



AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION

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National Funeral Directors and
Morticians Association

National Funeral Directors Association

International Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Association

Accredited Institutions

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NOTICE OF REVIEW

This notice is a formal request to the general public and to the groups identified below to participate in the American Board of Funeral Service Education's periodic review of the standards used to accredit mortuary science and funeral service programs and institutions. A link to the standards can be found on the ABFSE website home page, as is a link to the survey (www.abfse.org).

The American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) is recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education as the sole accrediting agency for programs in mortuary science and funeral service education in the United States. The actual accreditation of programs is overseen by the ABFSE's Committee on Accreditation (COA). Consistent with CHEA and U.S. Department of Education criteria and guidelines, the COA operates as an autonomous committee within the ABFSE.

The following steps are being taken to ensure broad participation in the review process.

1. A comment is being placed on the ABFSE web page (www.abfse.org) inviting public participation in the review process. The comment provides a link to a copy of this Notice.
2. A copy of this notice is being sent via e-mail to directors of all accredited or candidate funeral service/mortuary science programs.
3. Each director is asked by this notice to provide the president (or appropriate leadership position) of the local student association, of the local staff association, and of the local faculty association a copy of this notice in order to meet U.S. Department of Education requirements that the review of standards includes the involvement of students, staff, and faculty in the process. Active involvement of students, faculty, and staff is an important component of the review process.
4. A copy of this notice is being sent via e-mail to the following organizations: the National Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association, and the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards.
5. Each of the affiliated organizations noted in item 4 above is being asked to publish the following notice as a public service in its official publications:

The American Board of Funeral Service Education is conducting a periodic review of the standards used to accredit programs in funeral service and mortuary science. Comments are invited by representatives of the public and representatives of all professional groups, including individual practitioners/professionals. Comments are due not later than September 1, 2012 to the ABFSE office and may be submitted by mail (ABFSE, 3414 Ashland Avenue, Suite G, St. Joseph, MO 64506) or by e-mail (exdir@abfse.org). Additional information regarding the ABFSE and the review process is available on the organization's web site or may be obtained from the organization by phone (816.233.3747) or e-mail (exdir@abfse.org). A link to the standards can be found on the ABFSE website home page, (www.abfse.org) as is a link to the survey.

6. A copy of this notice inviting participation is being sent to the executive director of the identified regulatory body primarily responsible for overseeing funeral service, mortuary science, embalming, and related activities in each state.

The review process will follow the timeline indicated below.

July 2012	Notice of review and request for comment published on web page and distributed to constituents.
August 15, 2012	Reminders sent via e-mail or postcard to all groups as noted above.
September 1, 2012	Deadline for survey submission.
October 7, 2012	COA identifies changes it anticipates making.
November 1, 2012	Anticipated changes posted on ABFSE web site and distributed as indicated above for further review and comment; second comment period providing additional opportunity for input from all constituencies begins.
February 1, 2013	Deadline for Second Series of Comments. Comments should be directed via mail or e-mail to exdir@abfse.org .
March 1, 2013	Additional anticipated changes distributed to constituents and posted on the website.
April 10, 2013	COA reviews comments and takes final action on revisions to standards.
July 1, 2013	Revisions to standards take effect and are published in <i>ABFSE Policy and Accreditation Manual</i> on the ABFSE web site (www.abfse.org) and formal notices of changes sent to all individuals and groups noted throughout this letter as well as to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education.

Thank you in advance for supporting in and participating in this worthwhile project.