

Find the right celebrant training for you

Not all celebrant trainings are created equal — and that's okay. Whether you're just beginning to explore this work or are ready to step up to it professionally, it helps to know which type of program is the best fit for your goals, values, and readiness.

Below, you'll find a comparison between the course you're currently considering here — offered through Celebrant Academy — and several other celebrant training options.



If you've felt inspired by death-positive content but are wondering what comes next — how to *actually* hold space, write ceremonies, and serve families — this course might be your next right step.


First...

Find the *kind* of program that makes sense for you

| Program | Kind of program | Teaching approach | Best if you: |
|--|---|--|--|
|  Celebrant Academy (<i>this course, taught by Beth</i>), and others like Celebrant Foundation & Institute, Center for Celebrant Training | Non-religious U.S. celebrant courses | Focuses on custom ceremonies for the wide range of ceremony styles typical in the U.S. | Want to be a professional celebrant delivering custom funerals in the U.S. |
| Death Wives, Going with Grace, La Mort | Death-positive workshops and doula training | Exploration of death, spirituality, and doula skills | Want to become a death doula or to explore personal growth in grief and spirituality |
| InSight Institute | National Funeral Directors Assn. training | Geared toward funeral service professionals working in a funeral home | Want to work on staff at a funeral home and support a high volume of families |
| Academy of Modern Celebrants, Celebrants Collective, Life Celebrants International | International funeral celebrant courses | Emphasizes short, lightly personalized services typical in Commonwealth countries (UK, AU, Canada) | Plan to work as a celebrant in the UK, Australia, or Canada |

Then...

Compare specific programs



| Program | Course format | Content emphasis | Best for: |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Celebrant Academy | Six weeks with live weekly Zooms (120 min), real time exercises, graded weekly assignments, significant final project, pass fail grading (approx. 16 class hours) | Deep focus on custom ceremony design, writing strong eulogies, inclusive practices, unique rituals, and practical tools to handle the wide variety of funeral ceremonies. An emphasis on originality and a modern approach for both ceremonies and business models. | Students who want solid instructor support, as well as depth in the practical and creative skills to design and lead custom full-length end of life ceremonies. |
| Celebrant Foundation and Institute | Fifteen modules with weekly live Zooms (90 min), assignments, and feedback (approx. 22 hrs) | Lifecycle-focused curriculum emphasizing traditional style and structure. While thorough, the material reflects a more historical approach to ceremony design, rituals, business models, and marketing. Minimal attention to inclusion, innovation, or digital presence. | Students who want solid instructor support, and who are comfortable with a conventional ceremony style and traditional business model. |
| Center for Celebrant Training | Self-paced online modules (approx. 10 hours) | Covers general funeral ceremony skills via short video lessons and ungraded exercises, with occasional instructor engagement. | Independent workers looking for an introduction with light support. |
| Life Celebrants International | Two and a half days online training (approx. 16 hours) | A rapid entry-level intro to the major elements of funerals but condensed, with little time to integrate learning, apply feedback or practice techniques. | Beginners seeking a quick starting point. |

What makes a celebrant training right for you?

Personal values - does the training align with your values and style? What balance do you want of religiosity, inclusion, and tone or style?

Professionalism - Does the course content and quality enable you to become a professional celebrant? Does the course offer certification or is it geared toward someone seeking personal transformation?

Ceremony craft - Custom end of life ceremonies in the U.S. generally require significant creativity and writing skills. Does the course teach these?

Realistic practice - Will you be learning on challenging cases or will you be practicing using a friend or family member's life for reference?

Total skillset - Does the course provide opportunities and techniques to improve your public speaking, ritual design, writing, day-of ceremony coordination, family interactions, and cooperation with other professionals in the field?

Instructor support - How much engagement is there with the instructor?

Business skills - Does the course cover the business realities and how-to's of this work?

Camaraderie and community - Does the course encourage you to interact with fellow students and create a sense of community? End of life work can be lonely; having a crew who gets you can be very supportive.

Feedback and grading - Will you get honest feedback and guidance on how to improve, or just encouragement? Does the course have a standard level of skill it requires in order for students to be certified?