

Business & Accounting:

Mortuary Science



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A career that is impactful and fulfilling.

This is a highly rewarding career path for many who enjoy being able to work closely with people to honor their last wishes, provide grief services, and plan life celebrations. Pursuing a job in funeral services not only teaches you about working with the deceased, but you will also learn a wealth of information on running a business and offering the kind of support that family members need.

Thiel College's Mortuary Science track is a cooperative program offered through the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS).

Students spend their first five semesters of this joint venture completing a variety of courses in accounting, business management, statistics, business communication, and economics, followed by three trimesters at PIMS. Upon completion, students earn a B.A. in Business Administration from Thiel and a diploma in funeral directing and embalming from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

"Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others."

Martin Luther King Jr. | Minister, activist, and political philosopher

Funeral service management is a fulfilling and important career path. Those who work in this field have the privilege of helping families in grief while paying tribute to those who have departed.

Here are a few of things you can do with a business management degree with a mortuary science certificate:

- **Family Service Counselor** - Family service counselors in funeral homes provide advice to bereaved families and help them make burial arrangements. They maintain positive communications regarding the burial process and often use their counseling expertise to help overwhelmed members cope with the loss. Annual salaries in Pittsburgh typically range from **\$38,300** to **\$50,100**.
- **Funeral Sales Associate** - Funeral sales jobs focus on helping individuals with pre-planning funeral and burial arrangements. You assist a client with decisions regarding the service, help handle any potential issues with insurance, and more. Annual salaries for a sales trainee in Pittsburgh typically range from **\$55,910** to **\$75,490**.
- **Funeral Director** - Makes funeral arrangements; prepares remains; consults with the deceased's family; manages paperwork and legal documents. Annual average base salaries in Pittsburgh range from **\$59,930** to **\$75,826**.
- **Embalmer** - An embalmer prepares bodies of the deceased for funeral services, burials, and cremations. A mix of art and science, the act of embalming must be administered for legal, medical, and personal purposes. The average annual salary in Pittsburgh is around **\$43,164**.
- **Mortuary Inspector** - An employee in this job conducts inspections of funeral homes to ensure adherence with state laws and regulations. Work includes issuing warnings and citations for violations, referring establishments or individuals to the professional compliance office for formal action and testifying at related hearings. Average salaries in Pittsburgh range from **\$45,489** to **\$58,795**.

Here are some exciting things you'll get to do in our program:

At Thiel College, the bachelor's degree and diploma courses prepare students to:

- Gain admission into PIMS
- Sit for the State Board of Exam for Funeral Directors.
- Perform basic business management functions.
- Gain experience in resolving ethical dilemmas faced by business managers.
- Demonstrate effective communication in oral and written forms in the field.
- Cultivate interpersonal skills and learn to be a valuable member of a team.
- Network with distinguished business alumni.

If you envision yourself being of service to people during some of their most trying times, and you want a career where you can make a profound difference, a career in funeral service management might be the best investment you could make in yourself.

You can afford to attend Thiel College. We have given out over \$22 million in scholarships since 2023. Contact an admissions counselor to learn about scholarship opportunities.

** Salary.com May 2024. Salary ranges can vary widely depending on many important factors, including education, certifications, additional skills, the number of years you have spent in your profession.

