

Funeral Director

Take care of a family and a body in the days after a death, and get every legal detail right.

TYPICAL PAY

\$65,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$37k to \$105k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Funeral homes, crematoriums,
transfer services, cemeteries**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Biology and chemistry if you want the embalming licence. English matters because you deal with families all day.
- 2 Funeral service education program** 1 to 2 years
Only a few approved schools per province. In Ontario the approved institutions are Humber and Collège Boréal. In Alberta, Mount Royal University runs online theory plus supervised practicums.
- 3 Internship at a funeral home** 6 months to 1 year
In Ontario, 1 year for the Class 1 embalming licence and 6 months for the Class 2 non-embalming licence, working through a set list of competencies.
- 4 Licensing examinations** Weeks
Set by your provincial regulator, covering law, business practice, care of the deceased and funeral services.
- 5 Apply for your personal licence** Ongoing
Then renew it every year and keep up continuing education.

Pros and cons

- + Short, affordable training with a paid internship
- + Work that genuinely matters to families for the rest of their lives
- + Recession-proof demand and an aging population
- On call at 3am, and death does not respect holidays
- You carry other people's grief, including children and sudden deaths
- You are also selling something to people who are not in a state to shop

Optional boosts

Embalming licence. Crematorium operator certification. Preplanning and sales licence. Grief support training.

Good to know

Ontario has exactly two approved schools

Funeral service education in Ontario runs through Humber and Collège Boréal, the second being the only French-language program of its kind in the province. Seats are limited, so applications are competitive.

Two licence classes, two different jobs

Ontario separates the Class 1 licence, which includes embalming, from the Class 2 licence, which does not. The internship is a full year for Class 1 and six months for Class 2.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Funeral director, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Bereavement Authority of Ontario: Licensing
Bereavement Authority of Ontario: Education and training
Mount Royal University: Funeral Service Education

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/funeral-director>



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