

MEMORANDUM

TO: Curriculum Committee

FROM: Doug Hirzel, Damon de la Cruz

DATE: October 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Request to delete Mortuary Science (MORT), and add Funeral Service Education (FSE.), TOP CODE 1255.00

This is a request to delete a previously approved discipline and course prefix, Mortuary Science (MORT), and add a new discipline and course prefix, Funeral Service Education (FSE.) to replace them. The TOP CODE of 1255.00 remains the same.

The rationale for this change: the title Mortuary Science is antiquated; additionally, the request is to be consistent with the discipline's accrediting agency, the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE).

For nearly two years now, our Director of Workforce Development and our Biology discipline faculty have been researching and collecting data on the feasibility of a Funeral Science program that prepares students to be Funeral Service Education experts. Currently, there is no such program in the region and only two in the state of California – in Los Angeles and Sacramento. We see this as a real workforce development opportunity for Cañada College students, faculty, and the community. Additionally, the workforce demands and Labor Market data suggest an increasing need for Funeral Service Education professionals in the immediate region.

The Dean of Science and Technology, the Office of Instruction, the President's Cabinet, and the Instructional Planning Council have consulted about the viability of such a program at Cañada College. Additionally, the college has stable funding to support the development of this program and the necessary curriculum development through Strong Workforce funding. Julian Branch, the Director of Workforce Development with the support of the tri-chair committee, has allocated annual funding for the program.

The new department code (FSE.) will be used to create courses that will be part of an Associate of Science Degree in Funeral Service Education.