

## **Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers**

### **Guidance on Educational and Pathology Coursework Requirements for Funeral Director License Applicants**

#### **1. Educational Requirements – Funeral Director**

For licensure as a Funeral Director in Virginia, the Board's Emergency Regulations, 18VAC65-20-231(A) (effective January 5, 2021) require the following:

A. To qualify for licensure as a funeral director, a person shall:

3. Have graduated from a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated, or have completed an Associate's Degree or its equivalent, which consists of at least 60 credit hours of coursework, from a funeral directing program approved by the board;

In determining whether an applicant meets the educational requirements, the Board provides the following guidance:

- An applicant is required to complete at a minimum an Associate's Degree or its equivalent, which consists of at least 60 credit hours of coursework.
- As part of or in addition to the minimum Associate's Degree or 60 hours of coursework required, an applicant is required to complete a Board-approved program in funeral directing (at least 30 credit hours of the 60+ total hours).
- Funeral directing coursework should be completed through a school of mortuary science or funeral service that is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated (ABFSE) for its mortuary science/funeral service program.

#### **2. Funeral Directing – Course in Pathology**

For licensure as a Funeral Director in Virginia, the Board's Emergency Regulations, 18VAC65-20-231(A) (effective January 5, 2021) require the following:

A. To qualify for licensure as a funeral director, a person shall:

4. Have successfully completed coursework in the area of pathology as approved by the board;

In determining whether an applicant meets the pathology coursework requirement, the Board provides the following guidance:

- An applicant may provide evidence of successful completion of a course offered by an accredited college or university, whether as part of a curriculum in funeral service, mortuary science, or funeral directing, or as a stand-alone course;
- An applicant may provide evidence of successful completion of a course in pathology that is approved by the Board for licensure as a funeral director; or
- An applicant may provide evidence of passage of a state exam in pathology required as part of the individual's initial licensure as a funeral director in another jurisdiction.