



Associate Degree in Funeral Service

Prepare for a rewarding career honoring life





Table of Contents

Why an Associate Degree in Funeral Service?	2
Meet the Program Director	4
Why Goodwin?	5
Course Formats	7
Admission Requirements and Curriculum	8
Financial Aid	9
Student Testimonials	10
Student Resources and Support	11



Provide compassion and support when families need it most

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

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

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



Prioritize dignity and respect

The funeral service industry is built on the concepts of dignity and respect, both for the living and the deceased.

Your responsibility as a funeral service professional is to lay the deceased to rest in a way that honors the life they lived and the impact they had on others. By showing reverence for the dead and compassion for their loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



Provide support to grieving families

The loss of a loved one can be overwhelming for some families, and the added stress of funeral arrangements can be extremely challenging.

As a funeral service professional, you'll aim to lighten that burden as much as possible by providing the necessary information, organizing services, and reassuring families that their loved ones will be treated with dignity and respect. By removing these barriers, you'll make it possible for families to grieve without worrying about logistics.



Gain experience in all areas of the field

Goodwin University's Funeral Service program will prepare you for diverse and rewarding opportunities.

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

Meet the Program Director, Jesse M. Gomes



Jesse Gomes earned his associate degree in Mortuary Science and his bachelor's and master's degrees in Biomolecular Science.

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

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



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

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

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

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

— *Jesse M. Gomes, Program Director*



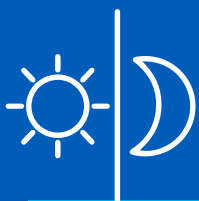
Earn your degree at Goodwin University



Gain experience with an internship

When earning your degree, there's nothing more valuable than hands-on training experiences.

At Goodwin University, our on-campus Funeral Service students participate in internships at funeral homes across the state. You'll work alongside trained professionals and gain first hand experience in embalming, restorative art, and business management. By the time you graduate, you'll be prepared to jump right into your career! Online students meet requirements through a final call-back and medical examiner shadowing.



Flexible class schedules

Your personal priorities are just as important as earning your degree.

We offer two flexible class pathways — online and on-campus — **so you can earn your degree in as few as 16 months!**



We put you first

At Goodwin University, we have a completely student-centered approach to learning.

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



We focus on career readiness

Pursuing an associate degree in Funeral Service can be a pathway to more fulfillment and better compensation in your career — that's why Goodwin University is committed to preparing you for success in your field.

Our curriculum is tailored to give you the skills and experience to excel in the field of Funeral Service. The hands-on experience you gain in our program will make you a more marketable job candidate once you graduate.





Course formats

When you start your career as a funeral service professional, it is critical that you are prepared with hands-on experience. That's why our Funeral Service program is offered in an entirely on-campus format. At Goodwin University, we understand that every student has different needs and responsibilities — that's why we offer two flexible pathways to earn your associate degree in Funeral Service:



On-campus classes

In-person training is essential to becoming a funeral service professional.

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



Fully online program

The fully online format allows you to complete your coursework remotely, at a pace that supports your lifestyle and commitments.

This program is **taught by practicing funeral directors**, so you'll benefit from **real-world insights and high-quality instruction** from experienced professionals. This pathway includes **one required on-campus call-back experience** during your final semester.

Admission requirements

Our associate degree in Funeral Service is a selective admission program. Admission is based on a point system, detailed by the Goodwin University catalog.

All general education and pre-requisite requirements must be completed prior to acceptance. Scan the QR code below to learn more.



Curriculum

Our comprehensive Funeral Service program prepares you to address a range of funeral service processes, from the initial pronouncement of death to the final disposition of the deceased.

Visit our website to explore the [classes in our Funeral Service curriculum](#).



Financial aid

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

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

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

Student testimonials



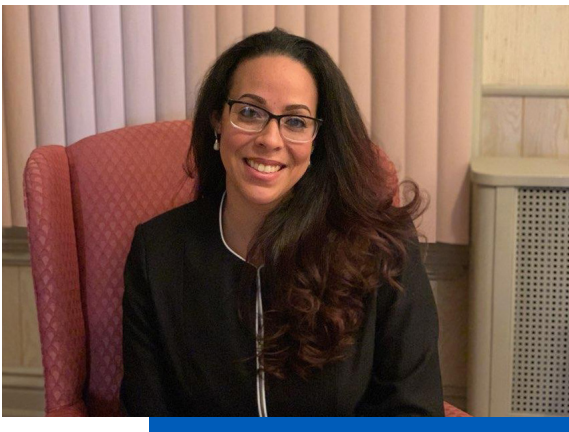
Goodwin is an excellent place to go if you want to be a funeral director! The professors, who all work in the field, show you everything you need to do to be successful. I graduated well prepared for my licensing exams and for my career.

— *James Integlia*



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

— *Molly Vargo*



My experiences with the professors at Goodwin were fantastic. Their knowledge and personal experiences allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the profession. Program Director Jesse Gomes' excitement while teaching was incredibly infectious — you couldn't help but stay engaged during class. He has a unique ability to break down and explain seemingly complicated subject matters in fun ways to be easily remembered.

— *Lauren Gee*



Student resources and support

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

Academic Resources

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Registrar's Office](#)

Academic Support

- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Tutoring](#)

College Experience

- [Clubs and Organizations](#)
- [Student Engagement](#)

Professional Development

- [Lifetime Career Services](#)

Personal Support Services

- [Ann B. Clark Co-op](#)
- [Counseling](#)
- [Disability and Access Services](#)



©2025 Goodwin University
One Riverside Drive
East Hartford, CT 06118



Contact us today!

Call: 800-889-3282

goodwin.edu/funeralservice

Goodwin University is a nonprofit institution of higher education and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

For more information about [program-specific accreditations](#), visit us online today.