



STRATFORD CAREER INSTITUTE

— *GUIDE TO* FUNERAL DIRECTOR TRAINING —

THE STRATFORD CAREER INSTITUTE'S

Guide to Funeral Director Training

CONTENTS

What is a Funeral Director?.....2

Funeral Director Salary and Responsibilities.....4

How to Become a Funeral Director.....6

What You Need to Know About Funeral Director School Online.....8

WHAT IS A FUNERAL DIRECTOR?

Also referred to as an undertaker or a mortician, a funeral director manages a funeral home and arranges the details for funerals.

While funeral directors, undertakers, and morticians are technically different jobs, many workplaces combine these jobs under the title of “funeral director.”

Overall, funeral directors are responsible for the daily management of a funeral home and organizing the logistics and details of funerals or supervising the staff that does so.

A funeral director’s job is to make the funeral as easy and painless for the surviving loved ones as possible.

What do Funeral Directors do?

When there they are not managing the details of a specific funeral, a funeral director is responsible for managing a funeral home or crematory. This can include supervising and training staff, discussing funeral plans with those who want to plan ahead, and maintaining financial records.

If you are interested in working in a funeral home, the Stratford Career Institute [Funeral Service Education](#) course can help prepare you to work alongside a funeral director.

What do Funeral Directors do Before a Funeral?

Before a funeral, a funeral director or their staff can be responsible for many details such as:

- Arranging transportation of the deceased
- Preparing the body
- Working with loved ones to arrange the funeral service
- Handling legal documentation
- Sending obituaries
- Answering any questions about what they can help with

What do Funeral Directors do During and After a Funeral?

A funeral director’s job is not just limited to arranging the details before a service. They are often discretely present at funerals and visitations, and their job does not end when the last guest leaves. Funeral directors should:

- Be present at funerals and visitations to handle any complications
- Ensure respectful disposal of the deceased in accordance with personal or loved ones’ wishes
- Handle any appropriate paperwork the family needs completed
- Follow up with the family as needed

Paperwork can be an extremely important part of a funeral director's job. Some funeral directors or their staff may draft obituaries, submit paperwork to the state, help resolve insurance claims, notify federal insurance agencies, and request death certificates.

Working in a Funeral Home

Working in a funeral home can be stressful.

Many funerals happen quickly after a death, meaning that staff have to arrange funerals on tight deadlines with little notice. Working at a funeral home can often mean working nights and weekends, as you need to be available when clients need you.

Funeral directors need to be very respectful and sympathetic to the clients that they work with. Many times, the clients that funeral directors work with are grieving. Funeral directors and other staff need to be prepared to empathize and help guide mourning family members through the grieving process.

Learn More About Working in a Funeral Home

If you want to work in a funeral home, the [Funeral Service Education](#) can help you prepare for a career of working for a funeral director.

Or, browse the [course catalog](#) to find a course that interests you and enroll today!

A FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SALARY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Funeral directors work with mourning families to ensure that funerals or memorial services are carried out according to the family's and the deceased's wishes.

They help organize all parts of the services to ensure that the funeral process is as painless as possible for the grieving family. Funeral directors are also responsible for filing paperwork regarding the death. Depending on the workplace, they may also supervise staff or have administrative responsibilities.

If you are interested in learning more about working in a funeral home, then the Stratford Career Institute [Funeral Service Education](#) course can help you begin to prepare for your future.

Funeral Director Salary

The salary of a funeral director can depend on many things, including if the funeral director also works as a mortician or undertaker, the type of workplace, where the workplace is located, the funeral director's responsibilities and a funeral director's experience and education.

According to the [United States Department of Labor](#), the average funeral director salary in May 2017 was \$51,850 per year.

From self-reported salary data of 602 current funeral directors, [Indeed](#) found that the average salary for a funeral director was \$55,464 per year in November 2018.

Similarly, [Sokanu](#) used user reported data and found that the average hourly wage of a funeral director is \$25.08 and that funeral director salaries typically range between \$26,722 and \$80,185.

Funeral Director Responsibilities

The responsibilities of a funeral director will vary depending on the type of workplace that a funeral director works in.

Overall, funeral director responsibilities revolve around making sure that services are properly arranged.

A funeral director's responsibilities commonly include:

- Arranging transportation of the deceased
- Working with loved ones to plan a funeral
- Placing death notices where appropriate
- Arranging for the presence of clergy at services
- Arranging for and organizing special tributes
- Filing paperwork with state, federal and local governments as needed
- Completing musical requests
- Ordering and displaying flowers

- Organizing pallbearers
- Arranging thank you cards
- Handling death certificates
- Helping the deceased's heirs file for benefits
- Providing excellent customer service
- Supervising staff
- Being ready to support the family in way they can

If the job of mortician falls under the "funeral director" title, then a funeral director's responsibilities may also include preparing the deceased. This can include embalming or cremating the body.

In order to be successful in carrying out their responsibilities, many funeral directors need to be available at night and during weekends, sympathetic to grieving families, strong communicators, highly organized, and able to follow detailed instructions.

To learn more about working in funeral homes, take the Stratford Career Institute [Funeral Service Education](#) course. Or, browse the [course catalog](#) and enroll today.

HOW TO BECOME A FUNERAL DIRECTOR

A funeral director, also sometimes referred to as a mortician or undertaker, is the person who runs a funeral home and helps arrange funerals.

In order to become a funeral director, it is ideal to first learn more about working in a funeral home as well as about experience, education, and apprenticeships.

However, in many cases, these steps to become a funeral director do not have to be completed in this exact order. Additionally, different states have varying requirements for how to become a funeral director.

Learn About Working in a Funeral Home

Before you start working in a funeral home, it could be helpful to get an idea of what it is like to work in a funeral home.

One way that you can get this knowledge is by talking to funeral directors in your area. This can help you build connections in the industry and decide if working in a funeral home is right for you. Additionally, a funeral director may be able to give you tips on how to become a funeral director in your state.

You can also get an idea of how to be a funeral director by taking the Stratford Career Institute [Funeral Service Education](#) course.

Get Experience Working in a Funeral Home

It is important for you to get relevant experience in working at a funeral home. This experience will look good to future employers, as well as help you decide if you can cope with the stress of working in a funeral home. Depending on your area, you may be able to find a job assisting in a funeral home that you can do while you work on your education.

Get a Formal Education

Usually, you need a formal education to become a funeral director. Getting a degree in a field like mortuary sciences can help you get an apprenticeship and eventually get licensed to work as a funeral director.

Before fully committing to becoming a funeral director, it is important to assess if it is a good fit and to learn more about the career. Stratford Career Institute offers a course that provides just that.

Depending on the state in which you live or work, you may have to complete particular educational requirements and/or get licensed as well.

Complete an Apprenticeship

On-the-job experience can best be attained by completing an apprenticeship. During an apprenticeship, you work alongside a professional funeral service director to learn from them.

Start Your Career in Funeral Service Education

If you want to start your path towards becoming a funeral director, let Stratford Career Institute first help you learn what is involved by taking our [Funeral Service Education](#) course. Or browse the [course catalog](#) to find a class that interests you.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FUNERAL DIRECTOR SCHOOL ONLINE

If you are interested in becoming a funeral director, you are likely wondering about your education options.

For some people, attending classes isn't realistic. With families and work, it can be difficult to work toward other career goals.

In that case, home study or online learning could be a great option for you.

Here, we will talk about the benefits of online classes and how they work.

Stratford Career Institute offers a course that can prepare you to work alongside a funeral director. Take a look at the curriculum for our [Funeral Service Education](#) course to learn more.

Why Should I take Online Classes?

There are several benefits to taking online classes including the affordability, ability to learn at your own pace, ability to fit the course in your schedule, convenience of learning from anywhere, career preparation, variety of classes, and skill development that Stratford Career Institute courses can offer you.

For example, when you learn online, it could save you money, allow you to learn at your own pace and on your own schedule, let you learn from home and help you prepare for a career of working in a funeral home.

AFFORDABILITY

Taking online classes could also help you save money. Distance-learning means that you don't have to worry about the costs associated with in-person classes like transportation, parking, and campus fees. At Stratford Career Institute, your tuition fee covers everything you need to complete the course.

ABILITY TO LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE

Stratford Career Institute courses can be completed at your own pace. You do not have to worry about what material a teacher is focusing on that week or be held back by classmates. If you need a bit more time to fully grasp a concept, you can take that time.

The [Funeral Service Education](#) course can be completed in as few as 6 months, but you can also take your time and finish the course in two years.

You could start your journey today!

FREEDOM TO COMPLETE REQUIREMENTS ON YOUR OWN SCHEDULE

Besides being able to learn at your own pace, distance learning with Stratford Career Institute can give you the freedom to fit courses in your schedule easily.

Instead of having to plan your life around going to campus for class, you can fit the courses into your busy life. You can choose to schedule your learning in whatever way works best for you, empowering you to decide if you want to set aside a couple of hours to learn every week, or dedicate specific weekends to your course.

CONVENIENCE OF LEARNING FROM ANYWHERE

Taking online courses allows you to complete your work from anywhere. You can learn from home in your pajamas, or at your favorite coffee shop. All you need is access to your study materials and you can learn.

Distance learning lets you avoid having to sit in an environment that does not allow you to learn, such as overcrowded lecture halls. This course can allow you to work on your online course from the comfort of your own home.

CAREER PREPARATION

Stratford Career Institute courses are designed to help you gain an educational foundation about a particular career path that you can later use to help you achieve your career goals.

With Stratford Career Institute, you can learn usable, practical knowledge. Unlike other schools, Stratford Career Institute does not have students take classes that are not directly related their career goals.

For example, with the Funeral Service Education distance learning course, students only learn material that is directly related to working in a funeral home.

VARIETY OF CLASSES

Stratford Career Institute offers over 60 different [courses](#), so no matter what you are interested in learning about, we likely have a course for you. Distance learning allows you to take vocational courses that may not be offered in person in a location that is convenient to you.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Taking distance learning courses can help you develop self-discipline and computer literacy skills.

Learning at your own pace takes self-discipline to make sure you get your assignments done. You can also increase your familiarity with computers by accessing your online learning materials. These skills can later help you with time management and carrying out your responsibilities in your workplace.

How do Online Classes Work?

ENROLL AND MAKE THE DOWN PAYMENT

Your first step to taking classes at Stratford Career Institute is to enroll in the course that you wish to take and make the minimum down payment for that course. After your enrollment is processed, your first module will become available to you online or shipped to you, depending on the course.

You can enroll by visiting the web page of the course of your choice, such as the [Funeral Service Education](#) course, and clicking “enroll now.” Then, follow the instructions.

COMPLETE COURSE ON YOUR OWN PACE

After receiving your module, it is time to start learning at your own pace and on your own schedule.

Your course materials can include reading assignments, student assignment booklets, exams, visual aids and more.

If you have any questions, you can contact your course’s teachers as needed by email and by toll-free phone call.

TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS

After you are done learning the material, send in your exams and assignments to be graded. After you pass a module, you will be able to move on to the next one. When you complete all of your assignments, pass all of your exams, and complete your tuition payments, you will be done with the course.

If you want to experience the benefits of online courses, get started toward your career path, and start learning, enroll today in a Stratford Career Institute course today.

