

# The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc.

## Report for the Pennsylvania State Board of Funeral Directors

January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023

### **National Examination Statistics**

#### NBE-Arts

835 first attempts      average score of 78  
657 (78.7%) passed      average score of 79  
178 (21.3%) failed      average score of 72

#### NBE-Sciences

792 first attempts      average score of 76  
539 (68.1%) passed      average Score of 79  
253 (31.9%) failed      average Score of 71

### **Northampton Community College**

#### NBE-Arts

12 first attempts      average score of 81  
12 (100%) passed      average score of 81

#### NBE- Sciences

11 first attempts      average score of 80  
11 (100%) passed      average score of 80

#### Section Averages:

Funeral Arranging and Directing	44/51
Funeral Service Marketing/Merchandising	18/21
Funeral Service Counseling	15/19
Legal and Regulatory Compliance	27/35
Cemetery/Crematory/Other Dispositions	19/24

#### Section averages:

Embalming	51/62
Restorative Art	26/34
Other Preparation of the Deceased	23/28
Funeral Service Sciences	20/26

### **Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science**

#### NBE-Arts

38 first attempts      average score of 80  
37 (97%) passed      average score of 80  
1 (3%) failed      average score

#### NBE-Sciences

42 first attempts      average score of 77  
31 (74%) passed      average score of 78  
11 (26%) failed      average score of 72

#### Section Averages:

Funeral Arranging and Directing	41/51
Funeral Service Marketing/Merchandising	17/21
Funeral Service Counseling	15/19
Legal and Regulatory Compliance	29/35
Cemetery/Crematory/Other Dispositions	19/24

#### Section averages:

Embalming	46/62
Restorative Art	24/34
Other Preparation of the Deceased	21/28
Funeral Service Sciences	19/26

## Conference Initiatives

- NBE Committee Meeting, February 8-9, 2023
  - Reviewed candidate comments
  - Reviewed current exam forms
- Board Member Training, February 28, 2023
  - Dale Atkinson, The Atkinson Firm & Conference legal counsel
  - 10 attendees; responsibilities of a state board member
- 119th Annual Meeting, March 1-2, 2023
  - 28 states/provinces
  - 9 mortuary programs
  - 5 associations
  - Sessions on Compassion Fatigue, Top Regulatory Cases, Legislative Updates on Methods of Disposition, Funeral Service Administrators Forum
- NBE Textbook Survey, May 2023
  - 53 of 58 mortuary science programs responded
  - These references are the exclusive textbooks used to write items for the NBE
- ABFSE Curriculum Workshop, June 2-4, 2023
  - The Conference helped fund the workshop with a \$4,000 grant
  - Two NBE Committee members participated
- Item Writing Workshop, June 13-15, 2023
  - 18 licensees (2 hold VA licenses)
  - Receive training; write items and do peer review; group review and discussion
- Virtual Meeting "What is a Profession", June 21, 2023
  - Dale Atkinson, The Atkinson Firm & Conference legal counsel
  - 37 attendees
  - Legal protections for "professionals", professionalism requires standards
- NFDA Leadership Meeting, June 25-28, 2023
  - Provided an update on Conference policies, exams, reporting
- Regulatory Membership Questions/Research
  - Topics include- closing documentation/procedure for funeral homes, statutes, rules, and regulations concerning Alkaline Hydrolysis and/or Natural Organic Reduction, how many Boards have specific criteria that must be met and/or a standardized form for continuing education approval, which states require a licensee to meet with families, true reciprocity agreements for funeral service, what is allowed for the naming of funeral homes, state administered indigent burial funds