

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc.

Report for the Arkansas Funeral Services Division

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

Arkansas State University @Mt. Home

NBE-Arts

8 first attempts average score of 77
6 (75%) passed average score of 78
2 (25%) failed average score of 73

NBE- Sciences

7 first attempts average score of 74
4 (57%) passed average score of 78
3 (43%) failed average score of 70

Section Averages:

Funeral Arranging and Directing	38/51
Funeral Service Marketing/Merchandising	15/21
Funeral Service Counseling	12/19
Legal and Regulatory Compliance	27/35
Cemetery/Crematory/Other Dispositions	18/24

Section averages:

Embalming	43/62
Restorative Art	21/34
Other Preparation of the Deceased	20/28
Funeral Service Sciences	18/26

University of Arkansas Community College @ Hope

NBE-Arts

9 first attempts average score 78
9 (100%) passed average score 78

NBE-Sciences

9 first attempts average score 78
9 (100%) passed average score 78

Section Averages:

Funeral Arranging and Directing	39/51
Funeral Service Marketing/Merchandising	15/21
Funeral Service Counseling	15/19
Legal and Regulatory Compliance	27/35
Cemetery/Crematory/Other Dispositions	17/24

Section averages:

Embalming	51/62
Restorative Art	25/34
Other Preparation of the Deceased	22/28
Funeral Service Sciences	20/26

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