



The Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

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Welcome. You are beginning this next step towards becoming licensed as an embalmer and funeral director or a funeral director. We are here to help you along the way with support and encouragement.

This is the regulatory board that will issue the license for you to practice. Once all the requirements have been met as outlined within the regulations, a license will be issued. It is your responsibility to get the correct information regarding a license. You should not rely on information other than this office for licensing.

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions or concerns. This office is here to guide and assist you with licensing and to help you with the regulations.

www.abfse.org will have a listing of all accredited mortuary programs. Check with any program to find one that will accommodate your needs. Many programs can be completed online. Please review the requirements.

Most credits earned from one institution or mortuary program can be transferred to another institution or mortuary program by a review of a transcript. Contact the educational program you wish to transfer to and inquire about transfer credits.

You should review the credentials of the educational program and the instructors as well as policies and guidelines.

PLEASE NOTE: This board does not have any type of relationship with educational institutions or any instructors. This board does not endorse, sponsor, support, or assist an educational program other than enforcing regulations for licensing. Please contact this office if there are any questions concerning the reference of this board for the benefit of an educational program.

The board encourages you, as a prospective licensee, to attend board meetings. Board meeting information is available on the website, and you can call the office. By attending board meetings, you will have the chance to meet with board members, staff, and other licensees where you can ask questions and discuss topics, options, and concerns. Board meetings are one of the best ways to learn about the funeral profession in Louisiana. You are also welcome to stop by the office any time.

The following pages are a guide to assist with both types of internships.

Internship Outline

- 1 Employment must be with a Louisiana licensed funeral home.
- 2 Complete an internship application; one of the following.
 - a. Embalmer and Funeral director – See 3; a-g
 - b. Funeral director – See 4; a-g
- 3 **Embalmer and Funeral Director**
 - a. Enrolled or plan to enroll in an ABFSE accredited mortuary school/program; if completed/graduated, submit the certified official transcript as soon as possible.
 - b. May start internship prior to taking courses or while taking courses.
 - c. May work part time or full time.

1560 hours are required for completion of internship – these hours are the equivalent to; a minimum of approximately 6.5 hours per week for 48 months or a maximum of 40 hours per week for 9 months.
 - d. Two-thirds of the hours may be fulfilled prior to completing the courses – once two-thirds of the hours have been reached the internship credit hours will cease until courses have been completed and a certified transcript has been received. Once the courses have been verified as completed by a certified official transcript, the internship can resume for the remaining two-thirds of the hours and credit will be applied. $2/3$ of $1560 = 1170$ which leaves the remaining $1/3$ of $1560 = 390$. *The internship can continue when the two-thirds (1170) of the hours have been reached as this will allow for a continuation of practice and acquiring experience while the remaining educational requirement is achieved, however, no credit will be counted during the ceased period.* If the course requirements have been completed as evidenced by a certified official transcript prior to the start of the internship, then the internship will not be interrupted by the two thirds (2/3) mark.
 - e. 60 cases MUST be documented = 30 for embalming and 30 for funeral directing.
 - f. Reports are required to be submitted monthly. The monthly reports are available upon the website under forms/internships. These monthly reports outline cases and hours that are required to be submitted. Monthly reports are required to be submitted no later than the 10th day following the previous month, example; July report is due to be submitted by August 10th. Late or missing reports will NOT earn or count for credit regardless of reason.
 - g. PLEASE NOTE: This board does not have the authority to authorize permission for the NBE. This permission MUST be granted by the attending mortuary program.
- 4 **Funeral Director**
 - a. Enrolled or plan to enroll in a SACS or equivalent accredited institution or an ABFSE accredited mortuary school offering a funeral directing certificate program; if completed/graduated, submit the certified official transcript as soon as possible.
 - b. May start internship prior to taking courses or while taking courses.
 - c. May work part time or full time

1560 hours are required for completion of internship – these hours are the equivalent

to; a minimum of approximately 6.5 hours per week for 48 months or a maximum of 40 hours per week for 9 months.

- d. Two-thirds of the hours may be fulfilled prior to completing the courses – once two-thirds of the hours have been reached the internship credit hours will cease until courses have been completed and a certified transcript has been received. Once the courses have been verified as completed by a certified official transcript, the internship can resume for the remaining two-thirds of the hours and credit will be applied. $2/3$ of $1560 = 1170$ which leaves the remaining $1/3$ of $1560 = 390$. *The internship can continue when the two-thirds (1170) of the hours have been reached as this will allow for a continuation of practice and acquiring experience while the remaining educational requirement is achieved, however, no credit will be counted during the ceased period.* If the course requirements have been completed as evidenced by a certified official transcript prior to the start of the internship, then the internship will not be interrupted by the two thirds ($2/3$) mark.
- e. 30 funeral directing cases MUST be documented.
- f. Reports are required to be submitted monthly. The monthly reports are available on the website under forms/internships. These monthly reports outline cases and hours that are required to be submitted. Monthly reports are required to be submitted no later than the 10th day following the previous month, example; the July report is due to be submitted by August 10th. Late or missing reports will NOT earn or count for credit regardless of reason.
- g. Once an internship has been registered, The Conference will be immediately notified of your eligibility to take the required examination. You will immediately be able to take this exam when you are ready to do so.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR ALL INTERSHIPS

Email is the preferable form of communication and submission of monthly reports, please scan and attach to email. Once the email has been received, a reply will be made acknowledging receipt.

hpenouilh@lsbefd.state.la.us or kmichel@lsbefd.state.la.us

Please review the minimum requirements regulation for licensing as well as the FAQs – these are attached for your convenience.

All internships are monitored for the minimum requirements only.

A certified/official transcript is required. A copy of a transcript(s) can be reviewed for acceptable courses however, those courses will not be confirmed in lieu of an official certified transcript. If a transcript is to be emailed from the educational institution, the email MUST be sent directly to either email outlined above. The transcript MUST be verified by this office via the email notification.

Prior work history at a funeral home before applying for an internship will not be accepted. An internship application MUST be submitted prior to the start of an internship.

Please review the FAQs for educational requirements and explanation of accreditation.

It is advised that you contact this office for verification of an acceptable educational program prior to starting the program to ensure that it will be accepted. There are many programs/courses available that are for continuing educational purposes only and those program coordinators will not guide you as to a specific state's regulations/requirements. **CONTACT THE STATE BOARD FOR PROPER INFORMATION.**

A supervisor must be named on the application. A signed verification form will be required by the supervisor.

An intern may change employment from one LA licensed funeral establishment to another LA licensed funeral establishment and credit earned will not be lost. A notification **MUST** be sent to this office in writing with the date of leave, date of start at new employment and the name of the new supervisor. You will not have to re-start an internship.

Reports are required to be submitted monthly. Any report that is delinquent or late will not earn credit for that month regardless of reason.

It is the responsibility of the intern to ensure that reports are sent in a timely manner. It is **NOT** the supervisor's responsibility to send in reports.

REMEMBER: IT IS YOUR INTERNSHIP, and you are responsible for maintaining the process of the internship.

As a future licensee, it is your responsibility to read and review the regulations thoroughly and frequently for compliance.

Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

RS 37:842

§842. Minimum qualifications for license

A. Qualifications for a funeral director license. Any applicant is qualified for a license as a funeral director if he meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Is at least eighteen years of age.
- (2) Has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (3) Is found by the board to be of good moral character and temperate habits.
- (4) Has successfully completed a minimum of thirty semester hours in an accredited college or university as evidenced by a certified copy of the transcript of the college or university. The minimum subject hours shall include twenty-one semester hours of the basic freshman courses, which include but are not limited to the following: English, mathematics, bookkeeping, accounting, business mathematics, psychology, history, science, business administration, biology, economics, chemistry, and marketing or such other minimum hours as the law may provide. Remedial classes and courses such as music, the arts, physical education, and sports shall not be considered as accepted courses.
- (5) Has served an internship in the state of Louisiana for a period of not less than nine months, or thirty-nine weeks, and not more than forty-eight months, or two hundred eight weeks, has actively assisted in at least thirty funerals, and has completed at least one thousand five hundred sixty contact hours during the internship period. A funeral director intern may receive credit for up to two-thirds of the internship requirement prior to the completion of thirty semester hours.
- (6) Has paid the application fee required by R.S. 37:845.
- (7) Passes satisfactorily an examination conducted by the board relative to the practice of the profession of funeral directing as defined in R.S. 37:831.

B. Qualifications for an embalmer and funeral director license. Any applicant is qualified for license as an embalmer and funeral director if he meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Meets the requirements set forth in Paragraphs (A)(1), (2), (3), and (6) of this Section for funeral directors.
- (2) Has successfully completed a full course in the science of embalming and the profession of funeral directing at an accredited school recognized by the board.
- (3) Passes satisfactorily an examination conducted by the board relative to the practice of the science of embalming and the profession of funeral directing as defined in R.S. 37:831.
- (4) Has served an internship in the state of Louisiana for a period of not less than nine months, or thirty-nine weeks, and not more than forty-eight months, or two hundred eight weeks, actively assisted in at least thirty embalming operations and thirty funerals and completed at least one thousand five hundred sixty contact hours during the internship period. An embalmer and funeral director intern may receive credit for up to two-thirds of the internship requirement prior to graduating from an accredited school recognized by the board.

C. Licensure by endorsement. Any applicant is qualified for license as an embalmer and funeral director or funeral director by endorsement in this state if he meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Holds a license in good standing issued by another state, province, or jurisdiction recognized by the board that is substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state and who meets the requirements of this Chapter.
- (2) Meets all of the requirements of Paragraphs (A)(1), (2), (3), and (6) of this Section for an embalmer and funeral director or funeral director license.
- (3) Has worked for a period of not less than three months within the state of Louisiana under the authority of a temporary license.

D. Qualifications for an embalmer and funeral director temporary license. Any applicant is qualified for an embalmer and funeral director temporary license by endorsement in this state if he meets the requirements of Paragraphs (A)(1), (2), (3), and (6) of this Section and furnishes the board with all of the following:

- (1) Proof that he holds a valid embalmer and funeral director license in good standing from another state, province, or jurisdiction recognized by the board. The board may waive this requirement in those cases

where the recognized state, province, or jurisdiction does not license embalmers or funeral directors.

(2) Proof that he has graduated from an accredited program in mortuary science recognized by the board.

(3) Proof that he has passed a nationally recognized examination.

(4) Proof that he has practiced the science of embalming and the profession of funeral directing for a period of not less than one year during the prior three-year period.

(5) Proof in the form of a statement that all of the following are true:

(a) No proceeding has been instituted against the applicant for the cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the license in the state, province, or jurisdiction that issued the license.

(b) No prosecution is pending against the applicant in a state or federal court for an offense that, under the laws of this state, is a felony or is a misdemeanor related to the science of embalming or the profession of funeral directing.

(c) The qualifications made in the application for licensure in this state are correct.

E. Qualifications for a funeral director temporary license. Any applicant is qualified for a funeral director temporary license by endorsement in this state if he meets the requirements of Paragraphs (A)(1), (2), (3), and (6) of this Section and furnishes the board with all of the following:

(1) Proof that he holds a valid funeral director license in good standing from another state, province, or jurisdiction recognized by the board. The board may waive this requirement in those cases where the recognized state, province, or jurisdiction does not license funeral directors.

(2) Proof that he has passed a recognized examination.

(3) Proof that he has practiced the profession of funeral directing for a period of not less than one year during the prior three-year period.

(4) Proof in the form of a statement that all of the following are true:

(a) No proceeding has been instituted against the applicant for the cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the license in the state, province, or jurisdiction that issued the license.

(b) No prosecution is pending against the applicant in a state or federal court for an offense that, under the laws of this state, is a felony or is a misdemeanor related to the science of embalming or the profession of funeral directing.

(c) The qualifications made in the application for licensure in this state are correct.

F. Any establishment where the business of funeral directing or embalming as defined in R.S. 37:831 is conducted within this state shall be duly licensed. An establishment shall be qualified to be licensed to operate as such if it meets all of the following requirements:

(1) It is managed or is to be managed by a funeral director holding a valid license, other than a temporary license, from the state of Louisiana. The funeral director shall manage the establishment on a full-time basis and funeral directing shall be his principal occupation.

(2) Embalming is performed only by an embalmer and funeral director holding a valid license from the state of Louisiana or a registered intern under the supervision of a state-licensed embalmer and funeral director.

(3)(a) It is found, after proper investigation to meet the requirements established by the board with respect to all of the following:

(i) Licensed personnel, including those working under the authority of a temporary license.

(ii) Registered interns.

(iii) Embalming facilities for the sanitation, disinfection, and preparation of a human body.

(iv) Adequate buildings.

(v) Display rooms for displaying funeral merchandise consisting of, but not limited to a minimum of six adult caskets of a variety of styles and quality.

(vi) Other necessary facilities, furnishings, and equipment to adequately serve the public.

(b) The embalming facilities and display rooms described in this Paragraph are required in every funeral establishment that is not a branch establishment.

(4) Furnishes such further information as the board may require regarding its qualifications and operations.

(5) Makes payment to the board of the fee required by R.S. 37:845.

G. Licenses issued pursuant to Subsection F of this Section shall be for a specific name and location, and amended from time to time to show any change of name or location upon the payment of a charge equaling a license renewal fee.

H. Every license issued hereunder shall be signed by the president and secretary of the board, and bear the imprint of the board's seal. The board shall register each license holder as being duly licensed for the purpose covered by such license.

Acts 1958, No. 28, §1; Acts 1963, No. 12, §1; Acts 1966, No. 19, §1, eff. June 15, 1966 at 10:30 A.M.; Acts 1974, No. 3, §2; Acts 1977, No. 283, §2; Acts 1990, No. 415, §1, eff. Sept. 1, 1990; Acts 2010, No. 372, §1; Acts 2014, No. 264, §1; Acts 2015, No. 25, §1; Acts 2020, No. 329, §1, eff. June 12, 2020.



Educational requirements for licensure

You may refer to the regulations section of the website – LA R.S. 37:842 – Minimum Qualifications for License and under the regulations tab for Internships

The LSBEFD does not participate in scholarships, funding, or assistance with tuition for education.

INTERNSHIPS MUST be registered with the LSBEFD before credit will be given for any practice. PRIOR work history at a funeral home will NOT be considered for an internship.

What are the recognized accreditation credentials accepted by the LSBEFD?

Mortuary Colleges/Schools/Programs must be accredited by the following;

ABFSE – American Board of Funeral Service Education

Colleges/Universities/Institutions must be accredited by the following;

SACS - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges

Equivalent to SACS:

MSA – Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education

NWCCU – Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

NCA-HLC – North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Higher Learning Commission

NCA-CASI – North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, Board of Trustees

NEASC-CIHE - New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., Commission on Institutions of Higher Education

NEASC-CTCI – New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., Commission on Technical and Career Institutions

WASC-ACCJU – Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

WASC-ACSCU – Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Please contact this office if you have a question regarding the accreditation of a school/program. A school/program may be accredited, but it may not be accredited by the above associations. Schools/programs that do not carry the credentials listed above cannot be accepted by this Board.

For a funeral director only license, what are the minimum course requirements from a SACS accredited or equivalent university?

The minimum subject hours shall include twenty-one semester hours of the basic freshman courses which include but are not limited to the following: English, mathematics, accounting, bookkeeping, business mathematics, psychology, history, science, business administration, biology, chemistry, economics, and

marketing or such other hours as the law may require. *Remedial classes and courses such as music, the arts, physical education, and sports shall not be considered as accepted courses.* LA R.S. 37:842 (A)(4).

Can a funeral directing certificate course/program be accepted in lieu of the SACS accreditation or equivalent university as outlined above?

Yes, but the funeral directing certificate MUST be acquired from an ABFSE accredited mortuary school/program and the hours for the funeral directing certificate MUST total the minimum of 30 semester hours. If the ABFSE accredited mortuary school/program hours are calculated by quarter hours, then the quarter hours will need to be converted to semester hours for determination. An example of quarter hour conversion is as follows; 45 quarter hours $\div 3 = 15 \times 2 = 30$ = the 30 hour requirement.

What are the types of tests required and which one do I schedule?

NBE – National Board Exam - consists of 2 parts, an Arts section and a Science section. This exam is required for an embalmer and funeral director (dual) license. This exam is authorized by an ABFSE accredited mortuary school/program. This Board cannot authorize an individual to sit for this exam. This MUST be handled through the ABFSE accredited mortuary school/program. A study guide may be available through the school/program or The Conference.

SBE – State Board Exam – consists of an Arts section only which is a general state exam and is not state specific. This exam is required for a funeral director only license. ***This Board is able to notify The Conference with authorization for an individual for this exam when anr internship has been registered.*** A study guide may be available through The Conference.

LRR – Louisiana Rules and Regulations (exam) – consists of State specific questions relating to the Laws and Rules of Louisiana. This exam is required for reciprocal licensees who have or will be applying for a temporary license in Louisiana. The study guide for the LRR will be the regulations page located on the website. The links relating to each regulation should be reviewed, specifically LA R.S. 37:831 through LA R.S. 37:885 and Title 46, Chapters 1 through 23. ***This Board will notify The Conference to authorize an individual for this exam when their temporary license has been registered and/or an internship.***

Additionally:

Please refer to the instructions for the SBE and LRR which are listed upon the LSBEFD home webpage, under the notifications page and the fees and forms page, internship section of applications.

The Conference will email a certified certificate of the passing of any one of these examinations to this office. Before a license will be issued, this certification MUST be received by this office. We cannot accept a copy from an individual.

The Board is NOT involved with the examination process other than authorizing an individual's eligibility to take either the SBE or the LRR exams.

Who do I contact and how do I schedule the SBE or the LRR exam?

The Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (ICFSEB) – The Conference: 479.442.7076 or www.theconferenceonline.org. ***An internship or a temporary license MUST be registered with this Board in order for this office to notify The Conference of an individual's eligibility to sit for the SBE or the LRR exam.***

Where can I get a study guide or study materials for the SBE or the LRR exam?

The SBE, contact The Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (ICFSEB) at: 479.442.7076 or www.theconferenceonline.org – The study guide for the LRR will be the regulations page located on the website. The links relating to each regulation should be reviewed, specifically LA R.S. 37:831 through LA R.S. 37:885 and Title 46, Chapters 1 through 23.

Are there any practice tests that I can review or take for any of the exams?

The Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (ICFSEB) – The Conference: 479.442.7076 or www.theconferenceonline.org, you may also check with mortuary schools to see if they have any tutoring, or classes, or practice exams available. *This Board does not offer any training/practice tests or study tests. However, the study guide for the LRR will be the regulations page located on the website. The links relating to each regulation should be reviewed, specifically LA R.S. 37:831 through LA R.S. 37:885 and Title 46, Chapters 1 through 23.*

Where can I find ABFSE accredited mortuary schools/programs?

The American Board of Funeral Service Education - www.abfse.org or
The Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (ICFSEB) – 479.442.7076 or www.theconferenceonline.org

Is it necessary to submit a certified/original transcript of courses from the college/university or mortuary school?

Yes. The transcript may be submitted by mail or email. If the transcript will be forwarded by email from the school, then it must be sent directly to the email of the Executive Director of this office to be opened. A copy will NOT be acceptable. The email for the Executive Director is: kmichel@lsbefd.state.la.us : LA R.S. 37:842 (A)(4), (B)(2).