3 credits	
	Embalming Orientation	2 credits	5 credits
Module 3:	Restorative Art	3 credits	
	General Psychology	2 credits	5 credits
Module 4:	Business Law	3 credits	
	Small Business Management	3 credits	6 credits
Module 5:	Microbiology	3 credits	
	Psychology of Grief	3 credits	6 credits
Module 6:	Pathology I	2 credits	
	Regulatory Compliance	3 credits	5 credits
Campus Visit:	Restorative Art Lab (Schedule TBD but typically these on campus residencies are offered in January and May)		1 credit
Module 7:	Funeral Service Law	3 credits	
	Funeral Management I	2 credits	
	Ethics	1 credit	6 credits
Module 8:	Pathology II	2 credits	
	Embalming I	3 credits	5 credits
Module 9:	Embalming II	2 credits	
	Funeral Management II	3 credits	5 credits
Module 10:	Cremation Principles	3 credits	
	Seminar/Research	1 credit	4 credits
Campus Visit:	Comp Exam & Embalming Test Out		
PROGRAM TOTAL:			60 credits

ONLINE STUDENTS: PRE/CO-REQUISITE COURSES

The curriculum at the Institute includes a study of accounting and business math/computers. While business math is a foundations course useful throughout the program, the PIMS Comprehensive Examination and the National Board Examination both contain areas of accounting among their questions. Both of these courses are offered on campus, however, both courses may be part of a non-sequential online course offering if online students do not have either/both of the requisite courses.

In some cases, online students with a previous entry level college math course can successfully transfer in such a course if it is approved per the course matrix. If a student does not have a business math course that can be accepted and does not want to wait for the PIMS offering of the course, other considerations will be made including taking an approved math course at another school or coming to the campus business math course at PIMS. Options will be considered as needed.

In some cases, online students with a previous accounting course can successfully transfer in such a course if it is approved per the course matrix. If a student does not have an accounting course that can be accepted and does not want to wait for the PIMS offering of the course, other considerations will be made including taking an approved accounting course at another school or coming to the campus business math course at PIMS. Options will be considered as needed.

IN EITHER CASE, if a student seeks to take business math or accounting elsewhere, pre-approval of the course must be considered due to the specific nature of the PIMS courses. If the student were not to seek pre-approval, s/he may waste valuable time and financial resources taking a course which may not be acceptable as the co-requisite requirement(s). Assessment and approval of the courses shall be done with the presentation of detailed course content outlines. Without sufficient detail, complete assessment cannot be accomplished.

In any case, these credits must be earned before graduating from the online program at PIMS. If a student thinks that they may have already earned these course content requirements from a previous college experience, they must:

- Have a certified grade transcript sent to PIMS which would present the course title and number of credits earned from the respective college or university; and
- Send or email a copy of the detailed course content contained in the course(s) to be reviewed for approval. This detail is usually presented with a course syllabus. Course syllabi which are simply course policies do not provide any meaningful information from which an assessment may be made. (Note: It is rare that course descriptions which are found in college catalogs are of sufficient detail to provide thorough analysis to be done).

THE CURRICULUM

Consistent with ABFSE Curriculum Distribution guidelines specifically noted in Accreditation Standard 5.4, the following is a breakdown of the necessary areas of instruction for campus or online students. While the delivery of such courses is different depending upon campus or online, the content is the same. The minimum requirements in terms of semester hours for a Funeral Service Education degree program per Standard 5.4 are listed next to the heading. Note: General education credits are also available in some programs or may be accepted consistent with the PIMS Transfer of Credit Policy.

1. Public Health and Technical (14 minimum semester credit hours required per ABFSE Standard 5.4.1)

- *Human Anatomy, Embalming Orientation, Embalming I, Embalming II, #Environmental Health,
- *Microbiology, Pathology, Restorative Art

2. Business Management and Professional (16 minimum semester credit hours required per ABFSE Standard 5.4.2)

*Accounting, *Business Math/Computer Applications, #Contemporary Professional Issues, Cremation Principles & Practices, #Economics, Funeral Management I, Funeral Management II, #Funeral Service Marketing, #Human Resource Management, *Small Business Management, Professional Seminar Series, #Risk Management, Regulatory Compliance

3. Social Sciences/Humanities (6 minimum semester credit hours required per ABFSE Standard 5.4.3)

*Strategies for Success, *Communication Skills, #English Composition, #Death and Children, Thanatology, #Gerontology, *General Psychology, #Psychology of Death, Psychology of Grief and Counseling, #Social Psychology, #World Religions

4. Legal, Ethical, Regulatory (3 minimum semester credit hours required per ABFSE Standard 5.4.4)

Business Law, Ethics, Funeral Service Law

5. General Education

Note: In accordance with American Board of Funeral Service Education Standard 5.4.5:

Each associate degree student must earn a minimum of 60 (90 quarter) credits; each bachelor degree student must earn a minimum of 120 (180 quarter) credits of which at least 25% of the total credits required by the program for earning a degree must be in general education, non-technical, courses. In addition, each student must complete sufficient general education credits to meet graduation requirements for the Associate Degree (or its equivalent) or Baccalaureate Degree as described by each state or province/territory and institution if the student is enrolled in a degree program.

Depending upon the program in which a student is enrolled, some core curriculum courses listed above may be included to satisfy the gen ed requirement of ABFSE Standard 5.4.5. (Note: the courses from the core funeral service program that meet general education requirements are indicated as such *).

All non-core courses, specifically for the ASB program, that meet requirements for general education in Standard 5.4.5 are indicated as such #).

The curricula are designed to develop a complete practitioner, well versed in all areas for which the student will use as a funeral service practitioner whether they graduate on ground or online with a diploma, AST, or ASB (campus only) Degree .

The curricula was developed to present the subjects with a logical progression and articulation, taking the student sequentially from the basic through the most advanced and specialized procedures of the funeral service arts and sciences.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

First Number

- (1) All 100 courses refer to core curriculum in all programs.
- (2) All 200 courses refer to ASB degree program only. Note: Core curriculum courses are NOT pre-requisites for ASB degree program courses.

Second Number

Number of trimesters required for completion of the subject area.

Third Number

Sequence number of the course. If a single course completes the subject area, a zero is used: e.g., a one trimester course taken in the first, second or third trimester = 110; a one trimester course taken in the non-core 21 trimester or non-core 16 trimester = 210; a subject area requiring two trimesters in the second and third trimester =121, 122.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND TECHNICAL

The study of the anatomy of the human body is a basic foundation science for pathology, embalming and restorative art. The training is designed to acquaint the student with the general structure and function of the body using charts, skeletal material, films and slides. Special emphasis is given to the blood vascular or circulatory system, cavities, and the head and neck. Additional coursework in environmental health is provided to facilitate a student mindset that all human beings should be aware of the environment in which they interact and they should act responsibly having addressed these considerations. This section serves to provide a theoretical orientation and framework which students will apply in their practical experience in embalming. The courses also familiarize the students with medical information that often is of concern to the family.

HUMAN ANATOMY (ANA 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

The study of the human body with particular emphasis on those systems providing the foundation for embalming, pathology, public health, and restorative art. Pre-requisite courses: None

EMBALMING ORIENTATION (EMB 131)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is the first in a series of three and introduces the process of chemically treating the dead human body to reduce the presence and growth of microorganisms to temporarily inhibit organic decomposition, and to restore an acceptable physical appearance. The subject includes the study of death of the human body, government regulations applicable to the embalming process, embalming analysis and reports, and instrumentation. The subject orients the student to procedures and treatments for handling and embalming difficulties encountered due to disease and pathological changes, autopsied and procurement cases, organ and tissue donation cases, and various conditions encountered in the dead human body. Also considered is an orientation to the basic principles of chemistry as they relate to funeral service with an emphasis on the chemical principles and precautions involved in the preservation and disinfection of the dead human body. Pre-requisite courses: None

EMBALMING I (EMB 132)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week and clinical embalming assignments.

This course is the second in a series of three that considers the process of chemically treating the dead human body to reduce the presence and growth of microorganisms to temporarily inhibit organic decomposition, and to restore an acceptable physical appearance. The subject includes the study of death of the human body, government regulations applicable to the embalming process, embalming analysis and reports, and instrumentation. The subject considers procedures and treatments for handling and embalming difficulties encountered due to disease and pathological changes, autopsied and procurement cases, organ and tissue donation cases, and various conditions encountered in the dead human body. This course also specifically addresses the basic principles of chemistry as they relate to funeral service. Emphasis is on the chemical principles and precautions involved in the preservation and disinfection of the dead human body. Pre-requisite courses: EMB 131

EMBALMING II (EMB 133)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week and clinical embalming assignments.

This course is the final class in a series of three that considers the process of chemically treating the dead human body to reduce the presence and growth of microorganisms to temporarily inhibit organic decomposition, and to restore an acceptable physical appearance. The subject includes the study of death of the human body, government regulations applicable to the embalming process, embalming analysis and reports, and instrumentation. The subject specifically examines case analysis procedures and treatments for handling and embalming difficulties encountered due to disease and pathological changes, autopsied and procurement cases, organ and tissue donation cases, and various conditions encountered in the dead human body. Also considered are the basic principles of chemistry as they relate to funeral service. Emphasis is on the chemical principles and precautions involved in the preservation and disinfection of the dead human body. This course serves as capstone in the three course series by asking students to consider all of the aspects in decedent care and

embalming with the applications of case studies and analysis. Pre-requisite courses: EMB 131, EMB 132

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (BIO 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course studies the effects of the human population on the environment and vice versa. Concepts of ecology supporting man's life will be discussed as well as crises developing as a result of man's exploitation of the environment. Discussions will include air and water pollution, problems of solid waste disposal, toxic hazards, energy conservation, food protection, insects and rodents. Pre-requisite courses: None

MICROBIOLOGY (MIC 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is a survey of the basic principles of microbiology. It relates these principles to Funeral Service Education especially as they pertain to sanitation, disinfection, public health, and embalming practice. The development and use of personal, professional and community hygiene and sanitation are discussed. Pre-requisite courses: None

PATHOLOGY I (PAT 121)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week.

The study of disease processes and their impact on the human body, with emphasis on those conditions which relate to or affect the handling of human remains is considered in this first of a series of two courses. Pre-requisite courses: MIC 110

PATHOLOGY II (PAT 122)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week.

The study of disease processes and their impact on the human body, with emphasis on those conditions which relate to or affect the handling of human remains is considered in this second of a series of two courses. Pre-requisite courses: MIC 110, PAT 121

RESTORATIVE ART PRINCIPLES (RA 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

A survey of the basic principles of Restorative Art as they relate to Funeral Service is covered in this course. Stressed are the techniques of restoring and recreating an acceptable physical appearance of the deceased. Pre-requisite courses: ANA 110

RESTORATIVE ART LABORATORY (RA 110L)

1 credit; 32 hours Weekend Residency.

The laboratory articulates the theoretical concepts which are covered in the classroom with actual practical work using restorative wax, learning to recreate all of the facial features systematically until the student can reproduce the entire face. Hair restorations are also covered. Cosmetic techniques are also implemented during the laboratory intensive.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL

The funeral director must understand and consider the cultural, ethnical and religious differences of the families he/she serves in order to assist them in selecting the type of funeral service that best fits their needs. The real basis for the existence of the funeral is the extent to which it meets the real needs of the public. Arranging a funeral service requires careful and detailed planning and must be carried out with a great deal of professionalism. As a potential owner or manager of a funeral home, the funeral director should possess an understanding of basic accounting principles, a working background with computers and basic business practices. These courses are designed to give the student a thorough knowledge of the business world as it relates to funeral service.

BUSINESS MATHEMATICS / COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (BMC 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course examines basic mathematic principles and skills, and explores foundations of Microsoft Office tools. The mathematics principles learned in this class will not only provide a basis for math skills needed in future educational endeavors, but they will be imperative to the students' careers in funeral service. Additionally, the Microsoft Office component of this class will focus on Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and will provide real-life application of these tools. Pre-requisite courses: None

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING (ACC 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

An introduction to the basic principles of accounting theory. This course covers financial statements, worksheets, journalizing, receivables, payables, deferrals, and accruals. Inventory costing models, depreciation models, payroll accounting and financial statement analysis are included. Applications to small business management, particularly funeral home operations are made throughout the course. Pre-requisite courses: None

CONTEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL ISSUES (CPI 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course builds upon all previous learning experiences and considers relevant issues in the business environment while particularly emphasizing funeral service. The student will be expected to participate in researching the diverse environmental, scientific, social, political, economic, legal and ethical forces affecting the professional practitioner today. Trends are discussed and the interrelationships of these issues are explored to assist the student in assuming professional responsibility. New content on "planning the event" has been integrated into the course as consumer demand has called for customization of the funeral service. Pre-requisite courses: None

CREMATION PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES (CR 110)

3 credits: 3 hours lecture/discussion per week

The Cremation Curriculum is intended to give the student an overview of cremation topics including proper procedures, legal considerations, services, merchandise, trends, and the history of cremation. The curriculum is not crematory operator training. (Note: pursuant to a unique agreement with the Cremation Association of North America, students enrolled in CR110 are also given the opportunity to earn their CANA Certified Crematory Operator's Certification at a minimal cost in addition to the tuition.) Pre-requisite courses: None

ELEMENTS OF ECONOMICS (ECO 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

An introduction to the elements of economics analysis. The student is exposed to the mechanics of the market system and a survey of modern macroeconomic theory as applied to fiscal and monetary policy affairs. An introduction to basic microeconomic theory, supply and demand analysis and application to consumer markets as well as resource markets is also covered. Pre-requisite courses: None

FUNERAL MANAGEMENT I (FM 121)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is the first of two courses that considers Funeral Directing, Funeral Merchandising, and Funeral Service Management. This course specifically focuses on the Funeral Directing curriculum focusing on the basic duties, responsibilities, and expectations of those practicing funeral service. This includes notification of death, transfer of remains, conduct of the arrangement conference, prefunded/preplanned funerals, religious practices, fraternal funerals and military honors, shipment of remains, cremation, aftercare and regulatory and legislative compliance. Pre-requisite courses: None

FUNERAL MANAGEMENT II (FM 122)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is the second of two courses that considers Funeral Directing, Funeral Merchandising, and Funeral Service Management. This course specifically focuses on Funeral Merchandising and is designed to introduce

the funeral service student to the basics of merchandising as they apply to the funeral profession. Funeral providers as defined by the FTC in 1984 offer both service and merchandise. This outline considers both service and merchandise as the products provided by funeral service practitioners. The curriculum is divided into two main sections. The first covers construction and features of caskets, outer burial containers, and other funeral and cemetery products. The second section of the curriculum guideline examines methods of purchasing, pricing, display, and sale of funeral and cemetery merchandise as well as funeral and cemetery services. Additionally, this course will focus on the basic principles of Funeral Service Management. General management theory is applied to funeral service practice with a focus on concepts, functions, and areas of management. In addition, trends in funeral service and disaster preparedness are explored. Pre-requisite courses: FM 121

FUNERAL SERVICE MARKETING (MKT 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

Aspects of effective communications strategy for advertising and selling funeral merchandise and services are reviewed. The course focuses however, on the many marketing problems, challenges, and opportunities which face the funeral director today. Topics include consumers and their behavior, pricing and product/service strategies, pre-need sales, services marketing in the private sector, and marketing alternatives to the traditional funeral. Pre-requisite courses: None

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (HRM 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course includes all of the important management functions in securing the right person for the position available, including screening considerations, employment interviews, techniques of interviewing, preparation of resumes, application forms, and offer and acceptance letters. The employment relationship, orientation of new employees, compliance with EEOC guidelines, orientation and training, employee motivation and performance evaluations, compensation administration, and employee health and safety are also covered. Pre-requisite courses: None

PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR SERIES (PSS 110)

1 credit; 3 hours per week.

This course provides the opportunity for students to interact directly with other professionals in the death care industry who bring expertise and programs to the students. A significant portion of the course material and grading is devoted to a Comprehensive Review Series, which acts as a review of course content and material covered in preparation for the PIMS Comprehensive Examination and the National Board Examination. Pre-requisite courses: None

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE (MGT 121)

3 credits; 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week.

This multi-faceted course is designed to familiarize the student with the Federal Trade Commission and the Trade Regulation Rule on Funeral Industry Practices. The Funeral Rule requires that funeral providers disclose detailed information about prices and legal requirements to persons arranging funerals. The Rule also requires disclosure of specific itemized price information and prohibits specific unfair practices and misrepresentation. This course is designed to meet the various regulatory challenges facing the small business owner today also considering other regulations applicable to funeral service, including, but not limited to: employment, cremation, embalming and decedent care. Pre-requisite courses: None

RISK MANAGEMENT (RM 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course addresses the general principles of risk management and insurance. Because the use of insurance is the principal method of handling risk, the student is introduced to risk assessment techniques, insurance checklists, policy language and contracts as well as the basic types of insurance which a business owner should consider, such as property, liability, multi-peril, life, medical, disability and key-person insurance. Pre-requisite courses: None

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (MGT 122)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is an exploration of small business management, its benefits and risks. Emphasis is given to business formation, development, management, and marketing. Human resources, accounting, trends, and the use of technology are also analyzed. In ACC 110, a survey specifically of accounting principles and practice to help the funeral service professional are considered with regard to business management. Pre-requisite courses: None

SOCIAL SCIENCES / HUMANITIES

The scope of a funeral director's responsibilities as a counselor to bereaved families requires a thorough understanding of their feelings at the time of death and a sensitivity to their emotional needs. The subjects included in this area are designed to give the funeral director a greater awareness and a better understanding of the psychological challenges of the bereaved and to enhance and improve skills as a counselor in helping to resolve them. Assisting the family to select the funeral they desire is an important step in their bereavement adjustment.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS (COM 100)

1 credit; 1 hour lecture/discussion per week.

This multi-faceted course is designed to assist and enhance success as a PIMS student. The course is clustered into learning modules enabling students to understand their strengths and weaknesses endemic to their particular learning style. The topics included in the learning modules are: academic integrity and time management especially as each topic relates to the learning modality (virtual or in person), reading and comprehension, basic writing and math skills related to funeral service training, assessment processes, and considerations for working "in the field" as a funeral service practitioner. Additionally, this course helps students launch their Funeral Service Skills Practicum. This experiential learning component is required for all students enrolled in mortuary schools accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). By introducing the Practicum in the first term or module, students have the entire program to secure an approved site and complete the tasks required in the Practicum per ABFSE Standard 5.4.7. Pre-requisite courses: None

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN FUNERAL SERVICE (COM 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is a survey of the basic principles of effective communication skills as they relate to funeral service. Topics include: the communication process, language, nonverbal communication, listening, self-concept, public speaking; interpersonal, group, business communication with an emphasis on soft skills; and the use of technology in communication. Pre-requisite courses: None

DEATH AND CHILDREN (DC 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

Death is a natural event and it is normal for children to question it, and have fears about it. The need by parents and some professionals to protect children have contributed to many misconceptions and increased anxieties. This course will examine childhood concepts and fears of death, how to interact with a dying child/his or her parents/surviving siblings, children whose parents die, death and the adolescent, suicides by children/adolescents, and a child's religious orientations. Pre-requisite courses: None

ENGLISH COMPOSITION (ENG 210)

3 credits; 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week.

This course is designed to introduce the process of writing; to review the mechanics of writing: grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and sentence and paragraph organization; to challenge the student to think logically and to apply these skills in constructing clear, concise compositions. Pre-requisite courses: None

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSY 121)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course focuses on introducing the basic principles of psychology; it is a pre-requisite for PSY 122, in which the principles of counseling as they relate to funeral service, including topics especially stressed such as the psychological concepts in the areas of grief, bereavement, mourning, aftercare, and crisis intervention with emphasis on the role of the funeral practitioner. Pre-requisite courses: None

GERONTOLOGY (GER 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

The multiple problems of the older person are examined in order to develop the sensitivity to the special needs of the aged in our society. Implications of aging on physiological, cognitive, emotional, social and economic status are addressed as well as historic, ethnic and futuristic aspects of aging. Pre-requisite courses: None

PSYCHOLOGY OF DEATH (PSY 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course introduces basic psychological techniques as applied to an individual's emotional and intellectual understanding of death as it impacts his/her personal life. The course will augment the studies in a number of other courses such as Thanatology and the other psychology courses offered. The importance of "coming to terms" with one's death (whatever form this may take) is believed by many psychologists to be a central task in human development, and this course explores the manner in which one's orientation to death impacts the course of an individual's life. The course will examine several of the most prominent historical and contemporary individual approaches to the "meaning of death". Implications of an individual's orientation to his/her mortality will be considered. The student's own understandings will be incorporated into the course material. Pre-requisite courses: None

PSYCHOLOGY OF GRIEF AND COUNSELING (PSY 122)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course expands on the basic principles of psychology presented in PSY 121 and counseling as they relate to funeral service. Especially stressed are the psychological concepts in the areas of grief, bereavement, mourning, aftercare, and crisis intervention with emphasis on the role of the funeral practitioner. Pre-requisite courses: PSY 121

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (SOC 210)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

Why do people act the way they do? What makes someone more likely to be helpful or aggressive in certain situations? How does like grow into love? This course will assist in answering these questions as well as acquaint the student with the study of human behavior from the perspective of social psychology. The course is chronologically arranged so as to include not only the rich history of social psychology but also the constantly evolving future. Social psychology focuses on social perception: thinking about ourselves and others, social interaction: relating to others and social influence: changing attributes and behaviors. Pre-requisite courses: None

THANATOLOGY: A SOCIO-CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE (SOC 210)

2 credits; 2 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course offers a survey of the history of funeral service with emphasis on the individuals, events, and forces that have influenced contemporary funeral principles and practices as well as the progression of associations and education within funeral service. Also considered in this course are the basic principles of sociology as they relate to Funeral Service. Emphasis is placed on family structures, social structures, and the factors of change that relate to funeral practices. Pre-requisite courses: None

WORLD RELIGIONS IN AMERICA (REL 210)

4 credits; 4 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course will survey the various religions which impact the lives of people in a most profound manner. The

course examines the historical development of the religions as well as presenting a picture of the most common religions as they are today. There is also an analysis of how religion began and developed. Consideration is given to how the concepts are related to one another within a religion as well as the relationships between various religious orientations. Various views will be considered with a special focus on issues that are important in most studies of the world's religions as practiced in America. Pre-requisite courses: None

LEGAL, ETHICAL, REGULATORY AND OTHER

The nature of funeral service has changed dramatically in recent years and the responsibilities of the funeral service professional have expanded to include many new dimensions. Some of the most profound changes involve legal regulations governing the funeral industry and many emerging professional and ethical concerns. The following courses serve to provide the factual data necessary to address these increasingly prominent issues as well as acquainting the students with the more general legal considerations necessary for the operation of a business. Relevant issues in estate planning are also covered. A professional attitude and ethical practices are stressed throughout the courses.

BUSINESS LAW (BL 110)

3 credits; 3 hours lecture/discussion per week.

This course is a survey of the basic principles of business law as they relate to funeral service. This outline is a survey of the basic principles of business law as they relate to funeral service. Included are the bodies of law and the judicial system found in the United States of America, contracts, sales, consumer protection, bailments, employment, agency, business organizations, and insurance.

Pre-requisite courses: None

FUNERAL SERVICE ETHICS (ETH 110)

1 credit; 1 hour lecture/discussion per week.

This course is a survey of professional ethics and their relation to funeral service. Proper training in ethics increases awareness of the need to build trust and rapport. This knowledge will help funeral practitioners do what is proper and in the best interest of those they serve while maintaining the public trust.

Pre-requisite courses: None

FUNERAL SERVICE LAW (FSL 110)

3 credits; 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week.

The subject areas covered in Funeral Service Law are designed to introduce the student to rights, duties, and responsibilities of the funeral service practitioner and funeral establishment; including but not limited to: state and federal laws, regulations and administrative agency law pertaining to funeral service including preneed; torts involving the dead human body and the funeral service practitioner; wills, estates, probate and related matters; cemeteries, crematories and issues related to final disposition; sources of law; the legal status of the dead human body; the right to control funeral arrangements and final disposition and liability for funeral expenses; and the legal aspects of being licensed to practice in funeral service(funeral director, embalmer, etc.).

Pre-requisite courses: BL 110

ACADEMIC POLICIES

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to pursue an education in an environment which is conducive to the free flow of information and ideas. At Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc. students are encouraged to express themselves through speech and actions and to actively participate in decisions affecting the educational mission of the Institute. With rights come responsibilities, thus, it should be noted that students have the responsibility to realize that actions must not interfere with the Institute's function as an educational institution and with the rights of others

To maintain good standing, students must adhere to and support the policies of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. This Bulletin is a general reference for academic policy and procedure. It is accompanied

by a Student Manual and additional notification throughout the year. Students are responsible for knowing the policies which concern their academic progress.

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science has as one of its missions an objective to implant and develop a sense of social consciousness and awareness that should become a part of the profile of every funeral director. Consistent with ABFSE Standard 9.1.1.d, the Institute seeks to achieve this goal by establishing policies for all student-related matters which encourage good citizenship and ethical practice.

A student has the right to seek an education on a campus which is safe and at an institution which does not tolerate misconduct. Consequently, a student has the responsibility to follow the Student Honor Code. The Student Honor Code can be found in the Student Manual which is issued to all new students at orientation.

It is the students' obligation to conduct themselves in a manner which is socially acceptable and not offensive to others. The nature of the field of funeral service commands the best behavior that one can put forth. Students are expected to assume adult responsibility in planning their educational program and in knowing the requirements and regulations in reference to time and self-discipline. A student enrolling at the Pittsburgh Institute also assumes an obligation to conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the Institute's function as an educational institution.

Misconduct is considered to be any act that is offensive to a faculty member, student, or the general public, or any act that is contrary to the best interests of the school, its students, and the general public.

Infractions of the commonly accepted rules of good behavior are subject to disciplinary action by the Dean and/or Committee on Academic Appeals and Discipline and ultimately the Program Director.

If a student continually violates policies of the Institute or cannot conduct him/herself in a mature, adult manner which is socially acceptable, he/she may be referred to the Committee on Academic Appeals and Discipline. Repeated minor violations or a major infraction may result in dismissal from the program.

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science has an interest in behavior subject to this code separate from that of the civil authorities and, therefore, has the right and responsibility to exercise its jurisdiction and take such action as is appropriate to protect this interest. Whenever appropriate, the Institute may report a discipline matter to civil authorities.

Any member of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science community (administrative office, faculty member, student or staff member, or any employee) may bring a charge under this code against a student by submitting the particulars of the allegation in writing to the Dean, Program Director, or President.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM POLICY

Cheating on examinations, through use of unauthorized aids or inappropriate resources, will not be permitted. In addition, plagiarism, or the unattributed use of another's words or ideas, through either direct appropriation or paraphrase, is a serious breach of academic standards and will be cause for academic dismissal from the program. Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science presents a copy of its copyright policy on www.pims.edu.

ONLINE STUDENTS—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2023

With increased regulatory oversight and feedback from state and federal departments of education, as well as accrediting bodies, regarding distance learning/online programs, ALL students will be required to begin using the Examity Test Monitoring system when taking certain tests.

ATTENDANCE POLICY—CAMPUS BASED STUDENTS

The academic rigor of the diverse curriculum at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is notable. Attendance of all classes and laboratory sessions is expected of all students and all courses are conducted with this understanding. In fact, evidence strongly shows that regular attendance and class participation is essential

for successful completion of the program. It should also be noted that attendance on the job is a key part of becoming a funeral service professional.

Thus, the Institute has adopted a definitive policy regarding student attendance. In general, no absence is considered excused. Moreover, if/when students miss 20% of the total number of hours (note: this depends on the number of credit hours per course as one credit courses allow for less absences per hour compared to 3 credit courses), they will be removed from the class.

Additionally, to stress the importance of class attendance and participation, it will hold a value of 9% towards the final grade for every class in the curriculum (both core and non-core classes). The following rubric is a breakdown of the assessment for attendance and participation quality points depending upon the number of credit hours assigned to the class (it is obvious that a course with a fewer number of credit hours will allow a student to miss a fewer number of class hours with a greater the impact on a student's overall grade for such missed hours):

3 credit hour course = 45 total hours per term

1 hour missed = 1% deduction of final grade	2 hours missed = 2% deduction of final grade	3 hours missed = 3% deduction of final grade	4 hours missed = 4% deduction of final grade	5 hours missed = 5% deduction of final grade	6 hours missed = 6% deduction of final grade	7 hours missed = 7% deduction of final grade	8 hours missed = 8% deduction of final grade	9 hours missed = 9% deduction of final grade	10 hours missed student is removed from the class
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Note: At 6 hours of absence, a Warning letter will be sent to the student from the Registrar's Office

2 credit hour course = 30 total hours per term

1 hour missed = 1.5% deduction of final grade	2 hours missed = 3% deduction of final grade	3 hours missed = 4.5% deduction of final grade	4 hours missed = 6% deduction of final grade	5 hours missed = 7.5% deduction of final grade	6 hours missed = 9% deduction of final grade	7 hours missed student is removed from class
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Note: At 4 hours of absence, a Warning letter will be sent to the student from the Registrar's Office

1 credit hour course = 15 total hours per term

1 hour missed = 3% deduction of final grade	2 hours missed = 6% deduction of final grade	3 hour missed = 9% deduction of final grade	4 hours missed student is removed from the class
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Note: At 2 hours of absence, a Warning letter will be sent to the student from the Registrar's Office

When students reach the number of hours in which they will be removed from the class, they will have a Show Cause meeting with PIMS administration to determine the next course of action including, but not limited to, whether or not the student should continue in the program in the other courses they may be enrolled.

SPECIAL NOTE: Any student who misses one entire week of classes may have a Show Cause meeting with PIMS administrators to explain such a remarkable absence. At this meeting, if a student cannot "Show Cause" for missing all of the hours in a week, said student may be removed from the program. If a student can show cause, attendance will be adjusted as per the rubric above. A second entire week of absence will result in an immediate withdrawal from the program.

The goal of this attendance policy mandate is designed to not only help students optimize their academic performance but also serves to recognize and award perfect attendance. The faculty has no obligation to provide special consideration of any kind to students who are absent from classes or examinations. Assignments, examinations, lecture materials, learning aids, etc. missed are the responsibility of the student.

Note: In certain situations, such as a global pandemic, the administration reserves the right to make

interpretations to the stated attendance policy.

TARDINESS POLICY—CAMPUS BASED STUDENTS

Consistent with the 20% rule for absence, a student who is late/tardy or leaves for a period of 10 minutes out of the 50 minutes class session will be considered absent and subject to the stated attendance policy listed above. Instructors have the right to consider other adjustments to a student's grade for tardiness/leaving early etc. Assignments, examinations, lecture materials, learning aids, etc. missed are the responsibility of the student.

ATTENDANCE POLICY—DISTANCE EDUCATION STUDENTS

The academic rigor of the diverse curriculum at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is notable. When choosing to attend online, the level of commitment on the part of the students regarding attendance and participation is just as important in this modality. While distance students are typically asynchronous (except in certain situations) and do not attend classes on a set schedule, like the campus-based students, there are stated requirements and expectations for attendance and participation.

Such requirements typically involve weekly performance of assignments, discussion forums, and assessments. Regular participation is expected and monitored by the course instructor. Course participation, via weekly discussion forum requirements is worth 9% of an online student's final course grade.

Accordingly, consistent with the "20% standard" for campus attendance, any distance learning student who misses TWO non-consecutive weeks of a course will be removed from said course. A tardiness policy is not applicable in the online learning modality, however, assignments, discussions, and assessments submitted after the due date may be subject to mark down (if accepted at all by the course instructor).

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCE POLICY

There is an individual (President/Program Director) to whom questions, or concerns may be directed regarding the Institute's satisfying the terms of the enrollment agreement.

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Inc. is licensed to operate by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, State Board of Private Licensed Schools. Questions or concerns that are not satisfactorily resolved by the school may be brought to the attention of the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Licensed Schools, Division of Law Enforcement Education and Trade Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education, 333 Market Street, 12th Floor, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126-0333.

For those students outside of Pennsylvania, there is an individual state contact for complaints and those contacts can be found on the PIMS' website: <https://pims.edu/student-complaint/>

All students are provided with a copy of the PIMS Grievance Policy upon beginning coursework. Students are asked to acknowledge receipt and reading of said policy statement. The Grievance Policy can be provided upon request.

WITHDRAWAL AND MILITARY LEAVE

PIMS cannot grant a leave of absence but students may temporarily interrupt their training for personal reasons. These requests will be processed as a withdrawal but the student does not need to reapply if they return or request to return within a year of their exit date. A request for a leave must be made in advance in writing. The Veteran's Administration and higher education funding agencies will be notified immediately when students stop attending.

A "W" grade is assigned to a course from which a student withdraws or requests a temporary withdraw prior to the 10th week of the trimester for resident students and the 6th week of the term for online students. If the student withdraws during or after the 10th week of the trimester or 6th week of the online term, respectively, and if the student is failing a course at that time, the student will be awarded a Withdrawal-Failing ("WF") for the course.

Note: In certain situations, (E.g., Pandemic and Public Health), the administration reserves the right to make interpretations to the stated withdrawal policy.

GRADING SYSTEM

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science Board of Directors, which serves as the advisory board to the administration, met in August 2022 and approved several policy changes that will be effective in the academic year beginning September 2022. Such changes are in response to the regulatory feedback from departments of education at both the state and federal level as well as accreditation standards. The policy changes approved are designed to enable students to better achieve the major Program Learning Outcomes of a funeral service education while maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Moreover, it was noted that the metric for earning a PASSING grade on the National Board Examination (NBE) is a 75 for the Arts and Science sections. Therefore, it would be logical to conclude that a grade for a subject in which a student would earn below 75 suggests the fact that the student has not developed a sufficient understanding of the content material needed to pass the NBE exam. In short, any grade below a 75 would suggest that the learning outcomes for a student do not meet the level for satisfactory academic progress to occur.

Accordingly, with the start of the campus classes in September 2022, and the online classes in October 2022, the PIMS Board has approved a new grading scale be implemented. The new grading scale at the Institute will continue to be based on the letter system, however, one of the current levels (the letter grade of "D") will be excluded. Thus, the new grading scale will have a numerical range designation as follows:

A	93-100	Excellent academic progress
B	85-92	Good academic progress
C	75-84	Satisfactory academic progress
F	<75	Unacceptable academic progress

NOTE: STUDENTS RECEIVING THE LETTER GRADE OF “F” FOR A COURSE WILL BE PROVIDED ONE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP SAID COURSE IN THE NEXT OFFERING OF THE COURSE. ANY STUDENT WHO FAILS THE SAME CLASS TWO TIMES WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE PROGRAM.

Other grades for special circumstances:

- I - Incomplete-Course assignments to be completed. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill the requirements for any course offered at the Pittsburgh Institute. If the requirements are not completed within a two-week period following the end of the trimester, the grade is automatically changed to NC (No Credit), in which case the course must be repeated in its entirety.
- W - Withdrawal
- WF- Withdrawal-Failing
- NC – No Credit
- P – Pass “P” grades are awarded for some credit-based courses (E.g., Strategies for Success) or experiential learning situations (E.g., practicum or clinical embalming). Such courses or practical applications are not awarded grade points; hence they are not included in grade point average calculations. Such courses also may have higher thresholds for “pass or fail” (E.g., earning a grade of 80 or above). Obviously, if student does not meet the requirements necessary to earn a “P” or pass such a course, they will earn a “F” and need to repeat said course all things being equal.
- T - Transfer Credit-Given when a comparable course has been successfully completed at another institution AND will be accepted by the Institute based on the stated Transfer Credit Policy listed in this bulletin.

In addition to being judged on the formal grading system and academic program of the Institute, all students are continuously evaluated on their professional attitude and cooperation toward the school's program.

GRADE POINT SYSTEM

The changes to the Grading Scale listed above will yield the changes to the Grade Point System, which will also change the computation of grade point averages. The Grade Point Systems will be as follows:

A	Four points
B	Three points
C	Two points
F	Zero points

Note: To compute the grade point average in a trimester/term, the number of grade points earned by the student are divided by the number of credits attempted that trimester/term. For credits in each subject in each trimester, refer to the Bulletin. Effective September 2022 for students enrolled in campus and online classes, student GPA will be calculated integrating the new system with the previous which included 1 point for the letter grade of “D.”

Finally, the letter grade of “D” earned by students prior to the changes implemented in September 2022 will remain on said students record in perpetuity. The intentional omission of the letter grade of “D” only impacts students going forward from September 2022 and beyond.

Make Up Examinations

If, for any reason, a student (online or campus) is absent from a scheduled test or examination, arrangements should be made with the instructor to discuss the possibility of a make-up examination at the earliest opportunity. PLEASE NOTE: Make up examinations do not have to be provided, but will be handled on a case-by-case basis. A make-examination is a privilege not a right and instructors may use a different format for such a make-up exam if it is granted. In specific situations (E.g., Pandemic and Public Health), the administration reserves the right to interpret the stated policy regarding make- up examinations.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

As outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, (also known as the Buckley Amendment) students have the right to have their educational records maintained in a confidential manner and the right to review their educational records. The act states that: (1) a written institutional policy must be established and (2) a statement of adopted procedures covering the privacy rights of students be made available. A copy of this policy is distributed to all students in attendance on an annual basis. It is also available to all students in attendance and parents of dependent students who are receiving federal financial aid, upon receiving a written request.

RELEASE OF RECORDS

End-of-trimester grade reports shall be released to students in a timely manner, following the close of a trimester or term of study. However, in order for the records to be released, the student must be in good financial standing with the Institute and academic and administrative files must be complete.

Official grade transcripts shall be released upon written request from the student or graduate. The fee for a grade transcript is currently \$10.00 per copy. The Institute reserves the right to withhold the release of transcripts to those who fail to meet the above-mentioned criteria or who are in "default status" on repayment of a student loan.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)—EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2022

The United States Department of Education requires that all schools develop a Satisfactory Academic Progress policy in order to appropriately administer financial aid to its recipients. Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) concurs with the need to regularly review each student’s academic progress in order to effectuate positive academic outcomes. However, increased regulatory oversight as well as the need to improve upon program-based

student outcomes for accreditation purposes, has enabled the need to raise SAP requirements effective September 2022.

Pursuant to the change in the Grading Scale, the Board also approved a new Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy to take effect in September, 2022; this new policy will affect all campus classes starting in September 2022 and all online classes starting in October, 2022. Note: for students who earn grades in the online classes finishing in the August term as well as students who have earned grades in classes prior to September 2022, the previous SAP policy will apply to those specific grades.

The new SAP policy will take effect for grades earned by ALL students—campus and online--using the new Grading Scale without the letter grade of “D” as indicated above. Thus, the specific change to the SAP policy is obviously stated as follows:

To continue making progress in the any of the PIMS programs, a student must satisfy the GPA of 2.0 or above. Without the letter grade of “D,” to pass the course, students can only earn the letter grade of “C” (2 grading points) or above; if a student does not earn a “C” or above, they would “Fail” the course and not meet the SAP requirements. In short, students can no longer earn 1 grade point because the letter grade of “D” no longer exists in the grading scale.

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be checked at the end of each financial aid payment period for every campus and online program at PIMS.

All students must reach a 2.0 Grade Point Average (of a possible 4.0) in order to graduate from any program at PIMS. With the SAP policy effective September 2022, students beginning any of the programs from that point on cannot earn a cumulative grade point average that would fall below 2.0, thus the progress standards for grades earned in the SAP policy that pre-dates September 2022 could not apply.

Additionally, because practical aspects of this program must be fulfilled (E.g., clinical embalming requirements and funeral service practicum) in a timely and relevant manner, the following considerations are added to the SAP policy for all students beginning any of the PIMS programs in September 2022:

- **FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTICUM COMPLETION REQUIREMENT:**
 - All students must secure a funeral home to perform their practicum, submit the signed agreement and appendices, have the site approved—physical or virtual, and begin performing their practicum tasks by a point no later than 2/3 of the way in the core funeral service program (40 of 61 credits have been earned);
 - If a student has not fulfilled this requirement by the stated time above, they will not continue with pace/progression and may be dismissed from the program;
 - All must have completed their practicum tasks and submitted their project binder to be signed off by the Program Director before the end of their last term (3 or 3B on campus, 10 online) in the core funeral service program;
 - If a student has not been signed off for completing the practicum by the stated time above, they may be dismissed from the program;
- **CLINICAL EMBALMING COMPLETION REQUIREMENT:**
 - All students must secure a funeral home to perform their clinical embalming, submit the signed agreement and required information, have the site approved—physical or virtual, and begin performing their embalming requirements by a point no later than 2/3 of the way in the core funeral service program (40 of 61 credits have been earned);
 - If a student has not fulfilled this requirement by the stated time above, they will not continue with pace/progression and may be dismissed from the program;
 - All students must have completed their clinical embalming requirements, submitted all embalming reports, and be scheduled or have completed their test out case on campus by the end of their last term (3 or 3B on campus, 10 online) in the core funeral service program;
 - If a student is not at this point in the clinical embalming program by the stated time above, they

may be dismissed from the program;

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)—FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE EARNED GRADES PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 2022

The United States Department of Education requires that all schools develop a Satisfactory Academic Progress policy in order to appropriately administer financial aid to its recipients. Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) concurs with the need to regularly review each student's academic progress in order to effectuate positive academic outcomes.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, regulations were promulgated in an effort to ensure program integrity at higher education institutions. These regulations were designed to ensure that only eligible students receive aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be checked at the end of each financial aid payment period for every campus and online program at PIMS.

All students must reach a 2.0 Grade Point Average (of a possible 4.0) in order to graduate from any program at PIMS. In the event, that a student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, the progress standards described below shall apply.

ON-CAMPUS DIPLOMA PROGRAM (EMBALMING AND FUNERAL DIRECTING) ON-CAMPUS AST DEGREE PROGRAM (FUNERAL SERVICE ARTS AND SCIENCES)

- **First full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.59 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.60-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Second full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.85 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.86-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Third full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.99 Academic dismissal or repeating courses in which a "D" or "F" was received

ON-CAMPUS ASB DEGREE PROGRAM (FUNERAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT) ONLINE AST DEGREE PROGRAM (FUNERAL SERVICE ARTS AND SCIENCES)

- **First full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS End of 2nd term online**
 - 0.00-1.59 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.60-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Second full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS End of 4th term online**
 - 0.00-1.69 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.70-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Third full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS End of 6th term online**
 - 0.00-1.79 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.80-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Fourth full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS End of 8th term online**
 - 0.00-1.89 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.90-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Fifth full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS End of 10th term online**
 - 0.00-1.99 Academic dismissal or repeating courses in which a "D" or "F" was received

For students in the ASB Degree program who have transferred credits from another institution to satisfy the 16 credits requirement of Trimester “A,” and will be in-residence for only 81 semester credits, the following progress standards would apply.

ON-CAMPUS ASB DEGREE PROGRAM (FUNERAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT)

- **First full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.59 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.60-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Second full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.79 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.80-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Third full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.89 Academic dismissal with an opportunity to repeat
 - 1.90-1.99 Academic Probation

- **Fourth full-time equiv. trimester of study at PIMS**
 - 0.00-1.99 Academic dismissal or repeating courses in which a “D” or “F” was received

In order to maintain eligibility for Title IV Federal Financial Aid, graduation from a program of study must be completed within 150% of the scheduled length of the program, measured in credit hours attempted.

PIMS will also check pace of completion at the end of each payment period to ensure that the student will complete the program within the maximum timeframe of 150%. The rate is calculated by dividing cumulative hours the student successfully completed by the cumulative hours the student has attempted. The maximum timeframe is 90 credits for a 60 credit hour program. 60 divided by 90 is a pace of 67%. The student will need to earn 67% of the credits attempted in each term to complete the program within the maximum timeframe permitted.

In the event, that a student does not achieve a 67% completion rate at the end of a payment period and/or does not reach the required GPA listed above, that student will be required to repeat courses to remain in the program. If the student is using Title IV financial aid, the student will be placed on a financial aid warning (please see below) for one trimester/term only. A student is ineligible for federal financial aid and potentially other types of aid when it becomes mathematically impossible to graduate within the maximum time frame of 150%.

Financial Aid Warning

Students on financial aid warning who do not meet the SAP requirements listed above are only eligible to receive financial aid while repeating courses for one trimester/term only. If the student does not meet the SAP standards by the end of that trimester/term, they will be considered ineligible for federal financial aid and will be required to write an appeal with documentation to the PIMS Student Services Staff with a follow up meeting to determine continued enrollment. If the course(s) being repeated are passed but the student still needs time to meet SAP requirements the student will be placed on probation, without appeal.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

For students earning grades prior to September 2022, a status of academic probation may be considered. Such probation will include the development of an academic plan by Student Services under the supervision of the Registrar. Students may be considered for financial aid while on academic probation. If a student deviates from their academic plan and/or continues to be unable to meet SAP requirements, the student will be required to sit out and reapply to the program. If accepted back into the program, the student will return on probation with a specific academic plan. The following considerations may be addressed in the academic plan:

- Student may be forced to take the campus program at the Standard pace; adjusted pace may be considered for online students however, financial aid and other considerations may need to be considered
- Required weekly or monthly meetings with the Student Services Staff; such meetings may occur virtually if student is online
- Tutoring arrangements (campus or online)

Each academic plan is created specifically for the individual student based on their completed courses and past educational history. This plan is created in an attempt to help the student find their pathway to success.

NOTE: Effective September 2022, for students earning grades pursuant to the new Grading Scale and subsequent SAP policy, the status of academic probation would not exist. In short, students earning grades from September 2022 and forward will have not be promoted unless their earn a “C” or better because the letter grade of “D” will no longer exist. As such, students who earn all “C’s” will earn a minimum GPA of 2.0, hence they will be meet the SAP. Thus, probation is retroactive for students who have earned grades prior to September 2022.

While not considered “probation” student performance and progress will be monitored by the Registrar and Dean of Faculty Students DURING the course of a term—online or on campus. Students who are struggling academically can be advised of the considerations listed above as a means to improve upon their performance.

Incomplete Grades

If a student receives an “I” or “Incomplete” grade at the end of a trimester/term, the student has a two-week period of time from the last day of the trimester/term to makeup the missed work and earn a grade for the course. If the student fails to earn the grade by the required date the “I” is converted to an “NC” (No Credit). At that point the course will need to be repeated.

Repeating Courses

Effective September 2022 with the implementation of the new Grading Scale (See above), the only way in which a student may repeat courses is due to failure, withdrawal failure, or in some cases, withdrawal from the course due to extenuating circumstances. In the case of failure or withdrawal failure, the student will only be permitted one chance to retake said course in the next offering. If a student fails the same course two times, they will be dismissed from the program.

If the student successfully passes the course on the retake both credits and grades (and respective grade points earned) from previous attempts are deleted and new grades and grade points are entered into the student’s permanent grade report. The previous attempt(s) however will remain as a permanent record of the student’s grade report.

Special note to students enrolled prior to the implementation of the new Grading Scale:

As indicated, the new Grading Scale beginning in September 2022 will omit the letter grade of “D”, however, students earning grades prior to September 2022 may have a “D” on their record. In these circumstances, these students may have continued to maintain progress under the old Satisfactory Academic Progress policy. Yet, with the new grading scale and the new SAP policy in place as of September 2022, these students may continue making progress but not meet the threshold for a GPA of 2.0 at graduation. In those cases, the prior policy listed below for repeating courses will be followed to enable such students the opportunity to graduate:

- *If the academic deficiency is due to an insufficient Grade Point Average (GPA), courses may be repeated for which unsatisfactory (“D”) grades were earned in order to improve the student’s GPA. No courses may be repeated where grades of “C” or higher were earned.*
- If the student successfully passes the course (with a letter grade of “C” or better as of September 2022) on the retake both credits and grades (and respective grade points earned) from previous attempts are deleted and new grades and grade points are entered into the student’s permanent grade report. The previous attempt(s) however will remain as a permanent record of the student’s grade report.
- If the student fails the retake of the course in an attempt to rehabilitate a letter grade of “D” in order to raise their GPA, the student will be permitted one more attempt of said course in next offering.

- For students needing to rehabilitate their GPA to meet graduation requirements will be considered on a case by case basis.

Advancement through the programs depends on successful completion of all courses as well as meeting the minimum progress standards listed above. Students that repeat courses will delay their anticipated graduation date.

Finally, students dismissed from the program, may consider applying for readmission according to the pursuant to the standards in effect at that time. However, readmission is not a guarantee.

Withdrawals

A “W” (Withdrawal) grade is assigned to a course from which a student withdraws prior to the 10th week of the trimester for resident students and the 6th week of the term for online students. If the student withdraws during or after the 11th week of the trimester or 6th week of the term, respectively, the student will be awarded a Withdrawal-Failure (“WF”) for the course if they are failing the course at that time. Otherwise, the student will receive a “W” grade.

TRANSFER CREDIT

The Institute reserves the right to transfer credits from other accredited schools for both specific funeral service-related courses as accept or deny well as other courses listed in the core curriculum. Non-core courses typically are not transferred as students require these to meet certain educational outcomes.

A credit hour is a unit of measure, not necessarily an indicator of transferability of credit. The receiving institution, in this case PIMS, rather than the sending institution, decides whether to accept credits for transfer. These courses must also meet the legal requirements of the state in which the student plans to become licensed. The grades must be verified by an official college transcript that should be sent directly to PIMS by the Registrar of the sending institution.

In any case, at least one-half of total credits offered at the Pittsburgh Institute for the program desired (Diploma or AST/ASB Degree) must be taken at PIMS. This transfer credit policy is designed to be in compliance with ABFSE Standard 9.2.4 regarding transfer credits and considers the following:

- Certain courses, which include COM 100 and PSS/CRS 110 cannot be transferred from another accredited mortuary school. These courses are foundations for PIMS students at the beginning and end of the curriculum.
- For specific funeral related courses in the core curriculum, which include COM 110, CRM 110, EMB 131, EMB 132, EMB 133, ETH 110, FSL 110, FSM 121, FSM 122, MGT 121, PSY 122, RA 110, a course may be considered for transfer credit if it is:
 - a) earned at an ABFSE accredited institution,
 - b) meets or exceeds the same number of credits as the PIMS course,
 - c) meets or exceeds, upon review, the same course content as presented in the PIMS course,
 - d) is not needed to complete a pre-requisite for coordinated curriculum or other degree options,
 - e) student earns a final letter grade of “B” or above.
 - f) Note: in certain circumstances, due to the outcomes-based nature of funeral service education, a challenge exam provision may be considered to ensure the student has mastery of the materials for comprehensive and national exam purposes.
- For all other courses in the curriculum, a course may be considered for transfer credit if it is:
 - a) earned at a regionally accredited institution,
 - b) meets or exceeds the same number of credits as the PIMS course,
 - c) meets or exceeds, upon review, the same course content as presented in the PIMS course,
 - d) is not needed to complete a pre-requisite for coordinate curriculum or other degree options,
 - e) student earns a final letter grade of “C” or above.
 - f) Note: in most circumstances, due to the outcomes-based nature of funeral service education, a challenge exam provision will be considered to ensure the student has mastery of the materials

for comprehensive and national exam purposes

In either case listed previously, if a course is accepted for transfer, the letter grade of “T” will be presented on the PIMS grade transcript for that course. Credit hours that are “transferred in” are counted as both attempted and completed hours. A copy of the Transfer of Credit Policy is available on the website at www.pims.edu.

Students attempting to transfer credits earned at the Pittsburgh Institute to other schools need to follow the transfer credit policy of the receiving institution. The Institute cannot guarantee that credits earned at PIMS will be recognized or accepted by any other receiving institution.

DISMISSAL

The decision to terminate a student enrolled at the Pittsburgh Institute for any reason rests with the Dean and/or the Faculty Council and/or ultimately with the Program Director. The decision will be reached after careful review and evaluation of the student's records.

Grounds for termination include:

1. An overall Grade Point Average below minimal acceptable levels.
2. One or more final course grades of "F" during a trimester/term.
3. Academic dishonesty and destruction of school property.
4. Excessive absenteeism (see attendance policy).
5. Offensive student conduct as described elsewhere in this catalog, in the Student Handbook, or in other policies as may be promulgated.

Students who are attending the campus accelerated program must successfully pass each term (according to the guidelines of the PIMS Satisfactory Academic Progress policy listed above), to progress to the next term on their schedule. In certain cases, for students attending the standard paced program, special schedules will be considered. Prior pre-requisite requirements will be considered during the build of the new schedule. Students will also need to take into consideration financial aid enrollment eligibility requirements. The student will still be required to meet the school's published satisfactory academic progress requirements to maintain pace and progression throughout their program.

Online student schedules also follow a specific sequence. The option of a special schedule is limited, with the exception of approved transfer credit adjustments. Please contact registration for more information.

READMISSION POLICY

Students that have been separated from the Institute for less than a year, must complete a Reapplication Application with the Enrollment Office. This process will not require all the original documentation required for admissions but if updated paperwork is needed, the Enrollment Office will advise.

If the student had been separated from the Institute for over a year, a new application is required through the Admission Office using the PIMS Online Application. Please note that all application requirements must be resubmitted and must be reviewed by the Admissions Committee as per the normal application procedure. A \$50 reapplication fee is applicable in these cases, the matriculation fee will be charged, and all enrollment documents must be resubmitted. Students dismissed for academic deficiencies must apply using the Readmission Application through the Enrollment Office; orientation may or may not be required.

READMISSION FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

Students that must exit the program to due voluntary or involuntary military service will be readmitted into the same degree program as outlined in their Degree Audit. The service member must submit in writing to the Institute's Certifying Official and the Registrar their notice of military service and their intent to return to the program. The military serviceman would return to the same education plan under the same enrollment status and academic status as soon as those courses are officer, no application materials, application fees, or matriculation fees will be required.

SPECIAL LECTURES AND FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are arranged throughout the academic year as a supplement to regular classroom work. Special lectures are also given to further enrich the student's background.

Lectures are presented on topics such as: community and public relations, telephone communication, and death and children.

Visits are made, both locally and regionally, to cemeteries, vault companies, monument dealers, cremation centers, funeral homes, Organ Procurement Organizations, and the Allegheny County Medical Examiner Office.



CLINICAL INSTRUCTION

Students will have ample opportunities to learn and practice the art and science of preparing human remains and learning techniques and protocols necessary to provide decedent care. Clinical experiences are obtained on-site at the PIMS Decedent Care Facility and in funeral homes in accordance with ABFSE Accreditation Standard 5.4.6.

"On Call" teams are formed, which may consist of campus and online students, for the purpose of clinical embalming instruction at the Institute. These teams are then rotated during the week to begin embalming after classes have ended. On weekends, students are

responsible to be "on call" and available to embalm from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. All instruction of this type is done under the supervision and guidance of the Institute's approved licensed clinical instructors.

PIMS has a rigorous test-out method that ensures students are qualified to enter the field as interns. All students, campus and online, must perform ONE complete embalming at the PIMS decedent care facility under the guidance of a certified PIMS instructor, as means of demonstrating the appropriate proficiency gained during clinical training; this is a requirement for graduation. If a student demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to be move from student trainee to intern, they will be signed off by the Clinical Embalming Supervisor. If a student cannot be certified, they may be asked to continue clinical training or at the very least, perform another embalming under supervision.

Please see the SAP section of this bulletin for how making appropriate and timely progress to complete all steps of the Clinical Embalming Program is necessary, otherwise it can impact a student's pace and progression leading to dismissal from the program.



FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTICUM

In accordance with ABFSE Accreditation Standard 5.4.8, participation in specific Funeral Directing tasks and related skills is a requirement for graduation and acts as a way the students gain experience in the field actively participating at local funeral homes. The Institute has a roster of approved off-site training facilities to assist students in gaining the necessary tasks and hands-on learning experience.

Under the tutelage of a Responsible Presenter who is a licensed funeral director at the approved site, a student participates in all of the requisite funeral directing tasks. When the student is completed with the requisite tasks, the Presenter makes a recommendation in writing to the PIMS Program Director that the student is either a) ready for an entry level position/internship in funeral service or b) has not made sufficient progress to be ready for an entry level position in funeral service.

If the student has been recommended as adequately fulfilling all the tasks, they will be signed off by the Program Director. If a student cannot be certified they may be asked to continue participative training at the same or another approved facility.

Please see the SAP section of this bulletin for how making appropriate and timely progress to complete all steps of the Funeral Service Practicum is necessary, otherwise it can impact a student's pace and progression leading to dismissal from the program.

AUDITING COURSES

To encourage continuing education to students and alumni PIMS may allow individuals to audit certain courses. The guidelines to audit a course are listed below:

- Any current student or alumni may sit in on one course per trimester, pending Dean and faculty member approval
- The individual must meet the required prerequisites, and there must be a seat available.
- There will be a \$100 fee per course payable to PIMS.
- No credit will be granted, and there will be no transcript kept of this activity.
- There is no refund of the \$100 fee.
- The individual will be required to be prepared for the class so as to add to the discussion.
- No tests, papers, projects, etc. will be required but any assessments will be based on faculty approval
- There will be a maximum of three non-students permitted in any one course.

An interested person should contact the Office of the Registrar in writing to be placed on a waiting list for a particular course. The Office of the Registrar will verify with the faculty member and the Dean for permission to audit. Subsequently, the individual will wait to hear from the Register confirming audit approval. Please keep in mind, up to the day before classes begin, the auditee may be advised that a seat is not available. The student submits the \$100.00 fee to the Business Office once a seat is confirmed on the first day of class.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

ABFSE Standard 9.2.5 outlines requirements for obtaining credit for prior learning experiences. The Pittsburgh Institute does not award credit for prior learning, which is not to be confused with Transfer credits.

TEST OUT POLICY

Similar to the policy stated above for comprehensive exams the same policy will be used for students seeking a "test out" of a course/s. Students may either schedule to come to PIMS campus or use the Examity Live Proctoring system-the fee is \$30 per course/per attempt/per student if choosing Examity.

In either case, a student must score a grade equal to a "B" or above in a test-out situation, otherwise their attempt to test out will be unsuccessful.

Certain core funeral service courses are NOT eligible for test out protocols which include: COM 100, COM 110, CRM 110, EMB 131, EMB 132, EMB 133, ETH 110, FSL 110, FSM 121, FSM 122, MGT 121, PSS/CRS 110, PSY 122, RA 110.

PIMS COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION POLICY

The PIMS Comprehensive Exam will be administered prior to graduation. This examination must be passed by all students to be considered a graduate. As of this writing, ALL students must come to Pittsburgh Institute (including online students) to take the exam in a proctored session with PIMS instructors. Typically, for online students, it is necessary to come to the campus in Pittsburgh to perform their clinical embalming test out case under the supervision of PIMS campus instructors.

The PIMS Comprehensive Examinations are ONLY offered at specific times during an academic year, which are as follows: January, March/April, June, August/September, and October/November.

NO PIMS COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS WILL BE OFFERED OUTSIDE OF THE SCHEDULED DATES.

The requirements to sit for the Comprehensive Exam are:

- All students must have completed their coursework, including pre-requisites for online students,

in the core funeral service education program;

- All students must have earned a GPA of at least 2.0;
- All students must have completed their Clinical Embalming Requirements, pursuant to the current stated requirements of the Institute, submitted all corresponding case reports, and either tested out or are scheduled to perform their test out case;
- All students must have completed their Funeral Service Practicum and submitted their project binder and have it signed off by the Program Director;
- A student must be free of any debt or financial encumbrance to the Institute for tuition, fees, or any other related expenses.

Once a student has met all of the above requirements to sit for the comps, they need to take both sections (Science and Arts) of the PIMS comprehensive, at least one time, in order to walk for their graduation ceremony. The student does not have to pass both/either section/s of the PIMS Comprehensive in order to walk BUT they will not be considered a graduate/alumnus and they will not be released to the Conference to sit for the National Board Exam until passing both sections of the PIMS comprehensive. If the above requirements are met, but the student has not passed both sections of the PIMS comps, the student is essentially "walking" their graduation ceremony. To be considered a graduate please see the subsequent policy-**Graduation Requirements**.

While students are required to schedule their PIMS comps at one of the specific open sessions indicated, it should be noted there is no financial cost to take the PIMS Comps. However, during any given open session, a student is limited to the number of times they can attempt the test without passing. In short, historical perspective shows that after FIVE unsuccessful attempts, a student is simply not prepared and needs to reassess and review. Therefore, after FIVE unsuccessful attempts, said student will need to wait until the next available open session-during that time a student should use the time to prepare, study, and review.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Consistent with the requirements to sit for the PIMS comprehensive, to be considered a graduate of PIMS and receive your diploma, a student must complete all the following requirements:

- Coursework must be completed, and a student must have achieved a minimum GPA of 2.0;
- Practical requirements, including clinical embalming, funeral service practicum, and the restorative art residency, must be completed, and approved by the Institute;
- ALL financial obligations to the Institute must be satisfied;
- A student must earn a passing grade on both sections of the PIMS Comprehensive Examination;
- Satisfactory compliance with regard to financial aid requisites (exit counseling if applicable). Please note that if all of the requirements listed above have not been met a student's transcripts and records may be withheld by the Institute, which could delay the start of an internship or-other progress.

(Note: The student must have attempted both sections of the PIMS Comp in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. The student will not be considered a graduate/alumnus and will not be released to The Conference to sit for that National Board Exam until passing both sections of the PIMS Comp.)



NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION (NBE)

The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, like all accredited mortuary schools, is responsible to prepare students to take and pass the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Board (ICFSEB or the Conference). This test is a outcomes-based assessment that is used as a metric to help schools maintain their level of accreditation.

With recent challenges in student outcomes on the NBE, particularly in the Science section, the Institute has established some significant proactive policies in an attempt to improve student outcomes. Details of these policies and strategies, effective May, 2022, can be found in the Student Handbook.

It should be noted that to be considered a graduate of the Institute and moved to alumni status students must meet all requirements set forth above regarding graduation requirements.

Fees for the NBE include \$285 to take the Arts section of the NBE and \$285 to take the Science section of the NBE—hence the total for both sections is \$570.00 payable to the Conference. The policy of the Institute is that PIMS collects the required fee for the NBE during the last term a student is enrolled (online or campus), PIMS then pays Conference when the student is eligible to be released to schedule the exam. Once the application is made to the Conference, there is a life of 1 year associated with the paid application. If the candidate does not take the NBE within 1 year of the date of application, the Conference voids the application and the fees paid to the Conference for examination are non-refundable.

COMMENCEMENT



Graduation events are held by the Institute at a nearby venue. These formal cap and gown commencement exercises are held each September and January. Both campus and online students are strongly encouraged to attend these ceremonial rites of passage as way to the Institute to recognize and honor the dedication and commitment of its student body.

Graduates receive the Diploma of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, Associate in Specialized Business Degree, or the Associate in Specialized Technology Degree depending upon which program they were enrolled.

HONORARY DEGREES

In its storied legacy since 1939, the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science has the privilege of awarding honorary degrees to individuals who profoundly contributed in some manner that advocates the value and importance of the funeral service profession. Such a laudable contribution/s will be ubiquitous in nature and leave an enduring legacy that shall demonstratively impact the funeral service profession in a most positive manner. The administration of the Institute reserves the right to select such individuals based on its own considerations and bestow this honor as a lifetime achievement award of merit.



AWARDS AND HONORS

Academic excellence is recognized each term with designation on the Dean's List, however, a student who attains a cumulative quality point average of at least 3.50 are accorded the following honors designations at graduation:

Cum Laude.....	3.50-3.74
Magna Cum Laude.....	3.75-3.89
Summa Cum Laude	3.90-4.00

In addition to academic commendations, students may be recognized at commencement for leadership, technical skills, and entrepreneurship with the following awards:

- The **MEMORIAL AWARD** is presented to the student who, through qualities of leadership, professional conduct and good citizenship, best typifies the ideals of the student body.
- The **JOHN REBOL AWARD** is presented to the student who has maintained the highest scholastic average for the year.
- The **WILLIAM J. MUSMANNO MEMORIAL AWARD** is presented to the student in recognition of outstanding ability, attitude, commitment, and achievement in the clinical setting.
- The **KELCO RESTORATIVE ART AWARD** is presented to the graduate in recognition of outstanding ability, attitude, commitment and achievement in the areas of cosmetology and restorative art in the clinical setting.



- The **DODGE AWARD** is presented to the graduate in recognition of exceptional expertise in both the technical and theoretical aspects of the study and practice of embalming.
- The **EUGENE C. OGDONIK ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD** was authorized by the board of directors September 11, 2014 and is presented to the graduate who, as recognized by the core business faculty of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, is deemed to demonstrate the qualities of stewardship, scholarship and leadership and to have the entrepreneurial spirit and greatest potential to impact funeral service of the future.
- The **CHAMPION AWARD** is presented by the Champion Company to the graduate who

has demonstrated the overall scholarship, aptitude and practical skills specifically in the core science component of the curriculum.

- The **ALLEGHENY COUNTY FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION AWARD** is a cash award presented to the graduate with the highest scholastic average by the Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association.
- **MU SIGMA ALPHA** is the Honorary Society established by the National Association of Colleges of Mortuary Science and gives recognition to those students who have displayed outstanding merit in scholarship and who have conducted themselves as good citizens of the schools they have attended. A maximum of 10 percent of the graduating class is eligible for this membership.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Institute is equipped with a wide variety of learning resources for both the student and alumni. One of the most comprehensive of its kind among funeral service programs, the library/learning resource center contains relevant journals, research materials and audio-visual resources which the student will find helpful. PIMS campus students can access this resource from 8AM to 4:00PM Monday through Friday. Distance learning students may request materials be sent (either electronically or snail mail) as needed. This access to all students is consistent with ABFSE Standard 8.3 regarding the use of such resources.

STUDENT SERVICES: GUIDANCE AND ADVISEMENT

During the first few days of each opening term on campus, all first term students are interviewed by the Dean of Faculty and Students and other members of the student services team. Consistent with ABFSE Standard 9.5 guidance may be provided by any member of the PIMS Student Services Team, however, the Dean of Faculty and Students may serve as the point of first contact). Such discussions may address all of the following, but not limited to: academic difficulty, veterans' affairs, academic advising, conduct, licensure and employment information as well as personal issues. This is consistent with the "Open Door Policy" adopted by the Institute. Distance learning students may reach out by phone, IM, or email to members of the PIMS Student Services team to schedule personal contacts via phone or virtual meeting. Distance students may also schedule times to visit the campus if desired.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Lifetime placement assistance is available at no charge to either employer or graduate. Job opportunities that are brought to the attention of the Institute are referred to interested graduates upon request and made available in student and alumni portals. However, there is no guarantee of successful placement of graduates.

REFERRAL SERVICES

Another service of the Institute is its referral service which is available at no charge to either graduate or employer. Job opportunities brought to the attention of the Institute are referred to interested graduates. Satisfactory scholastic standing for students is a prerequisite for these services. PIMS is currently developing a virtual job posting site that will be interactive by connecting current students, who may be job seekers, with alumni, who may be employers seeking prospects.

PART-TIME WORK AS A STUDENT AT LOCAL FUNERAL HOMES

For students enrolled and attending school, the Institute may become aware of part-time positions at some of the local funeral homes. An inquiry may be made to Student Services for a list of persons and establishments seeking part-time help.

PARKING

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science has three parking lots available to staff and students. However, parking is on a first-come, first served basis. The Institute assumes no responsibility for vehicles parked in its lots. For students, while there is no additional charge for parking in the main parking lots, it is still considered a privilege (and may be revoked by the Institute). Please see the Student Handbook for more information about on campus parking privileges.

HOUSING

Suitable housing accommodations for campus students are available in the communities surrounding the Institute. The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science does not have student housing. We are located within the East Liberty area of the city of Pittsburgh; this area is one of the more up and coming in our city but that has created higher than normal rent. The Admission Office and/or Student Advisor can provide our Housing Help Sheet to assist in finding vacancies. An incoming student can also contact the Admission Office to determine if there are students seeking a roommate. The selection of a room or apartment is better accomplished prior to the start of classes, since the start of a new class coincides with the graduation of another. A number of vacancies could be created at that time.

For distance students attending the residency requirements and test out procedures for clinical embalming, a number of local hotels are within walking distance to the Institute. Please contact a member of the student services team for assistance.

SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES

There are churches, synagogues, temples etc. from various organized religions as well as secular gathering places within walking distance of the Pittsburgh Institute. Consistent with the PIMS core values of respecting diversity, integrity, and kindness, belief systems and values from all faith based and/or spiritual oriented practices are welcome.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND ACTIVITIES

In accordance with ABFSE Standard 9.5.2, PIMS students are provided the opportunity for involvement in program governance. Early in each trimester for campus-based students, each class elects representatives (based on the size of the class but no more than 3) to the student senate, who decide on officers for each senate. Under the supervision of a faculty advisor, meetings provide opportunities for implementing parliamentary procedures as well as prioritizing the students' experience at the Institute.

While there are no set requirements, each class is encouraged to plan and implement extra-curricular activities according to particular interests. In the past, students have organized athletic teams, dances, food drives for the needy, picnics for incoming classes and even golf tournaments.

The Institute encourages student involvement and input. The student council serves as a liaison between the faculty and the student body. Quite often needs and ideas first vocalized by the student council are adopted as school policy.

In addition, class planning, and organization of its own functions provides further opportunity for development of leadership qualities which can be extended into future professional life.

Distance learning cohorts face unique challenges due to the asynchronous nature of their educational modality and the lack of physical presence on campus. Moreover, distance students may have different work/life/school balances to consider, which may prohibit them from active engagement in student governance. That said, online elections are offered at the same times of the year that campus elections for senators occur; if no online senators are nominated/elected, campus-based students will serve to provide this involvement in governance for the program. Coordinated messaging is provided to distance students via the LMS and email system.

PIMS GEAR AND MERCHANDISE

Coffee mugs, shirts of various types, caps, etc. bearing the logo of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science are available for students to purchase on the virtual store located on the school website at <https://pimgear.myspreadshop.com/> Payment is required at the time of purchase.

CLASS PICTURES

It is the current practice of the Institute to make arrangements are made for a photographer to take pictures of each member of the CAMPUS class who may qualify to be a graduate at the next upcoming commencement exercise (which are typically held in September and January). The pictures are taken in business attire and are made into a class composite photo, which are typically feature in the lobby of the Institute. Individual photos are available for students to purchase. The class composite photograph is distributed to each student free of charge.

Due to the nature of distance learning, online students are not readily available to gather in one place for such a collage to be rendered. However, if an online student that qualifies for the upcoming graduation ceremony wishes their picture to be part of this composite, arrangements should be made with the Dean of Faculty and Students in advance to be included on the day the photographer is at PIMS.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be completed by visiting www.fafsa.ed.gov. This form must be completed if the student wishes to participate in any of the following types of financial aid:

Federal Direct Stafford Loans (subsidized and nonsubsidized) Federal Direct Plus Loan (Parent loan)

Pell Grant Program Pennsylvania State Grant *

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

*Only students in the ASB or campus-based AST Degree programs are eligible for PA State Grant funding.

Students who are enrolled in the cooperative Bachelor degree programs may wish to inquire about developing a consortium agreement for their financial aid at Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. Contact the Financial Aid Admin. for information.

After the Department of Education has received your application, notification of PELL Grant eligibility will be sent to you in the form of a Student Aid Report (SAR). After reviewing and determining the correctness of this document, it is necessary to retain the SAR for your records.

Continuation of financial aid loans and/or grants is contingent upon the students maintaining satisfactory academic progress according to the school's guidelines. A student can receive financial aid for no more than 150% of the scheduled length of the program in which the student is enrolled.

DETERMINATION OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Generally, a student is eligible to receive federal financial aid as long as (s)he is in compliance with academic standards set forth by the institution. The amount for which any student qualifies is dependent upon the student's

financial need, as determined by policies of the U.S. Department of Education.

A student, who has been separated from the institution due to failure to maintain the minimum academic standards, shall repeat the courses in which failing ("F") grades were received.

Prior to September 2022, if the academic deficiency is due to an insufficient GPA, courses may be repeated for which unsatisfactory ("D") grades were earned in order to improve the student's GPA. No courses may be repeated where grades of "C" or higher were earned.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Each state has a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, which operates in conjunction with the Department of Education, and offers financial aid to eligible persons who are disabled.

Eligible persons should secure information from the appropriate state office well in advance of the desired enrollment date. Applicants for vocational rehabilitation should realize that the nature of a disability may be an important factor in their employability in funeral service. The school will be very pleased to counsel interested persons.

THIRD PARTY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Along with the grants and awards offered by the Institute, the following scholarships, which are funded through sources outside of PIMS are available to our students. Student services can assist in applying for these third party funded scholarships:

- **American Board of Funeral Service Education Scholarships**
 - The American Board of Funeral Service Education has established a nationwide Scholarship Program. Information concerning this program may be obtained by writing to the Scholarship Committee, American Board of Funeral Service Education, 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097 or visiting www.abfse.org
- **Ohio Funeral Director's Association Scholarships**
 - Ohio students applying for O.F.D.A. Scholarships, should contact the Ohio Funeral Directors Association, P.O. Box 21760, Columbus, Ohio 43221.
- **Pennsylvania Funeral Director's Association Scholarships**
 - PIMS student services administrators can assist Pennsylvania students in applying for the PFDA Scholarship.
- **West Virginia Funeral Director's Association Scholarship**
 - West Virginia students applying for WVFDA Scholarships, should contact the West Virginia Funeral Directors Association, 400 Allen Drive, Suite 20 Charleston, WV 25302, (304) 345-4711 | (304) 345-4712 (Fax) | info@wvfda.org.
- **Stephen J. Pavlic Memorial Scholarship**
 - Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science established the Stephen J. Pavlic Memorial Scholarship Fund in mid-2008 through a generous gift from Mr. Pavlic's estate. The criteria are being developed as this scholarship is currently being developed for future use.
- **David and Janet Miller Scholarship**
 - The David and Janet Miller Scholarship is a third party funded award of merit, which is intended to help students who meet the following criteria defray the expenses of their funeral service education:
 - The student must be attending PIMS and one-third of the way through the CORE program (e.g. 20 credits completed of the 60 required for the AST). Note: students

- actively enrolled in the ASB program are eligible for this award.
- Current GPA in mortuary school of no less than 2.50
- Completion of a brief application.
- The student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and must have an EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) from \$0.00 – \$500.00.
- Submission of a video of no more than TWO minutes explaining how the funds will help you further your education and reach your goal of being in funeral service. (Note: STYLE, SUBSTANCE, and EFFORT in creating the video for one’s explanation will be considered by the committee making this selection as well as need)
- Scholarship awarded in June (funds permitting) for one online and one campus student; the amount will be based on the availability of funds.

REGULATIONS FOR VETERANS--VETERAN’S TRAINING

Pittsburgh Institute is approved for training of veterans who are entitled to benefits which are regulated by the Veterans Administration. The Institute employs a full-time VA Certifying Official who attends annual VA trainings and meets all qualifications to assist Veterans with TA, VA, Title IV funding, and other counseling and support services available. This individual can be reached weekdays, between 8:00am and 4:00pm at 412-362-8500 or reach out to info@pims.edu.

In compliance with 38 USC 3679€ , it is the policy that any covered individual, who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill ® benefits, is permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a “certificate of eligibility” can also include a “Statement of Benefits” obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) website e-Benefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form of chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date of which payment from VA is made to the Institution
2. 90 days after the date the Institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

There will be NO penalty, late fee, or denial of access to classes or the facility for any covered individual if his or her financial obligations to the Institute are delayed from the VA under chapter 31 or 33.



HISTORY

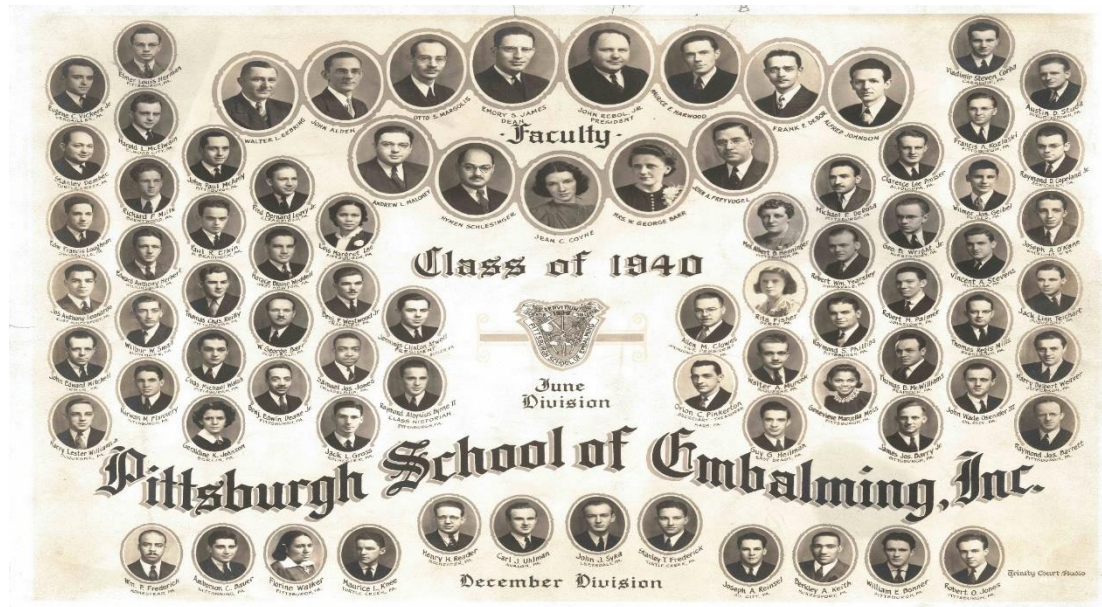
The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science has been providing training for students entering funeral service for nearly eighty years. When first established in 1939, the new training institute was known as the Pittsburgh School of Embalming. The co-founders included three educators, Dr. Otto S. Margolis and Professor John Rebol formerly affiliated with the Cleveland School of Embalming, and Dr. Emory S. James, Instructor in the Anatomy Department of the Ohio State Medical School in Columbus, Ohio.

In completing final arrangements for the new school in Pittsburgh, Mr. John A. Freyvogel, Sr., a funeral director was most helpful. He was the Western Pennsylvania representative for the State Anatomical Board and his contacts in the business community as well as at the University of Pittsburgh were constructive in finding a location for the school, securing furniture and equipment, and in selecting additional faculty members. Mr. Freyvogel served as the first President of the Pittsburgh School of Embalming.

The inaugural class of sixty students enrolled for a nine-month curriculum September 18, 1939 and graduated June 23, 1940. The excellent dedication and cooperation of the students, which still exists today, resulted in outstanding academic achievement as well as the completion of several traditional projects for the new school. These endeavors included the development of the logo or school seal, school motto, and the Alma Mater. The Motto, "Scientia, Sollertia, Servitium," translated

from Latin means, "Knowledge, Skills, Service," which expresses in part the objectives of the Institute. The lyrics of the Alma Mater were written by a student, Geraldine K. Johnson from Berlin, Pennsylvania, and the music was composed by her uncle, Alfred H. Johnson, a member of the faculty.

The curriculum for the second class was increased to twelve months to conform with the change in licensing requirements. During this year, 1940, faculty members attended the first of the teachers' institutes and committee meetings dealing with curriculum and course development. The second teachers' institute, which



included representatives from all the approved schools was hosted by the Pittsburgh School of Embalming.

The many modifications in the mortuary science curriculum, as well as the broader objective and increased responsibilities justified the change of the name from the Pittsburgh School of Embalming to the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science in 1945. The Pittsburgh Institute remained as a private educational institution.

A separate corporation was formed for a new school in 1947, The American Institute of Cemetery Administration. Dr. James was the Dean of the new school which operated for three years and graduated thirty students. Some of these graduates are still active in the management and operation of cemeteries.

In 1952, the Pittsburgh Institute purchased the American Academy of Funeral Service in New York City, and Dr. Margolis assumed the duties as Dean. A few years later the decision was made for Dr. Margolis to remain with the American Academy with Professor Rebol and Dr. James remaining in Pittsburgh.

In 1953, when the Cleveland College of Mortuary Science was discontinued, the Charter was purchased by the Pittsburgh Institute. All the student records were moved to Pittsburgh and services are rendered to the Alumni of the Cleveland College from the offices of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

The charter of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science was changed in 1967, to a non-profit educational institution.

A history of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science would not be complete without mentioning Mrs. Jean C. Rodak\ (Jean C. Coyne), Treasurer of the Institute and former Registrar. She is the only person with 50 years of continuous service beginning with the preparation for and founding of the Pittsburgh School of Embalming in 1939 until her retirement in 1990.



William J. Musmanno served as Dean of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science from 1966 until his death in 1978. His undergraduate degree was from the University of Pittsburgh and he later graduated with his master's degree in pharmacology from Duquesne University. In March 1961, he graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and later joined the faculty. It was under his direction that the Pittsburgh Institute became known as the "Flagship Station of Mortuary Education." Dean Musmanno originated the Clinico-Seminarama continuing education programs, sponsored jointly by the Pittsburgh Institute and the Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association. These programs were offered in the spring of each year for seventeen years.

Many graduates of the Pittsburgh Institute have continued their college training for other fields. These fields include medicine, dentistry, electronics, teaching, law, research, public relations, sales, and the clergy. In 1987, the first graduate of the Pittsburgh Institute, Mr. Glenn G. McMillen was installed as President of the National Funeral Directors Association. He is currently a retired executive from Service Corporation International.

There are many alumni that have entered the political arena in their home states as well as on the national level. Many graduates have served as officers of their local and state funeral directors associations as well as their respective state boards.

In 1983, The Institute developed two cooperative baccalaureate degree programs with California University of Pennsylvania and Point Park University. Additional cooperative programs have since been developed with Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania and Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania. Students now have the opportunity to continue their education for the B.S. Degree in Mortuary Science or Business Administration while obtaining credit for professional studies at the Pittsburgh Institute.

On July 3, 1985, the Institute under the direction of Dean Eugene C. Ogradnik was approved to grant the Associate in Specialized Technology Degree in Funeral Service Management. Additional course work in risk management, business management, gerontology, funeral service marketing, economics, death and children, and business English now enable students to earn a degree in this specialized field and prepare themselves for funeral service in the 21st century.

In 1987 Robert G. Mayer, Jr., a PIMS alumnus, faculty member and former member of the Board of Directors and internationally known embalmer was retained by the American Board of Funeral Service Education to be the primary author/editor of a new textbook. **Embalming: History, Theory and Practice** which was first published in 1990. The text has prevailed 32 years through 5 editions and is still recognized as a standard for the subject nationally and internationally.

In February of 1991, PIMS lost an integral part of its history - Dr. Emory S. James. Dr. James was a co-founder and long-time president of PIMS. He continued his involvement for over fifty years and his contributions have been extensive. He has been very influential in the field of funeral service education and has positively impacted many lives.

On the weekend of August 19-20, 1989, the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science moved its facilities from its original site to 5808 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the Shadyside area of the city. The new location remains within easy access of the various cultural opportunities which Pittsburgh presents.

The move has resulted in greatly expanded space which allowed for larger classrooms and library facilities, contemporarily designed state-of-the-art preparation room and restorative art laboratory, model casket selection room and funeral merchandise center and computer laboratory.

Two major events occurred in 1991 with respect to the program of study offered at Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. In November 1991, the Institute received the approval to grant the Associate in Specialized Business (ASB) Degree. In so doing, the Institute is reflecting the current and future trend in funeral service education, which is moving from a focus primarily in the natural sciences to more extensive course content which recognizes the significance of business administration and psychology in today's complex operating environment. The Associate in Specialized Business Degree replaced the degree offering which was approved in 1985.

With respect to its continual endeavor to provide the most well-adapted curriculum available anywhere, PIMS, in December 1991, received an approval to add an "alternative" trimester of study to its degree program. This trimester further augments the training specifically designed to prepare a well-rounded, well-informed funeral service practitioner. The student can now pursue its already



comprehensive specialized associate degree in its entirety at the Institute in lieu of transferring 16 credits from another institute as was the past policy.

In 1992, an innovative approach to a bachelor's degree study was initiated between the Pittsburgh Institute and Point Park University through Point Park's Capstone Program. In this novel approach, the student would matriculate into the five-trimester program at PIMS and would subsequently enter Point Park University for an additional two semesters and complete the studies required for the Bachelor of Science degree in Specialized Professional Studies. With the successful completion of a total of seven semesters, the student now may be awarded the Diploma in Embalming and Funeral Directing, the Associate in Specialized Business Degree in Funeral Service Management, and the Bachelor of Science Degree in Specialized Professional Studies.

Distance educational resources were provided in 1994, as the Institute installed a satellite dish. In 2016, Pittsburgh Institute added WIFI services throughout the building, allowing both Institute staff and students to access information from elsewhere in the world to enhance the educational experience.

Recognizing that some students have had a previous college educational experience without earning any award and also recognizing that funeral service is approaching a turning point with respect to educational requirements, the Institute developed a creative program leading to a new Associate in Specialized Technology (AST) Degree in Funeral Service Arts and Sciences.

The AST Degree was approved in late 1995 and required the student to have completed a minimum of 60 semester credits from a regionally accredited college or university for admission. After successfully completing three trimesters of study in residence, the student is eligible to be awarded this Specialized Associate Degree. This offering was changed to requiring only 30 semester credits and approved by the PA Department of Education March 29, 2012.

May 1996 provided the Pittsburgh Institute with a presence in cyberspace. The first such institution of its type was able to be accessed via the Internet. PIMS' home page address www.pims.edu now gives those who "cruise the net" information relative to its programs, curricula, tuition, etc.

As Pittsburgh Institute entered the new millennium, a new initiative to reach out to the non-traditional student was announced. PIMS would be offering its core Diploma program "at a distance." The student can now pursue funeral service education via the Internet. The first class of *PIMS OnLine* was admitted for classes starting January 29, 2001.

Construction was completed in September 2003 for the special events center at Pittsburgh Institute. A state-of-the-art auditorium seating in-excess-of 155 persons will accommodate the entire student body for special engagements and continuing education programs by notable speakers for the profession. Two additional classrooms and banquet facilities were also included in the design.

October 2008 represented another historic moment when John D. Reed Jr. became another PIMS alumnus to be elected as the President of the National Funeral Directors Association. John's tenure ran until October 2009.

The Pittsburgh Institute has always stayed ahead of the trends in death care services. As the trend toward cremation as a final means of disposition started to climb beyond expectations, PIMS developed a 3-credit course entitled **Cremation Principles and Practices** as part of its core curriculum...another first in the nation among funeral service programs. All students now not only study cremation as a separate course but have been given the opportunity to graduate as a Certified Crematory Operator by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA).

The fall of 2012 marked the beginning of a long-term expansion plan at PIMS. Access was provided to the fourth and fifth floor of the main building, forging the way for future initiatives regarding the physical plant.

September 13, 2014 marked the 75th Anniversary-Reunion of PIMS. Four generations of alumni and friends of the Institute celebrated the history, accomplishments, and future of Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science as it continues "*Leading the Profession.*"

2016 marked the beginning of another enhancement of the physical facilities as Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science added a large classroom, larger faculty office space and two new offices, along with access to Wifi for the student body. This construction was completed in the summer of 2016.



2017 marked another milestone with *PIMS OnLine*, as Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science is approved and authorized as an institutional participant by SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement). PIMS is now listed as an approved institution on the SARA website (www.nc-sara.org). Schools that are members of SARA are held to a higher standard of educational excellence. PIMS will continue to ensure that its courses and programs that are offered through the SARA initiative provide high quality learning opportunities that can help students reach their educational and professional goals.

In 2018, responding to the evolving nature of the funeral service profession and the need to expand upon the secular choices that some families desire for memorialization, Pittsburgh Institute became an Authorized Mortuary Education Provider for the Certified Celebrant Training Program in an exclusive agreement with the Insight Institute.

PIMS remains one of the few accredited schools in the country that offers this exclusive training to ALL of its students, which enhances their value and marketability in the profession. To date, PIMS has placed hundreds of Celebrants into the field, once again, "leading the profession."



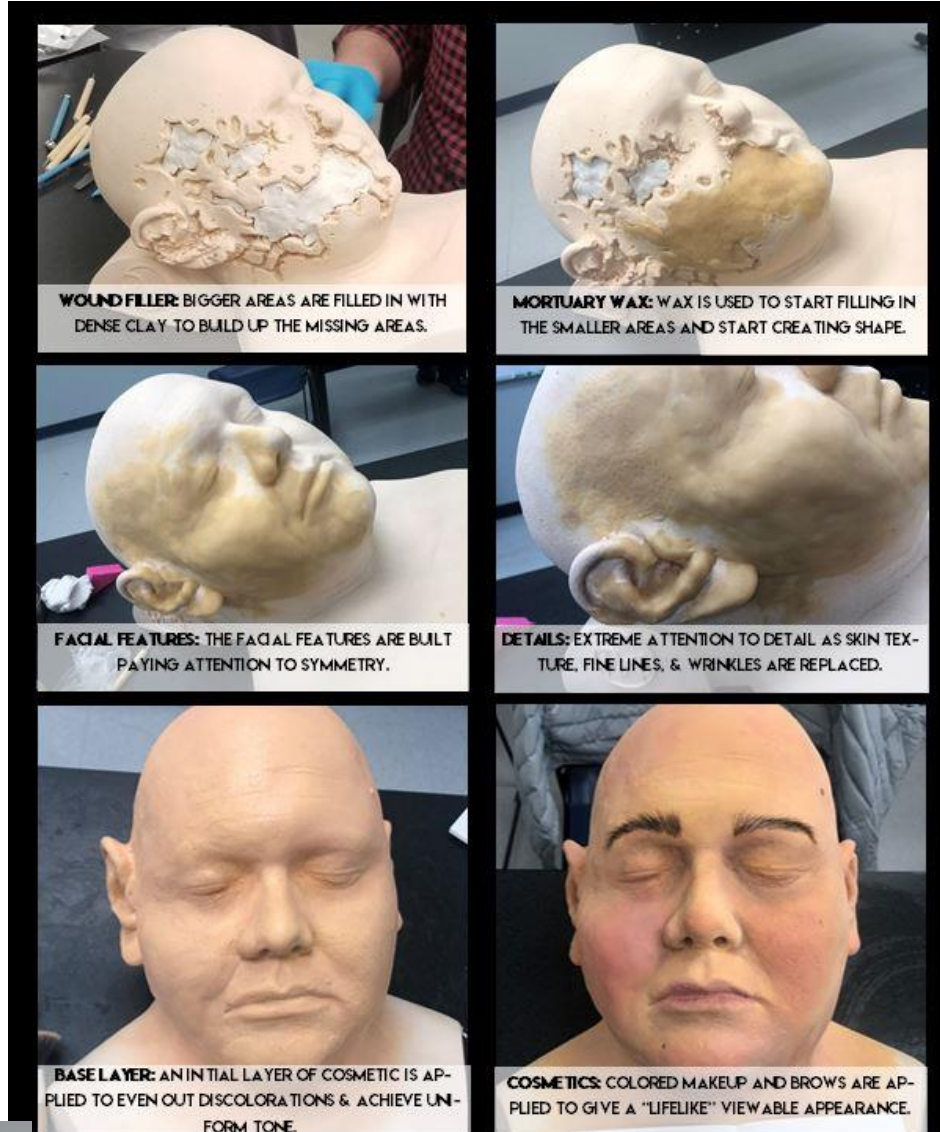
In 2019, PIMS celebrated its 80th anniversary and threw a party bringing in Hollywood actor, Daniel Roebuck, star and director of the movie *Getting Grace* to host this celebration. Additionally, to usher in the eighth decade for the Institute, key personnel changes occurred starting at the top. First, James O. Pinkerton was voted as the new Chair for the PIMS Board of Directors. Next, to oversee the tactical operations at the Institute, Dr. Barry T. Lease was appointed the new Program Director by the PIMS Board of Directors as part of a succession plan for President Eugene C. Ogrodnik. Other important changes occurred as Dean of Faculty and Students, Dr. Joseph A. Marsaglia retired after more than 30 years with the Institute; Michael S. Burns was selected as the incoming Dean to oversee students and faculty, while managing the clinical operations.

This new leadership team invigorated the Institute with some innovative new thinking and fresh ideas for funeral service education in the 21st Century. Seeking

to expand its social media presence and better connect with the student of the new millennium, PIMS recruited young, talented admin professionals to develop its virtual messaging via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These social media platforms have become the envy of other schools of funeral service education and continue to expand the footprint of the Institute.

In 2020, with the energy of this new group of admin, faculty, and staff, PIMS wanted to change the face of technical education. As such, the PIMS team created a prototype to revolutionize the Restorative Art practical experience. Moving forward with the prototype, PIMS the Institute contracted with a Hollywood special effects artist and PIMS transformed the Restorative Art laboratory experience by introducing our brand-marked simulation heads. The PIMS “Headzo” provides a real time RA experience for students and professionals in the field to nurture and cultivate these important skills.

While no other school in the country providing funeral service education could match such a real world, clinical experience for students, Dean Burns and his clinical team once again set forth to raise the clinical bar again and in late 2020 designed, manufactured, and implemented for use a synthetic cranial bone replica. The goal of this new teaching tool was to provide students with the real-world skills to fuse damaged bone structures in the face and head together following traumatic injury to such areas. At this point, no other school offers anything like this RA lab experience and once again, PIMS leads the profession!



Headzo Step-by-Step



As the new group of PIMS admin, staff, and faculty, welcomed a new decade in 2020, it was not long before they faced perhaps the biggest challenge in the history of the Institute: a global pandemic. COVID-19 impacted the world in 2020 and PIMS was forced to move its campus operations to alternative learning. While we adapted the best we could, the loss of interactivity was notable, including holding “virtual” graduations—sans the pomp and ceremony graduation day just was not the same.

However, in September, 2021 during our first graduation that was permitted be in person we welcomed Pittsburgh Steeler Super Bowl Champion Max Starks and honored his Mom, Elleanor Davis Starks, for her legacy in the funeral profession, namely establishing the *100 Black Women in Funeral Service*.



Before the end of 2021, PIMS continued its progress by improving its technical and physical domains. In an attempt to “reign the PIMS family and stay better connected with the almost 8000 alumni, significant upgrades were made to the PIMS social media presence and website. Other major investments were made to the physical campus of the Pittsburgh Institute. First, an adjacent parcel of real estate was purchased allowing PIMS to literally “own the block” of property on which it sits; this new property will undergo demo in 2022 and ultimately add parking spaces for the Institute.



Another physical improvement occurred through a generous grant from Schoedinger family funeral services based out of Columbus, Ohio as a new and contemporary student lounge was constructed in honor of the legacy created by Dean Emeritus, Dr. Joseph A. Marsaglia.

As the “Flagship Station of Mortuary Education” continues to sail forward in the 2020’s, it faces ubiquitous changes in the funeral service profession at large. However, change is no stranger to Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and the current PIMS “team” continues to work diligently to provide contemporary yet purposeful education providing academic rigor and practical experience, grounded in an ethical framework for its student body. Embracing change as an opportunity, it is quite clear, PIMS remains a

model for other funeral service education programs to follow and that said—THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

**ACADEMIC CALENDER
PIMS ONLINE
2022 -2025**

Start Date of Term	End Date of Term	Cohorts Enrolled
January 17, 2022	March 11, 2022	1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056
March 28, 2022	May 20, 2022	1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056
June 6, 2022	July 29, 2022	1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057
August 15, 2022	October 7, 2022	1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057
October 17, 2022	December 9, 2022	1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058
January 16, 2023	March 10, 2023	1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059
March 27, 2023	May 19, 2023	1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059
June 5, 2023	July 28, 2023	1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060
August 14, 2023	October 6, 2023	1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060
October 16, 2023	December 8, 2023	1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061
January 15, 2024	March 8, 2024	1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062
March 25, 2024	May 17, 2024	1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062
June 3, 2024	July 26, 2024	1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063
August 12, 2024	October 4, 2024	1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063
October 14, 2024	December 6, 2024	1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064
January 13, 2025	March 7, 2025	1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065
March 24, 2025	May 16, 2025	1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065
June 2, 2025	July 25, 2025	1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066
August 11, 2025	October 3, 2025	1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066
October 13, 2025	December 5, 2025	1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067

ACADEMIC CALENDAR-CAMPUS

ACADEMIC CALENDAR—SPRING MATRICULATION

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Spring Trimester Begins	Jan. 17, 2023	Jan. 16, 2024	Jan 13, 2025	Jan 12, 2026
MLK Holiday	Jan. 16, 2023	Jan 15, 2024	Jan 20, 2025	Jan 19, 2026
Classes Resume			Jan 21, 2025	Jan 20, 2026
Easter/Spring Break	April 7-10, 2023	Mar 29-Apr 1, 2024	Apr 18-21, 2025	Apr 3-6, 2026
Classes Resume	April 11, 2023	April 2, 2024	Apr 22, 2025	Apr 7, 2026
Spring Trimester Ends	April 28, 2023	April 25, 2024	April 25, 2025	Apr 23, 2026
Trimester Break	April 29, 2023-May 14, 2023	April 26, 2024-May 12, 2024	Apr 26, 2025-May 11, 2025	Apr 25, 2026-May 10, 2026
Summer Trimester Begins	May 15, 2023	May 13, 2024	May 12, 2025	May 11, 2026
Memorial Day Holiday	May 29, 2023	May 27, 2024	May 26, 2025	May 25, 2026
Classes Resume	May 30, 2023	May 28, 2024	May 27, 2025	May 26, 2026
Juneteenth Holiday	June 19, 2023	June 19, 2024	June 19, 2025	Jun 19, 2026
Classes Resume	June 20, 2023	June 20, 2024	June 20, 2025	Jun 22, 2026
Independence Day Holiday	July 4, 2023	July 4, 2024	July 4, 2025	July 3, 2026 (recognized)
Classes Resume	July 5, 2023	July 5, 2024	July 7, 2025	Jul 6, 2026
Summer Trimester Ends	Aug 25, 2023	Aug 23, 2024	August 22, 2025	Aug 21, 2026
Trimester Break	Aug 26, 2023-Sept 10, 2023	Aug 24, 2024-Sept. 8, 2024	Aug 23, 2025-Sep 7, 2026	Aug 22, 2026-Sep 6, 2026
Labor Day Holiday	Sept. 4, 2023	Sept. 2, 2024	Sept 1, 2025	Sep 7, 2026
Fall Commencement	Sept. 8, 2023	Sept. 6, 2024	Sept. 5, 2025	Sep 4, 2026
Fall Trimester Begins	Sept. 11, 2023	Sept. 9, 2024	Sept 8, 2025	Sep 8, 2026
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 23-26, 2023	Nov. 28, 2024-Dec. 1, 2024	Nov 27-30, 2025	Nov 26-29, 2026
Classes Resume	Nov. 27, 2023	Dec. 2, 2024	Dec 1, 2025	Nov 30, 2026
Fall Trimester End	Dec. 21, 2023	Dec. 19, 2024	Dec 18, 2025	Dec 17, 2026
Trimester/Holiday Break	Dec. 22, 2023-Jan. 15, 2024	Dec. 20, 2024-Jan 12, 2025	Dec 19, 2025-Jan 11, 2026	Dec 18, 2026-Jan 10, 2027
Spring Trimester Begins	Jan. 16, 2024	Jan. 13, 2025	Jan 12, 2026	Jan 11, 2027
Winter Commencement	Jan. 12, 2024	Jan. 10, 2025	Jan 9, 2026	Jan 8, 2027

ACADEMIC CALENDAR—FALL MATRICULATION

FIRST YEAR OF TERM
ENDING BEFORE NEW
YEAR

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Fall Trimester Begins	Sept. 12, 2022	Sept. 11, 2023	Sept. 9, 2024	Sept 8, 2025
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 24-27, 2022	Nov. 23-26, 2023	Nov. 28, 2024-Dec. 1, 2024	Nov 27-30, 2025
Classes Resume	Nov. 28, 2022	Nov. 27, 2023	Dec. 2, 2024	Dec 1, 2025
Fall Trimester Ends	Dec. 22, 2022	Dec. 21, 2023	Dec. 19, 2024	Dec 18, 2025
Holiday Recess	Dec. 23, 2022-Jan. 16, 2023	Dec. 22, 2023-Jan. 15, 2024	Dec. 20, 2024-Jan 12, 2025	Dec 19, 2025-Jan 11, 2026
Winter Commencement	Jan 13, 2023	Jan. 12, 2024	Jan. 10, 2025	Jan 9, 2026
Spring Trimester Begins	Jan. 17, 2023	Jan. 16, 2024	Jan. 13, 2025	Jan 12, 2026
MLK Holiday	Jan. 16, 2023	Jan. 15, 2024	Jan. 20, 2025	Jan 19, 2026
Classes Resume			Jan. 21, 2025	Jan 20, 2026
Easter/Spring Break	April 7-10, 2023	March 29, 2024-April 1, 2024	April 18-21, 2025	Apr 3-6, 2026
Classes Resume	April 11, 2023	April 2, 2024	April 22, 2025	Apr 7, 2026
Spring Trimester Ends	April 28, 2023	April 25, 2024	April 25, 2025	Apr 23, 2026
Trimester Break	April 29, 2023-May 14, 2023	April 26, 2024-May 12, 2024	April 26, 2025-May 11, 2025	Apr 24, 2026-May 10, 2026
Summer Trimester Begins	May 15, 2023	May 13, 2024	May 12, 2025	May 11, 2026
Memorial Day Holiday	May 29, 2023	May 27, 2024	May 26, 2025	May 25, 2026
Classes Resume	May 30, 2023	May 28, 2024	May 27, 2025	May 26, 2026
Juneteenth Holiday	June 19, 2023	June 19, 2024	June 19, 2025	Jun 19, 2026
Classes Resume	June 20, 2023	June 20, 2024	June 20, 2025	Jun 22, 2026
Independence Day Holiday	July 4, 2023	July 4, 2024	July 4, 2025	July 3, 2026 (recognized)
Classes Resume	July 5, 2023	July 5, 2024	July 7, 2025	Jul 6, 2026
Summer Trimester Ends	Aug 25, 2023	Aug 23, 2024	Aug. 22, 2025	Aug 21, 2026
Trimester Break	Aug. 26, 2023-Sept. 10, 2023	Aug 24, 2024-Sept. 8, 2024	Aug. 23, 2025-Sept. 7, 2025	Aug 22, 2026-Sep 6, 2026
Labor Day Holiday	Sept. 4, 2023	Sept. 2, 2024	Sept. 1, 2025	Sept 7, 2026

Fall Commencement Sept. 8, 2023

Sept. 6, 2024

Sept. 5, 2025

Sep 4, 2026

ACADEMIC CALENDAR—SUMMER MATRICULATION

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Summer Trimester Begins	May 15, 2023	May 13, 2024	May 12, 2025	May 11, 2026
Memorial Day Holiday	May 29, 2023	May 27, 2024	May 26, 2025	May 25, 2026
Classes Resume	May 30, 2023	May 28, 2024	May 27, 2025	May 26, 2026
Juneteenth Holiday	June 19, 2023	June 19, 2024	June 19, 2025	Jun 19, 2026
Classes Resume	June 20, 2023	June 20, 2024	June 20, 2025	Jun 22, 2026
Independence Day Holiday	July 4, 2023	July 4, 2024	July 4, 2025	July 3, 2026 (recognized)
Classes Resume	July 5, 2023	July 5, 2024	July 7, 2025	Jul 6, 2026
Summer Trimester Ends	Aug 25, 2023	Aug 23, 2024	Aug. 22, 2025	Aug 21, 2026
Trimester Break	Aug. 26, 2023-Sept. 10, 2023	Aug 24, 2024-Sept. 8, 2024	Aug. 23, 2025-Sept. 7, 2025	Aug 22, 2026-Sep 6, 2026
Labor Day Holiday	Sept. 4, 2023	Sept. 2, 2024	Sept. 1, 2025	Sep 7, 2026
Fall Commencement	Sept. 8, 2023	Sept. 6, 2024	Sept. 5, 2025	Sep 4, 2026
Fall Trimester Begins	Sept. 11, 2023	Sept. 9, 2024	Sept 8, 2025	Sep 8, 2026
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 23-26, 2023	Nov. 28, 2024-Dec. 1, 2024	Nov 27-30, 2025	Nov 26-29, 2026
Classes Resume	Nov. 27, 2023	Dec. 2, 2024	Dec 1, 2025	Nov 30, 2026
Fall Trimester Ends	Dec. 21, 2023	Dec. 19, 2024	Dec 18, 2025	Dec 17, 2026
Holiday Recess	Dec. 22, 2023-Jan. 15, 2024	Dec. 20, 2024-Jan 12, 2025	Dec 19, 2025-Jan 11, 2026	Dec 18, 2026-Jan 10, 2027
Spring Trimester Begins	Jan. 16, 2024	Jan. 13, 2025	Jan 12, 2026	Jan 11, 2027
Winter Commencement	Jan. 12, 2024	Jan. 10, 2025	Jan 9, 2026	Jan 8, 2027
MLK Holiday	Jan 15, 2024	Jan 20, 2025	Jan. 19, 2026	Jan 18, 2027
Classes Resume		Jan 21, 2025	Jan. 20, 2026	Jan 19, 2027
Easter/Spring Break	Mar 29-Apr 1, 2024	Apr 18-21, 2025	Apr. 3-6, 2026	Mar 26-29, 2027
Classes Resume	April 2, 2024	Apr 22, 2025	April 7, 2026	Mar 30, 2027
Spring Trimester Ends	April 25, 2024	April 25, 2025	April 23, 2026	Apr 22, 2027-May 9, 2027
Trimester Break	April 26, 2024-May 12, 2024	Apr 26, 2025-May 11, 2025	Apr 25, 2026-May 10, 2026	May 10, 2027

