

Your Program Planning Guide includes:

- Information about how to select and register for your courses
- Your full list of courses required for graduation, including:
 - * work experience
 - * in-person
 - * online
- Information about each type of course and tips about when to schedule them
- Sample schedules

How to choose your courses

You can complete your program in 1-6 years by taking as many or as few courses per semester as suits your schedule.

To take the guesswork out of scheduling your courses, follow one of the sample schedules on page 5 of this guide.

To plan your own schedule, follow these steps:

1. Review your mruGradU8 profile ([MyMRU](#) > My Program > mruGradU8), to see your current, completed and required courses. Make note of the courses you still need to complete.
2. View the courses on pages 2-4 of this guide to see when your remaining courses are offered.
3. Once you've chosen your courses, you can register through [MyMRU](#). There's a great [course registration tutorial here](#) with step-by-step instructions.

Tips:

- We recommend prioritizing courses that are prerequisites for others (e.g., Funeral Directing I is required to take Funeral Directing II)
- Pay attention to subject codes listed with your required courses (e.g., XFDC 25001) as some courses may have the same name but different subject codes.
- Stay informed about add/drop dates, withdrawal dates, and other registration timelines through the [Critical Dates Calendar](#).

Work Experience

Work experience hours are completed through employment or volunteering in a licensed funeral home under the supervision of a licensed funeral director.

Subject Code	Course	Hours	Schedule	Prerequisites	Minimum Grade
XFDC 20012	Work Experience I	320 hours over 4 months	Sections start every 2 months. Check MyMRU for dates	Pre/Co-requisite: XFDC 25000 Professional Practice & Decedent Care Pre/Co-requisite: XFDC 25001 Funeral Directing I	EP
XFDC 20017	Work Experience II	800 hours over 12 months	Sections start every 2 months. Check MyMRU for dates	XFDC 20012 Work Experience I	EP

Tips:

- It is your responsibility to secure a work experience location, but MRU does have resources to assist you. [Career Services](#) can help you with your job search, resume critique, interview skills and more.
- Work experience courses are completed at a licensed funeral home and under the supervision of a licensed funeral director and/or embalmer. Work experience courses may be completed in your community however, relocation may be required.
- Students who reside outside of Alberta or intend to complete their work experience course(s) outside of Alberta must contact their provincial regulatory body before registering in the work experience course(s). The provincial regulatory body will advise students on their eligibility to complete their work experience course(s) in their location (province) and if any provincial restrictions may apply. Students may also contact the program advisor for more details and assistance.
- Work experience course requirements may be completed as an employee or as a volunteer (paid or unpaid) of the licensed funeral home.
- Work experience courses can be taken at any point in your program.
- Funeral homes often have additional requirements for employees, such as:
 - Non-Graduated Class 5 Driver's License
 - Driver's Abstract
 - Police Information Check

Examples of Work Experience Activities

- Taking First Calls
- Assisting with compilation of vital statistics and completion of forms
- Assisting with coordination of funeral service / celebration details
- Assisting with visitations, prayer services, funeral services, cremation and cemetery/graveside services
- Observing or participating in at-need and pre-need funeral arrangement conferences
- Setting up cemetery and graveside services
- Driving funeral vehicles
- Assisting with transfers and removals
- Performing parking lot duties and assisting with vehicle maintenance
- Assisting in funeral home maintenance
- Understanding and complying with the various laws and regulations which govern funeral service
- Assisting with cremation-related tasks
- Assisting with cosmetic applications and casketing details
- Assisting with embalming cases (students must take Embalming Practicum course before being able to document cases on Alberta Decedent Care Logs used for professional licensing)
- Documenting their participation in 25 funeral arrangement conference (Work Experience II course requirement)

In Person

In-person courses take place in Calgary on the MRU campus and in local funeral homes.

Subject Code	Course	Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer	Hours	Prerequisites	Minimum Grade
XFDC 20023	Embalming Practicum	Sep-Dec (Local students)	Jan-Apr (Local students)		86	Pre/Co-requisite: XFDC 20002 Embalming Theory I	EP
		12-day Intensive in Oct		12-day Intensive in June			
XFDC 20010	Restorative Art II	12-day Intensive in Oct		Intensive in May or 12-day Intensive in June	20	XFDC 20007 Restorative Art I XFDC 20005 Embalming Theory II	C

Tips:

- Take Embalming Practicum early in your program to give yourself more time to complete logs during your work experience courses.
- Standard Embalming Decedent Logs (required for professional licensing) are distributed during the Embalming Practicum course.
- Intensive format
 - In-person courses are scheduled in an intensive format over 12 days to allow students to complete both in-person courses concurrently.
 - If you're coming from outside of the Calgary area, consider taking both in-person courses concurrently in an intensive format. Make sure you have the prerequisites for both courses.
- If you live in the Calgary area, you can take Embalming Practicum in a non-intensive format over a full semester (recommended).

Online

- Instructor-facilitated online courses begin and end on set dates with specific deadlines for assessments.
- Courses may include live, synchronous tutorials delivered virtually using Google Meet. Dates and times for tutorials will be provided on the first day of class in the course outline. Tutorials will be recorded for viewing at a later time if you are unavailable to attend the live session.
- Final exams are proctored online through Proctor U (fees apply).

Subject ode	Course name	Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer	Hours	Prerequisites	Minimum Grade
XFDC 25000	Professional Practice & Decedent Care	Sep-Oct or Nov-Dec	Jan-Feb or Mar-Apr		15	None	C
XFDC 25001	Funeral Directing I	Sep-Dec	Jan-Apr		48	None	C
XFDC 20002	Embalming Theory I	Sep-Dec	Jan-Apr		48	None	C
XFDC 20013	Anatomy & Physiology	Sep-Dec	Jan-Apr		64	None	C
XFDC 20005	Embalming Theory II		Jan-Apr	May-Aug	48	XFDC 25000 Professional Practice & Decedent Care XFDC 20002 Embalming Theory I	C
XFDC 20014	Psychology of Death & Dying	Sep-Dec	Jan-Apr		48	None	C
XFDC 20007	Restorative Art I		Jan-Feb	May-Jun	16	XFDC 20002 Embalming Theory I	C
XFDC 20004	Funeral Directing II		Jan-Apr	May-Aug	48	XFDC 25000 Professional Practice & Decedent Care XFDC 25001 Funeral Directing I	C
XFDC 20020	Microbiology	Sep-Dec		May-Aug	48	None	C
XFDC 20008	Funeral Directing III	Sep-Oct		May-Jun	32	XFDC 20004 Funeral Directing II	C
XFDC 20025	Funeral Trends & Regulations	Nov-Dec		July-Aug	32	XFDC 20008 Funeral Directing III	C
XFDC 20101	Introduction to Conflict Resolution	Sep-Oct or Nov-Dec	Mar-Apr		15	None	C
XFDC 20016	Business Strategies	Sep-Dec		May-Aug	48	None	C
XFDC 20102	Negotiating with Integrity		Jan-Feb	May-Jun	15	XFDC 20101 Intro to Conflict Resolution	C
XFDC 20019	Business Communications		Jan-Apr	May-Aug	48	None	C
XFDC 20018	Chemistry		Jan-Apr	May-Aug	48	None	C

Sample schedules

You can take as many or as few courses each semester as suits your schedule.

The sample schedules on this page are an example you may choose to follow or use as a starting point to make your own schedule as they provide a path for cumulative learning and suggest complementary courses for each semester.

2-Year Schedule —Fall start	
1	XFDC 25000 Professional Practice & Decedent Care XFDC 25001 Funeral Directing I XFDC 20002 Embalming Theory I XFDC 20013 Anatomy & Physiology
2	XFDC 20004 Funeral Directing II XFDC 20005 Embalming Theory II XFDC 20007 Restorative Art I XFDC 20014 Psychology of Death & Dying
3	XFDC 20019 Business Communications XFDC 20020 Microbiology XFDC 20010 Restorative Art II
4	XFDC 20008 Funeral Directing III XFDC 20101 Introduction to Conflict Resolution XFDC 20016 Business Strategies XFDC 20025 Funeral Trends and Regulations
5	XFDC 20102 Negotiating with Integrity XFDC 20018 Chemistry
PRC	XFDC 20023 Embalming Practicum See page 3 for course delivery details and tips
Any	XFDC 20012 Work Experience I XFDC 20017 Work Experience II

2-Year Schedule —Winter start	
1	XFDC 25000 Professional Practice & Decedent Care XFDC 25001 Funeral Directing I XFDC 20002 Embalming Theory I XFDC 20013 Anatomy & Physiology
2	XFDC 20005 Embalming Theory II XFDC 20004 Funeral Directing II XFDC 20007 Restorative Art I
3	XFDC 20020 Microbiology XFDC 20014 Psychology of Death and Dying XFDC 20010 Restorative Art II
4	XFDC 20101 Introduction to Conflict Resolution XFDC 20018 Chemistry XFDC 20019 Business Communications
5	XFDC 20008 Funeral Directing III XFDC 20102 Negotiating with Integrity XFDC 20016 Business Strategies XFDC 20025 Funeral Trends and Regulations
PRC	XFDC 20023 Embalming Practicum See page 3 for course delivery details and tips
Any	XFDC 20012 Work Experience I XFDC 20017 Work Experience II

1-Year Schedule —Fall start	
1	XFDC 25000 Professional Practice & Decedent Care XFDC 25001 Funeral Directing I XFDC 20101 Introduction to Conflict Resolution XFDC 20014 Psychology of Death and Dying XFDC 20002 Embalming Theory I XFDC 20013 Anatomy & Physiology XFDC 20012 Work Experience I
2	XFDC 20004 Funeral Directing II XFDC 20102 Negotiating with Integrity XFDC 20019 Business Communications XFDC 20005 Embalming Theory II XFDC 20018 Chemistry XFDC 20007 Restorative Art I XFDC 20017 Work Experience II
3	XFDC 20008 Funeral Directing III XFDC 20016 Business Strategies XFDC 20020 Microbiology XFDC 20010 Restorative Art II XFDC 20025 Funeral Trends and Regulations
PRC	XFDC 20023 Embalming Practicum See page 3 for course delivery details and tips