

John A. Gupton College

QEP- Cremation Certification Program

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Executive Summary

John A. Gupton College offers a basic liberal arts education as well as a professional curriculum in funeral arts and sciences. The course of study leads to the Associate of Arts Degree in Funeral Service or the Distance Education Funeral Directors Certificate.

The Quality Enhancement Plan for John A. Gupton College is the **Cremation Certification Program**. The institution recognizes a need for certification based on an increased cremation rate for cremation as a rite of disposition. Currently, most states do not require a certification for Cremation. However, with the growing trend of cremation, John A. Gupton College identifies the significance of this process and is the first funeral service institution that will have graduates that also hold a Cremation Certification.

Program Goals and Student Goals were established for the program that led to the development of the Student Learning Outcomes for the program. The Student learning outcomes were identified for the Quality Enhancement Plan that include demonstrations from students while actively assisting a licensed funeral director, demonstrations of best practice of routine checks for identification and processing, and passing the written Cremation Comprehensive Examination.

The decision was made to purchase *Cremation Standards for Funeral Service Professionals* to be used as a textbook through the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA). The actions to be implemented included expansion of the clinical program to include a cremation clinical rotation. During the clinical rotation students are required to complete five cremation case reports. A cremation section was added to the Introduction to Funeral Service Education 1001 course. Students are required to pass a written comprehensive cremation examination.