Professional Statement Guideline Form
Review of Applications will begin February 1, 2019

The Admissions Committee requires a professional statement from all applicants as part of the application process. You need to prepare a typewritten statement of approximately three to four double-spaced pages (12 point font, 1” margins). The professional statement will be used to capture ability and experiences that are not reflected on transcripts, and to evaluate your writing skills.

Your professional statement is a very important part of the application process. You are asked to carefully follow the instructions (below) for writing the professional statement. Please be sure to have someone with good writing skills proofread your professional statement prior to submitting it as part of your application for admission.

Part 1: Introduction

Begin your professional statement by sharing with the Admissions Committee your reasons for wanting to earn a degree in mortuary science. In this section of your statement, you should include a discussion of meaningful work, volunteer, personal, and/or educational experiences that have influenced your decision to pursue a career in funeral service. (Length of this section should be approximately one page)

Part 2: Personal Response

Next, you need to write a personal response to any one of the following statements: (Length of this section should be approximately two pages)

- Describe a time when you had to manage a difficult circumstance or situation in a professional manner.
- Share an experience where your compassion and empathy made a concrete difference in another person’s life.
- Relate an instance when your tact and ability to remain level-headed under pressure had positive results.
- Detail an occasion in your life in which you had to make an important decision, and how the outcome of that decision affected your own life, as well as the life of another person(s).

Part 3 Conclusion:

Finally, you will need to conclude your professional statement with a discussion of what you believe it means to be a contemporary practitioner of mortuary science. What do you see as
being some of the significant challenges, as well as opportunities, facing funeral service both now and in the future? In the context of a changing profession, how do you see yourself helping grieving families in ways that are both meaningful and relevant to an increasingly diverse population in the United States? In your conclusion, you may also share with the Admissions Committee any additional comments and/or information which you believe is important for us to know as we consider your application for admission to the Program. *(Length of this section should be approximately one page)*

Tips for writing your professional statement:

- Be honest, authentic and open. This is your opportunity to represent who you are as a future funeral service professional to the Admission Committee.
- Showcase your writing skills.
- Review and proofread your document several times, and revise as necessary. Have at least one other person proofread your essay.

Your professional statement must be sent as an attachment in MS Word or in pdf (Adobe) format to mortsci@umn.edu. If you have any questions about your Professional Statement, please feel free to contact the Program office at mortsci@umn.edu or 612-624-6464.