

MORTUARY SCIENCE

It takes a strong person to take on the responsibility of dealing with death and deceased bodies, but it is a very rewarding study. Morticians and funeral directors are careers that deal directly with these things. Mortuary Science is the program that leads to these types of jobs. Though not flashy careers, they are still very important to society. You'll need both a background in science as well as an understanding of human interaction. Wayne State will provide you with both. You'll study biology and learn how to interact with families who have lost loved ones. With the Mortuary Science degree program, you'll be well prepared for a future career in hospitals and funeral homes. You know it will be tough sometimes, but Wayne State is here to provide you with the tools and training you need to take on a sometimes difficult but very rewarding job.

fast facts

Credit hours: 83-85

Students must also take 30 credit hours of General Studies courses. A total of 120 credit hours are needed to graduate from WSC. Additional majors or minors can be added to help meet graduation requirements.

Degree options: B.A. or B.S.

Department: Life Sciences

School: Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

Popular pairings: Chemistry, Human Services

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Evolutionary processes
- Human anatomy and physiology
- Biological systems and structures
- Experimental plant science
- Microbiology
- Molecular genetics
- General and organic chemistry
- Research, data collection, and analysis
- Modern lab techniques
- Understanding of death and grief processes

Possible Careers

- Mortician
- Mortuary assistant
- Autopsy technician
- Funeral home director
- Funeral service manager
- Undertaker
- Embalmer
- Medical examiner
- Grief counselor
- Mortuary science educator

Types of Employers

- Funeral homes
- Counseling centers
- Hospitals and medical clinics
- City or county morgues
- Crematoriums
- Funeral home supply companies
- Embalming chemical companies
- Mortuary science schools

outside the classroom



Visit www.wsc.edu/clubs to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.

Activities / Opportunities

- Peer mentoring and tutoring
- Service-Learning
- Study Abroad

Clubs / Organizations

- Active Minds
- Biology Club
- Health Science Club

Courses and outcomes

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Program courses

For CAT 3, take MAT 121 College Algebra. For CAT 5, take PSY 101 General Psychology.

Life Sciences Core Courses

BIO 110 Biology Concepts.....	4
CHE 106 General Chemistry I.....	4
PHY 321 Physics Laboratory I.....	1
Select one of the following.....	3-4
PHY 201 General Physics I (3)	
PHY 301 University Physics I (4)	

Mortuary Science Concentration Courses

BIO 220 Human Anatomy.....	4
BIO 320 Molecular Genetics.....	4
BIO 340 Human Physiology.....	4
BUS 240 Accounting I.....	3
BUS 241 Accounting II.....	3
CHE 107 General Chemistry II.....	4
CHE 208 Introductory Organic Chemistry.....	4
Upper-level electives.....	6
Select one of the following.....	3
HUS 202 Introduction to Human Services (3)	
PSY 316 Social Psychology (3)	
PSY 406 Death and Dying (3)	
Select two of the following.....	6-7
BIO 385 Microbiology (4)	
BUS 222 Business Law I (3)	
HUS 202 Introduction to Human Services (3)	
PSY 316 Social Psychology (3)	
PSY 406 Death and Dying (3)	
SOC 415 The Family (3)	

Clinical Year

The final (clinical) year consists of 30 credit hours at an affiliated mortuary science school.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will be able to interpret core concepts in biology
2. Students will be able to apply concepts in biology to internships and/or student research
3. Students will be able to accurately communicate core concepts in biology

life sciences faculty



Visit www.wsc.edu/life-sciences-department to learn more about the Department of Life Sciences.

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