

FUNERAL ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

1. It is appropriate to dress up if you are planning to attend either the visitation or the funeral.
2. Visitation is meant to provide a time to support family members and honor the person who has died.
3. Generally, visits are brief but some families will plan a formal prayer service during the visitation.
4. At visitation, the casket will be present and may be open. It is customary to view the casket and/or body. Some families will have a “kneeler” so that individuals may offer a short prayer.
5. The body may not look like the person you remember. Some people may gently kiss or touch the body.
6. It is okay to view the casket in small groups and it is okay to talk quietly but it is best not to congregate around the casket. Move away to allow others the opportunity to pay their respects.
7. Some people like to leave flowers or other remembrances. If there is not a table for this purpose, it is best to leave them with the family. It is not appropriate to place remembrances inside the casket.
8. It is appropriate to greet family members and express your sorrow. A simple statement such as “I’m sorry for your loss” will let the family know that you care.
9. Funeral services vary according to the religious preference of the family. It is respectful to follow the religious customs. Arrive at the church or funeral home early to allow time to sign the guest book and be seated.
10. Attendance at the cemetery is optional but it is important to leave soon after the services at the gravesite to give the family a time of privacy.