

MORS 141

Mortuary Law and Practices I

2 Credits (2 Lecture hours per week)

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

MORS 141 – Mortuary Law and Practices I: introduces the student to sources of law; covers state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to a funeral service and the legal aspects of being a licensed funeral director/mortician. Offered in the Fall semester only.

Pre-requisites: MORS 106, BIOL 130, BIOL 245, and BIOL 252 with a C or better

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify legal relationships, rights, duties, and liabilities between the funeral director and/or embalmer, the dead body, and the consumer;
2. explain the legal issues in order to avoid liability;
3. identify the federal and state laws, rules and regulations affecting funeral service;
4. identify the various documents which are required in funeral service; and
5. recognize situations when legal and other professional services are required for death planning and estate administration.

Major Topics

- I. Funeral service mortuary law
 - a. Sources of funeral service law
 - b. The dead human body (corpse)
 - c. Property and Property rights in a dead human body
 - d. Obligations of final disposition
 - e. Duty of decent burial
 - f. Right to control final disposition
 - g. Liability for funeral expenses
 - h. Torts involving the dead human body
 - i. Other torts involving the funeral director
 - j. Mental anguish
 - k. Convents not to compete
 - l. Bailee-bailor relationship
 - m. The funeral establishment
 - n. Cemeteries
 - o. Disinterment (exhumation)
 - p. Cremation
- II. Probate law
 - a. Wills

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- b. Intestacy
- c. Administration of the Estate
- III. State statues, rules, regulations – vary from state to state
 - a. Funeral director/embalmer shall not exceed limitations as prescribed by the state
 - b. Transportation of the dead
 - c. Qualifications for funeral director/mortician/embalmer/practitioner license
 - d. Grounds for revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew or issue licenses
 - e. Requirements for conducting funerals
 - f. Vital statistics
 - g. Regulatory agency procedures
 - h. Reciprocity, endorsement, and courtesy cards
- IV. Federal statues, rules, and regulations which impact funeral service
 - a. ADA, OSHA, FTC
 - b. Fair Labor Standards Act 0 wage and hour law
 - c. Fair Credit Reporting
 - d. EPA
 - e. Truth-In-Lending
 - f. Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act
 - g. EEOC
 - h. Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Final examinations in all Mortuary Science classes will be comprehensive. There will be no extra credit given in any Mortuary Science Class.

A = 92 – 100	Test I	20%
B = 85 – 91	Test II	20%
C = 78 – 84	Test III	20%
D = 70 – 77	Test IV	20%
F = 0 – 69	Comprehensive Final	<u>20%</u>
		100%

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is a requirement for an Associate in Applied Science in the Mortuary Science Curriculum, which, in the State of Maryland, is required to sit for the National Board Examination (NBE). The NBE is implemented by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (www.CFSEB.org). The Mortuary Science Program is statewide designated by the Maryland State Board of Higher Education and is nationally accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (www.CFSEB.org).

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Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.

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