



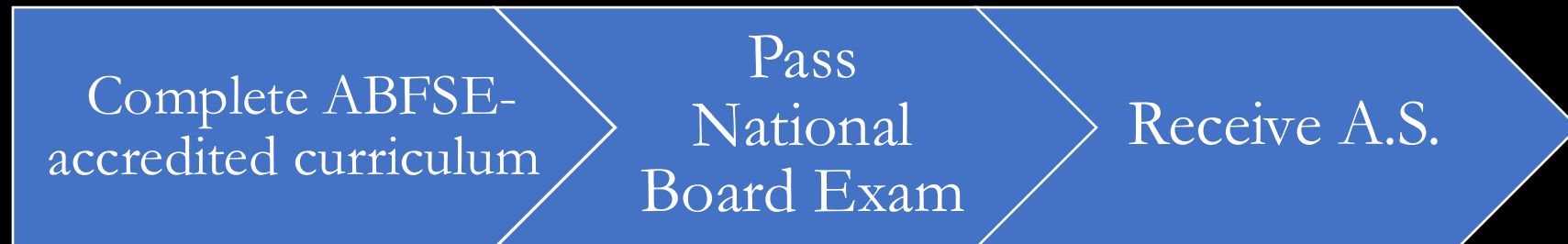
# Cañada College Funeral Service Education Program Update

Academic Senate, Fall 2024

# Cañada College Funeral Service Education Program (A.S.)

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- Two programs in CA: Cypress College and American River College
- Hybrid model
  - Online coursework
  - Local, in-person practicum
- Program Requirement: Accreditation by American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE)
- A.S. approved by the CA Chancellor's Office in Spring 2021




# Operating Assumptions

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- Students want the program
- Students need the program
- Cañada College can create a viable program

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# Education Requirements for Funeral Service Jobs in California

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## High School Diploma or Less

- Cemetery Arrangement Counselor
- Cemetery/Crematory Manager
- **Funeral Arranger**
- **Funeral Attendant**
- Funeral Event Planner
- Funeral Home Administrator
- Groundskeeper
- Mortuary Operations Specialist
- Mortuary Transport
- Office Assistant
- Removal Technician
- Sales

## 60 College Credits

- Funeral Director\*


## ABFSE-Accredited Program

- **Embalmer\***

\*Source: California Department of Consumer Affairs Cemetery and Funeral Bureau

# Operating Assumptions

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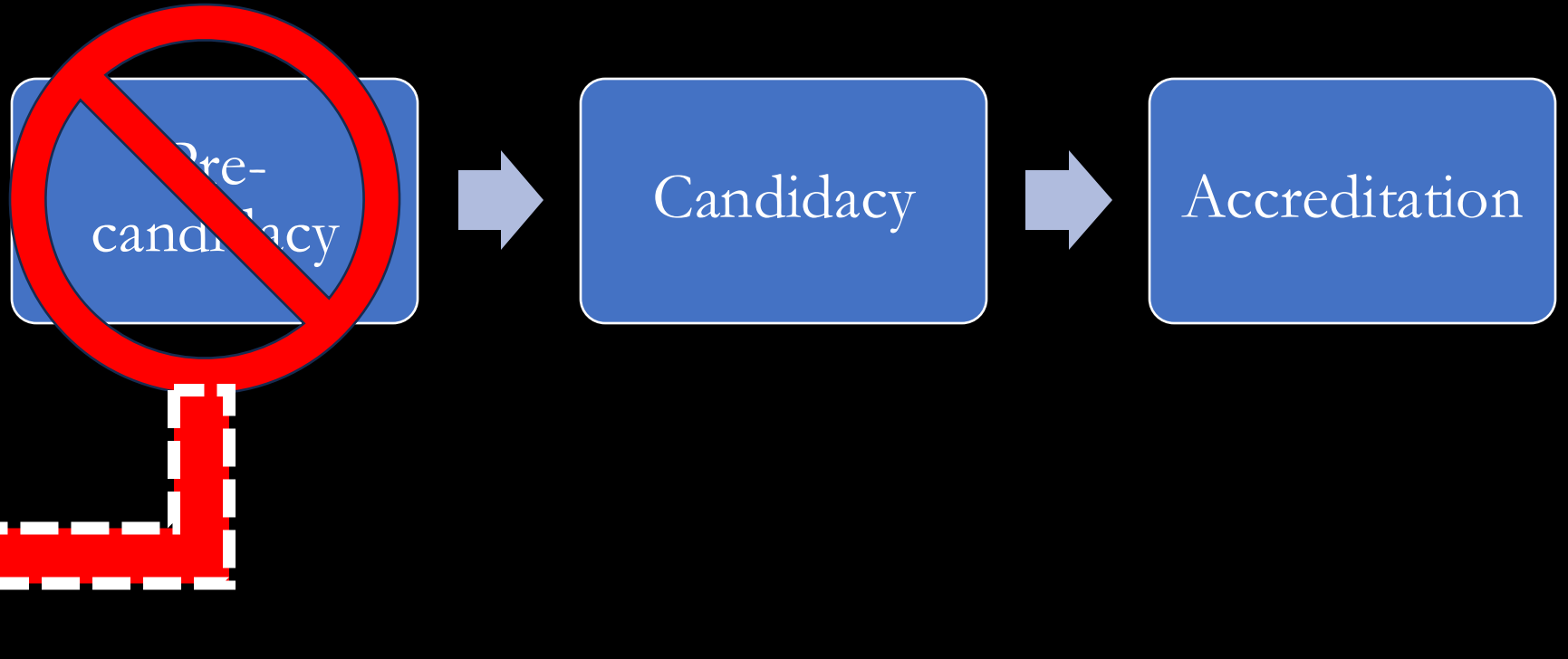
- Students want the program 
- Students need the program to become embalmers
- Cañada College can create a viable program

# Accreditation Candidacy Application Rejected

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Application  
Rejected  
(April, 2024)



New  
Accreditation  
Standard 6.8

“Every program is required to have at least **two full-time faculty** members...”





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Accreditation  
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**Current FSE Program Personnel**

- 0 Full-time faculty
- 1 Adjunct faculty
- Program Supervisor (Strong Workforce grant)



American Board of Funeral Service Education  
Committee on Accreditation  
992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108  
Woodbury Heights NJ 08097

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

RE: Call for Comments on Proposed Standards

Dear ABFSE Committee on Accreditation,

California is currently facing a significant shortage of funeral care practitioners, particularly in the field of embalming. Notably, the state only houses two ABFSE accredited institutions, situated approximately 400 miles apart.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this shortage and aiming to contribute a much-needed service to the community, Cañada College has embarked on the development of a new ABFSE-accredited Funeral Service Education program. Given the constraints of our campus size and budget, our plans rely on maintaining a lean and fiscally responsible program.

A pivotal consideration in this endeavor is the newly proposed standard 6.8, which stipulates that "Every program is required to have at least two full-time faculty members, one of whom may serve in the role of the program director." This proposed standard, if officially ratified, poses a significant challenge for us in meeting accreditation requirements.

The implementation of standard 6.8 would necessitate a thorough re-evaluation of the financial feasibility of launching a funeral program at Cañada College. Balancing the imperative of accreditation with the practicalities of our resources is a critical aspect of this decision-making process.

**Additional Questions:**


Standard 4.1: The institution/program must have sustainable and sufficient financial resources to provide instruction and facilities in compliance with this manual.

# New Accreditation Standard 6.8



New  
Accreditation  
Standard 6.8

“The implementation of standard 6.8 would necessitate a thorough re-evaluation of the...feasibility of launching a funeral program at Cañada College.”



# Supporting our students

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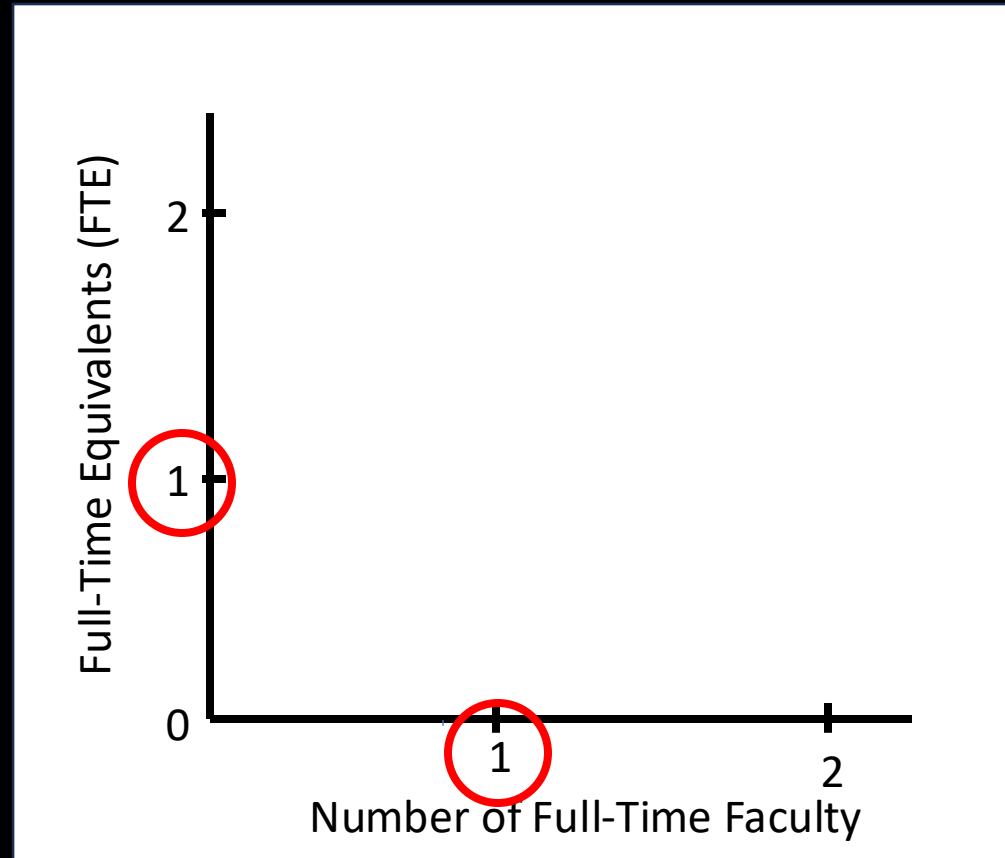
- Help students transition into the American River College (ARC) program
  - 11 Cañada students placed into the ARC program
  - ARC is creating a hybrid program (~30 seats)
    - Online coursework, in-person practicum
    - Cañada Target program size: 20 students
  - Working on an MOU
- Funeral Attendant and Funeral Arranger Certificates

# Funeral Service Program Viability

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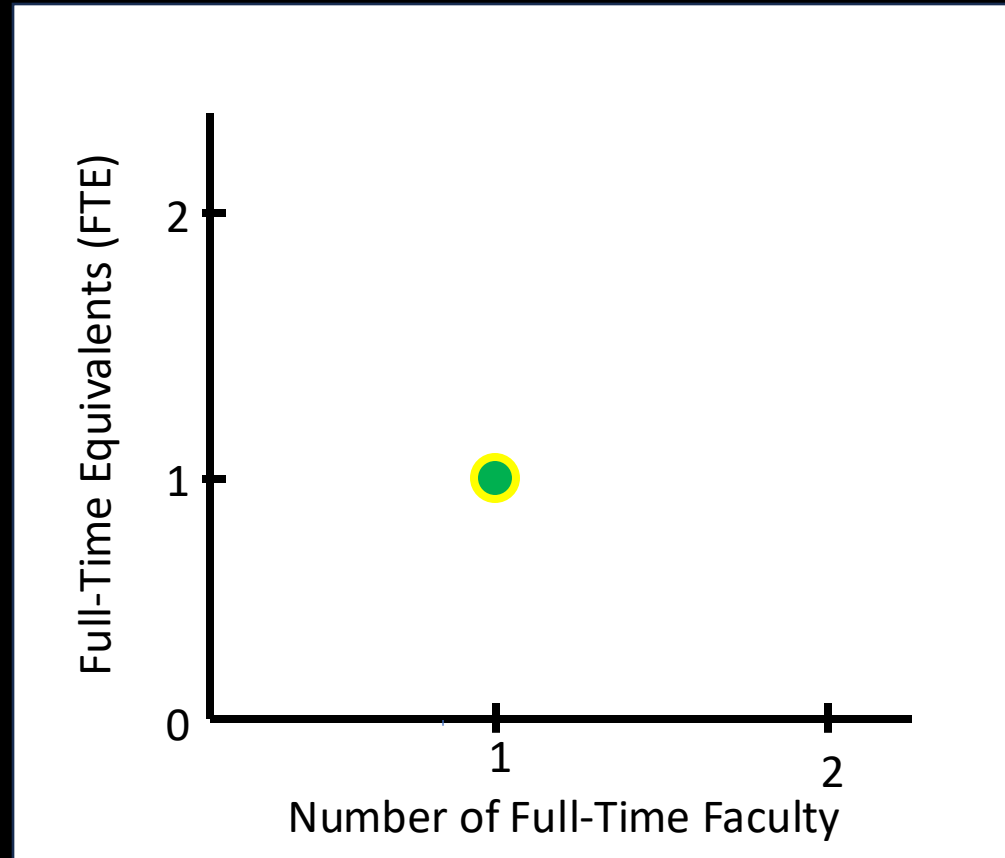
- Examples of factors to consider
  - Is there sufficient workload to support two full-time faculty members?
  - How does the Funeral Service occupational outlook compare to other Career and Technical Education programs?

Is there sufficient workload to support two full-time faculty members?

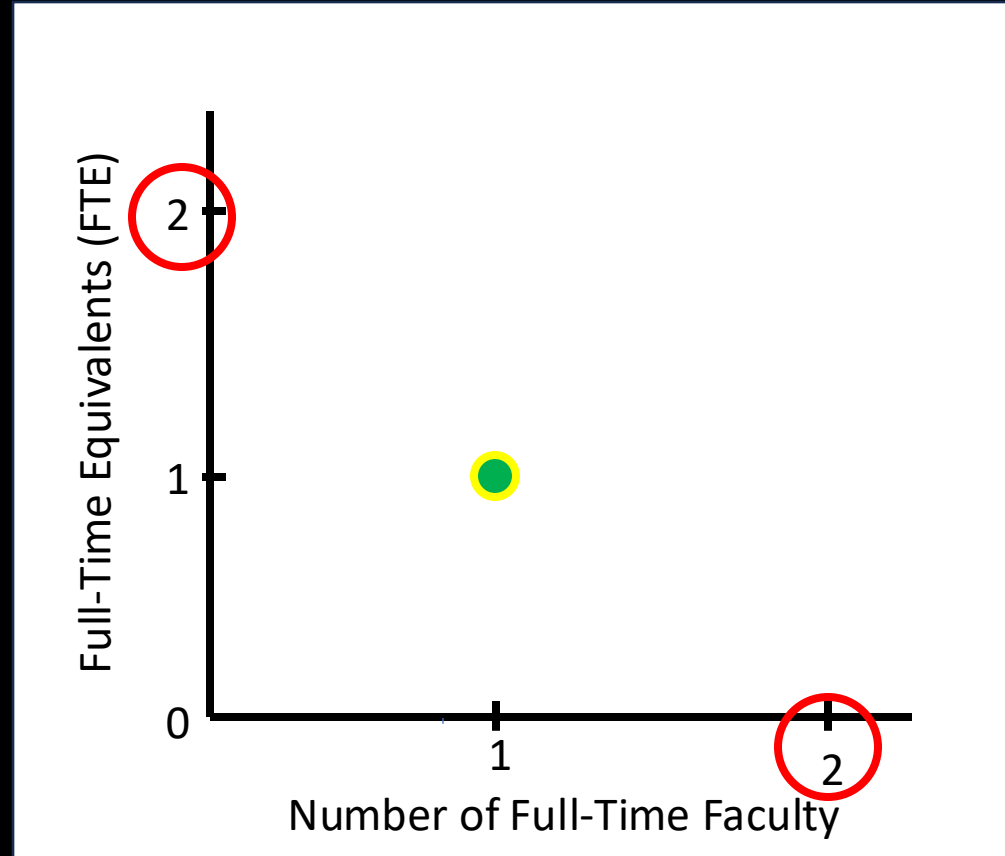


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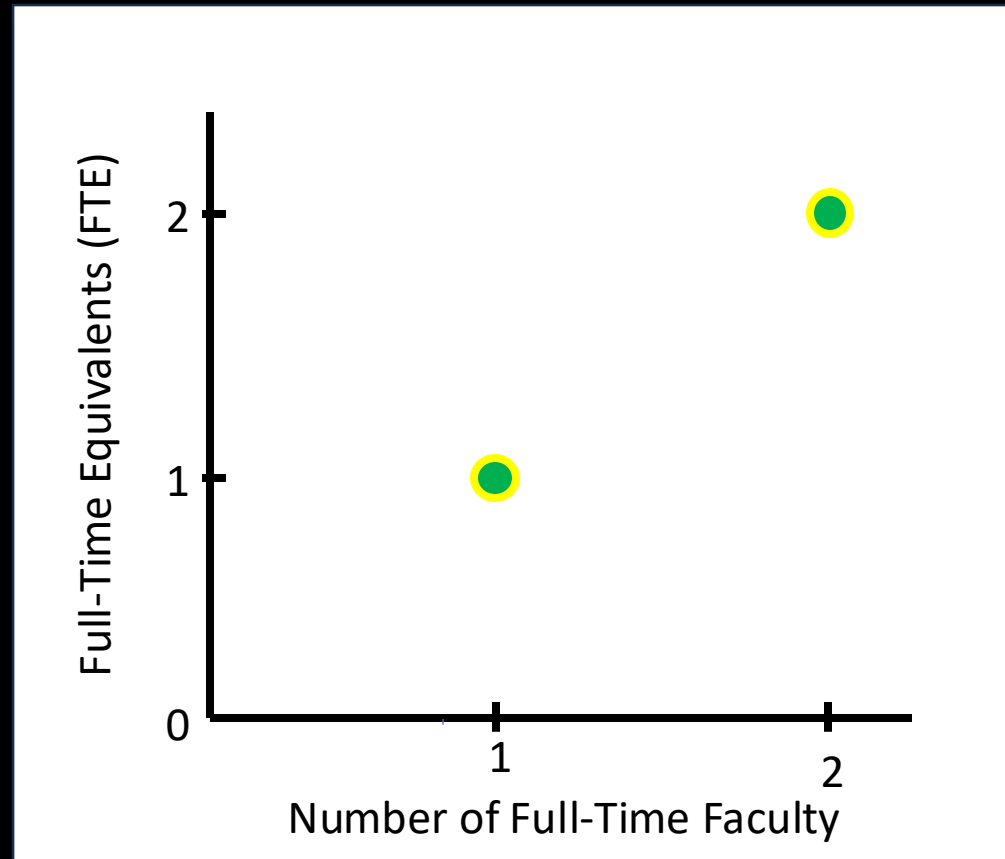


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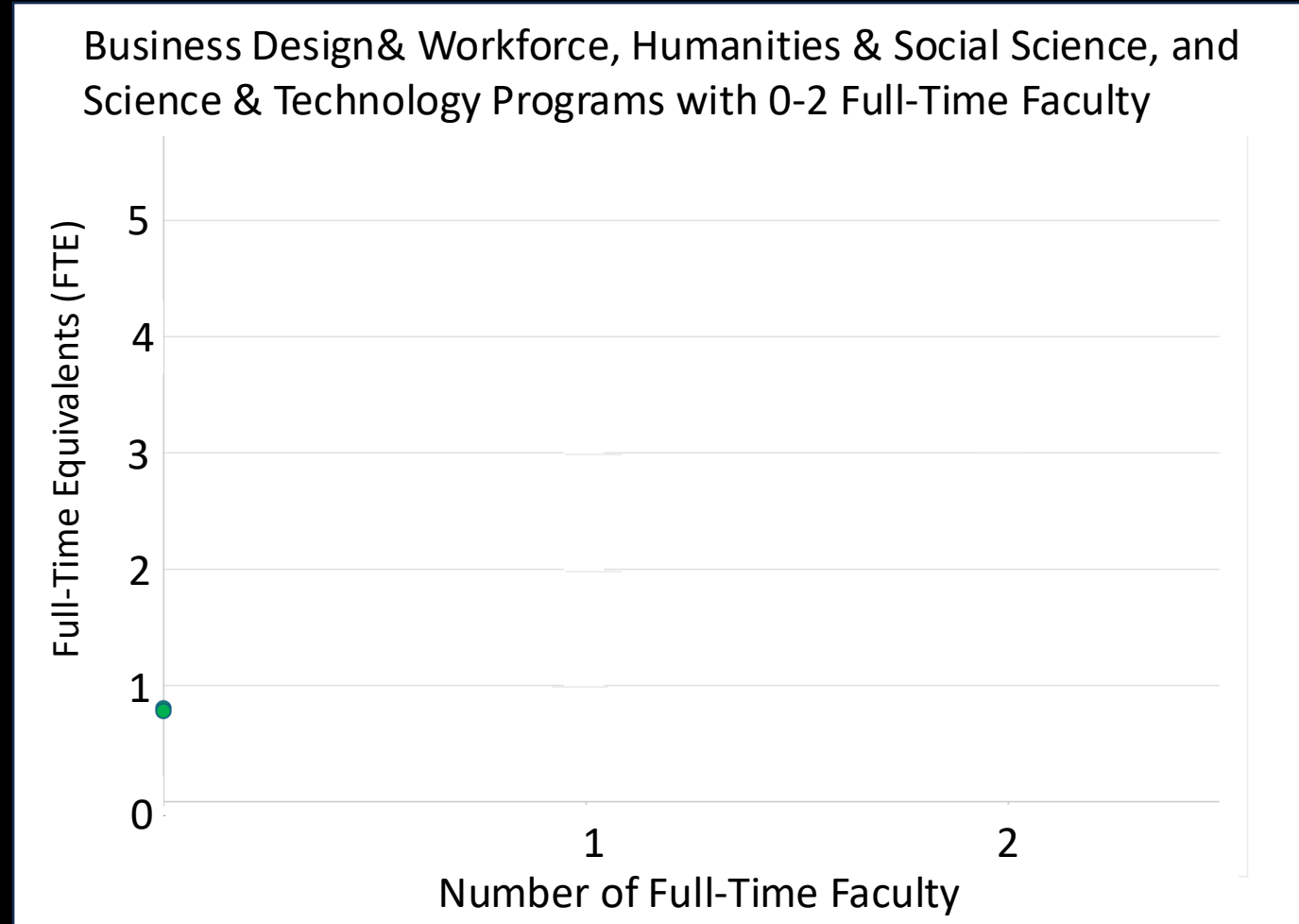


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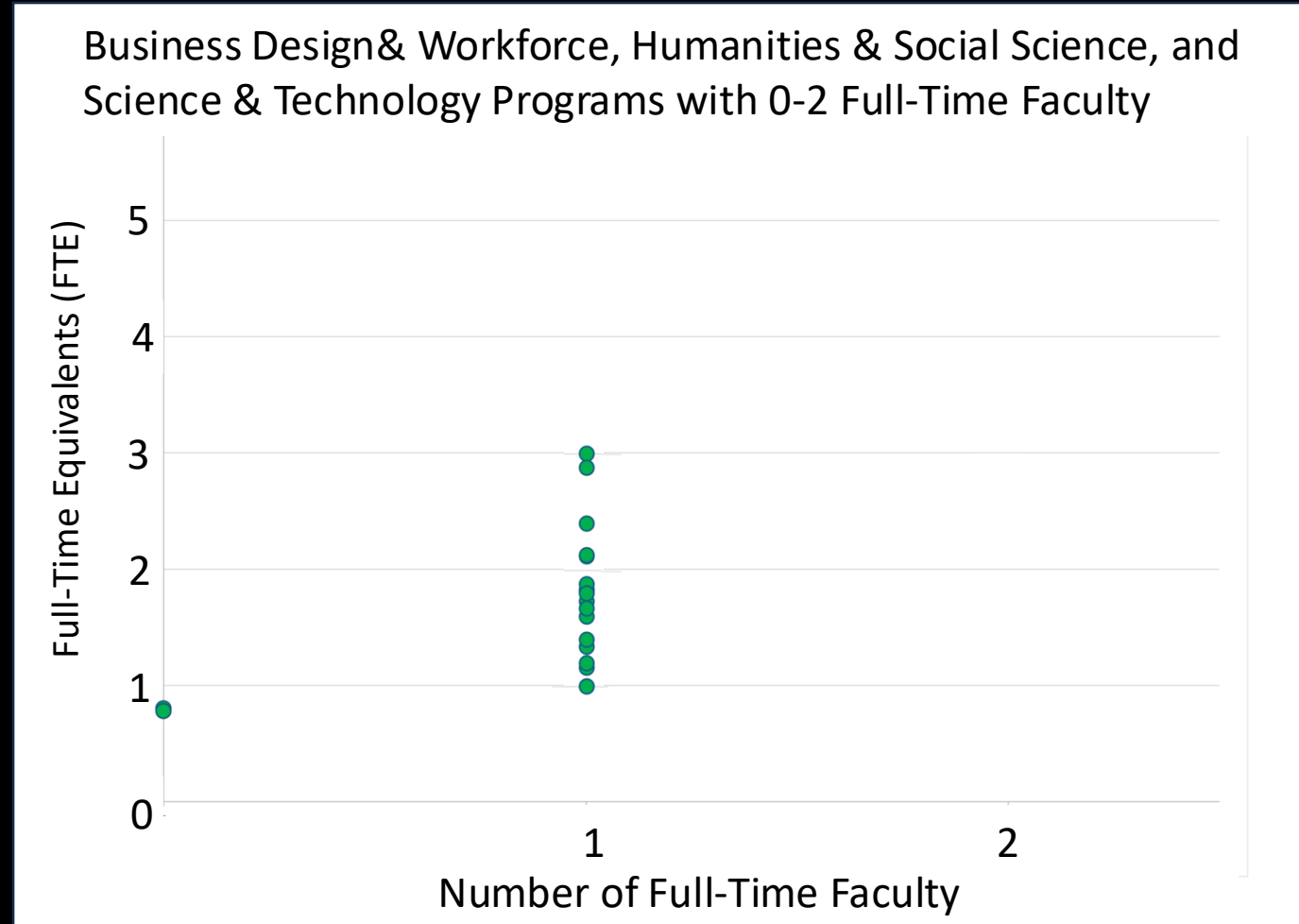
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Current programs have the workload to support their full-time faculty



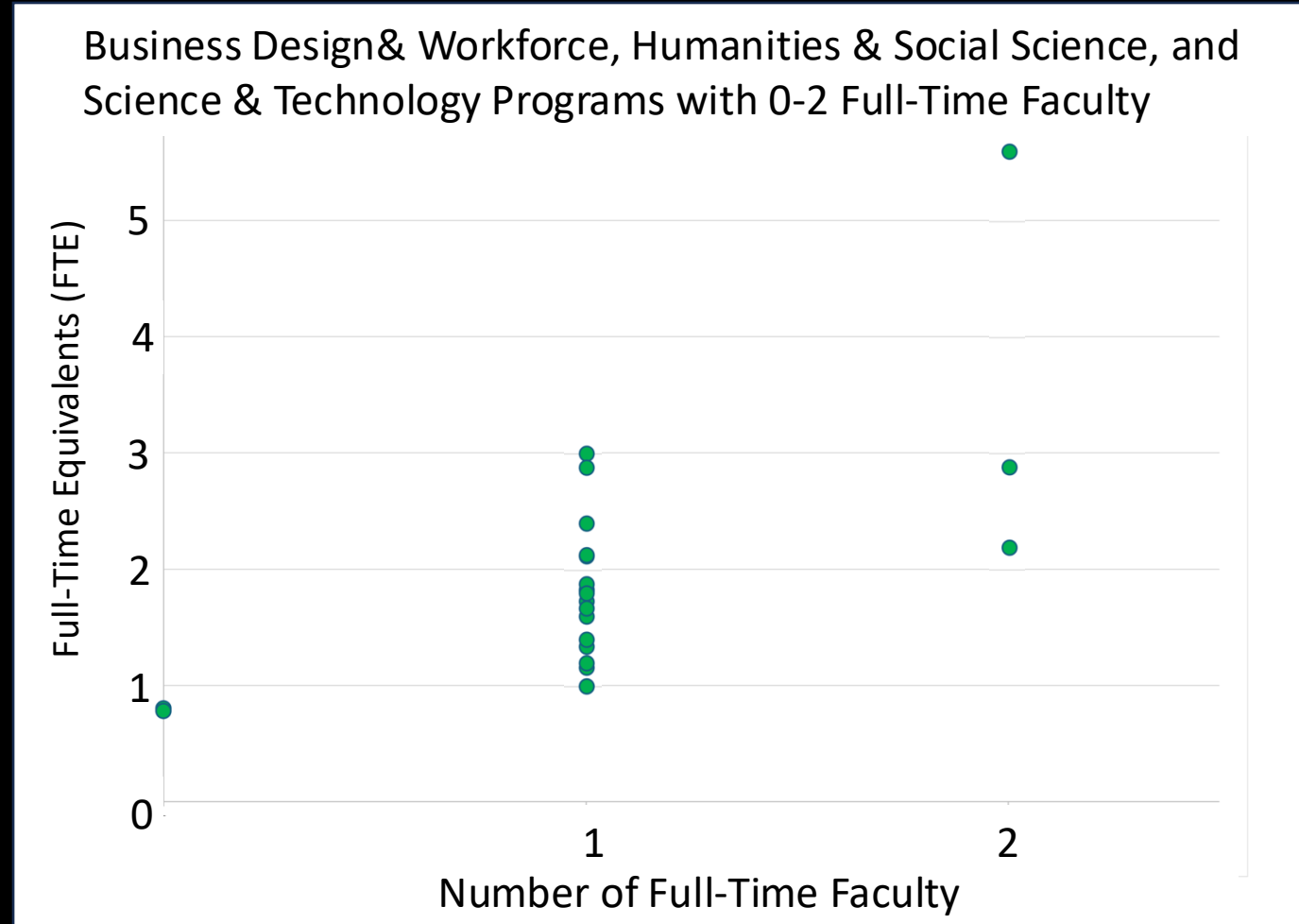
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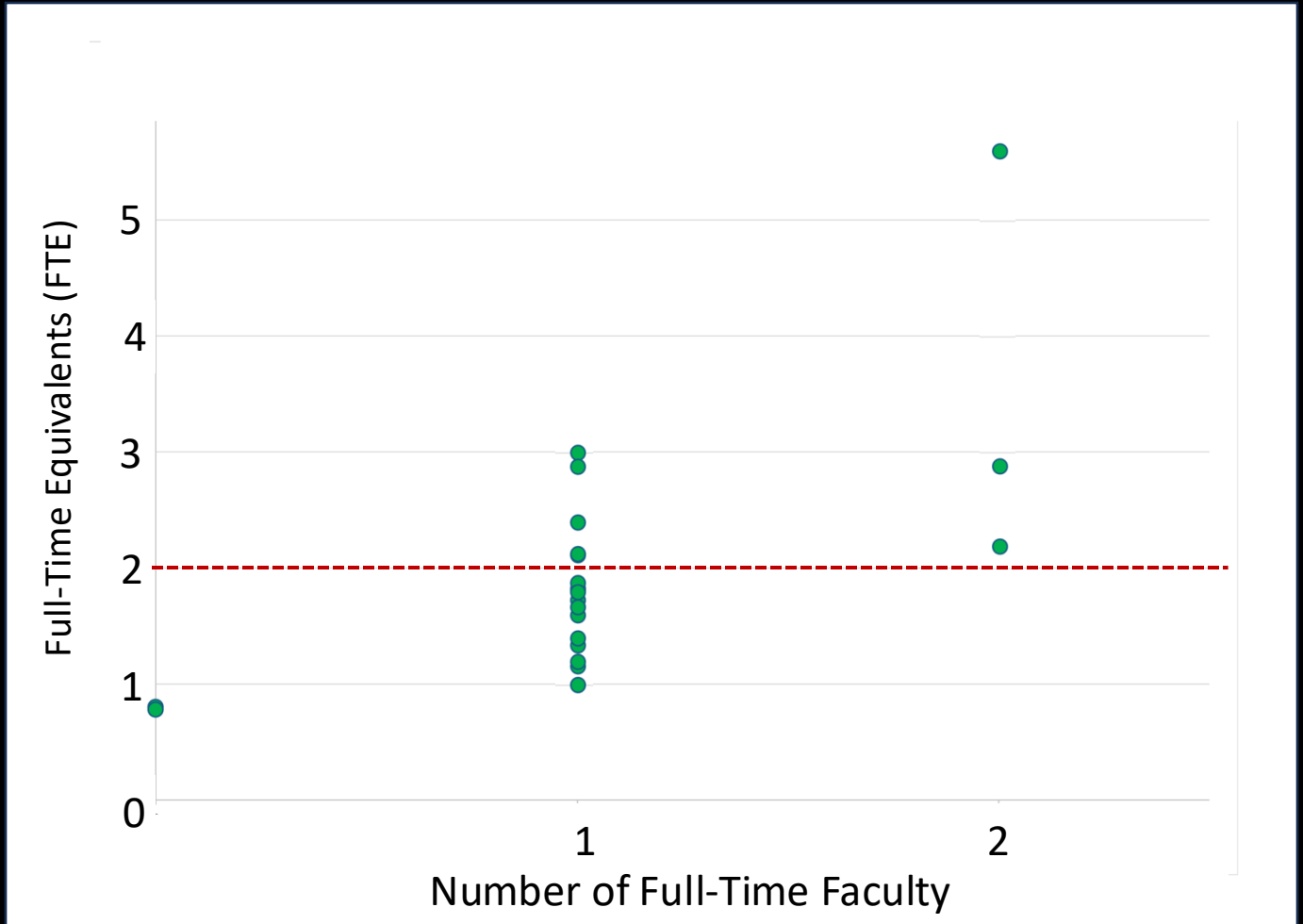
## Funeral Service Program FTE Projection

- 1 semester
- 1 section of each class
- 2 cohorts
- 2 certificates

FSE Course	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)
FSE 200	0.13
FSE 210	0.25
FSE 225	0.2
FSE 220	0.2
FSE 230	0.2
FSE 270	0.2
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>1.18</b>

There is insufficient workload to support two full-time faculty members

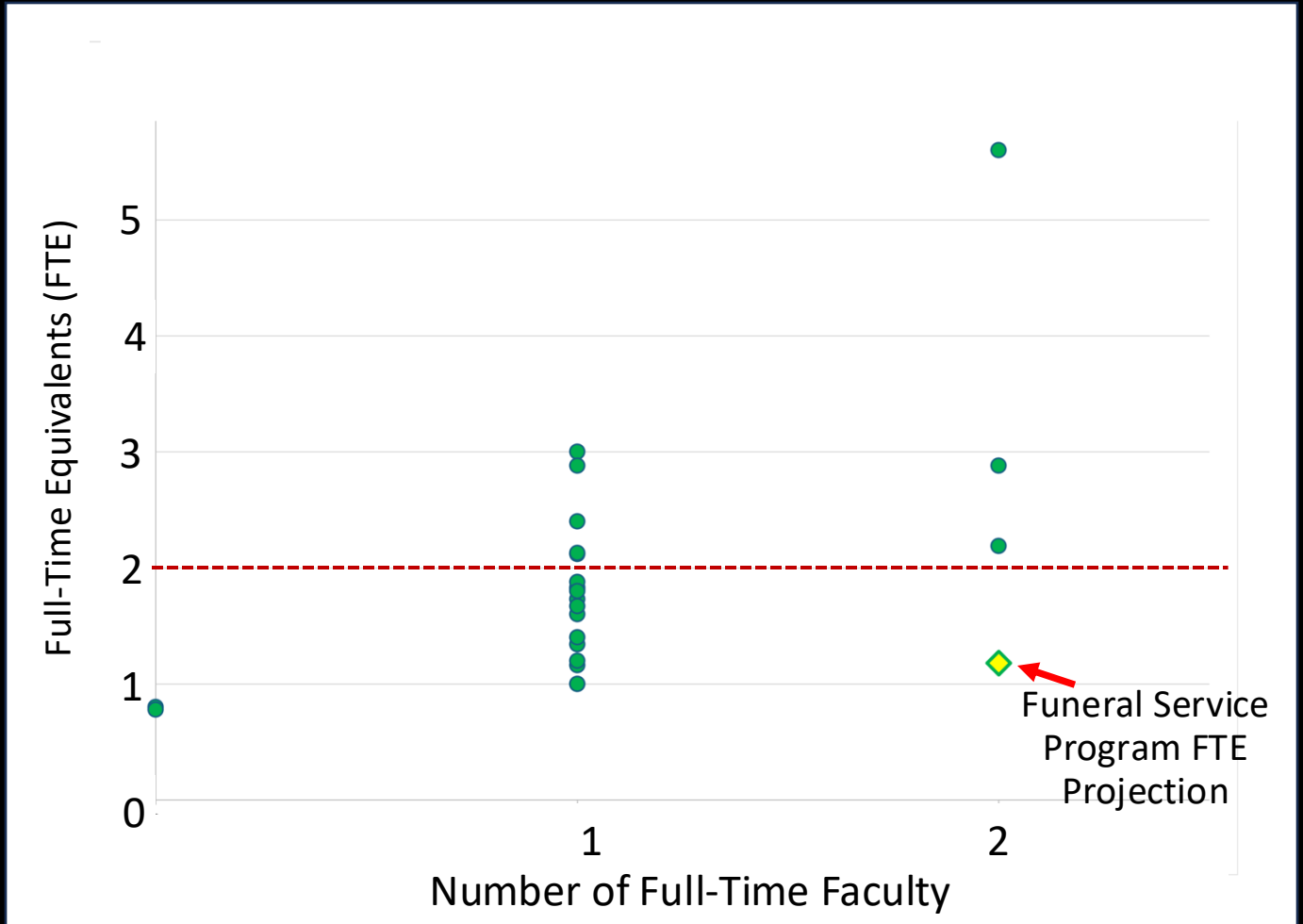
Funeral  
Service  
Program FTE  
Projection



Source: Cañada College Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness

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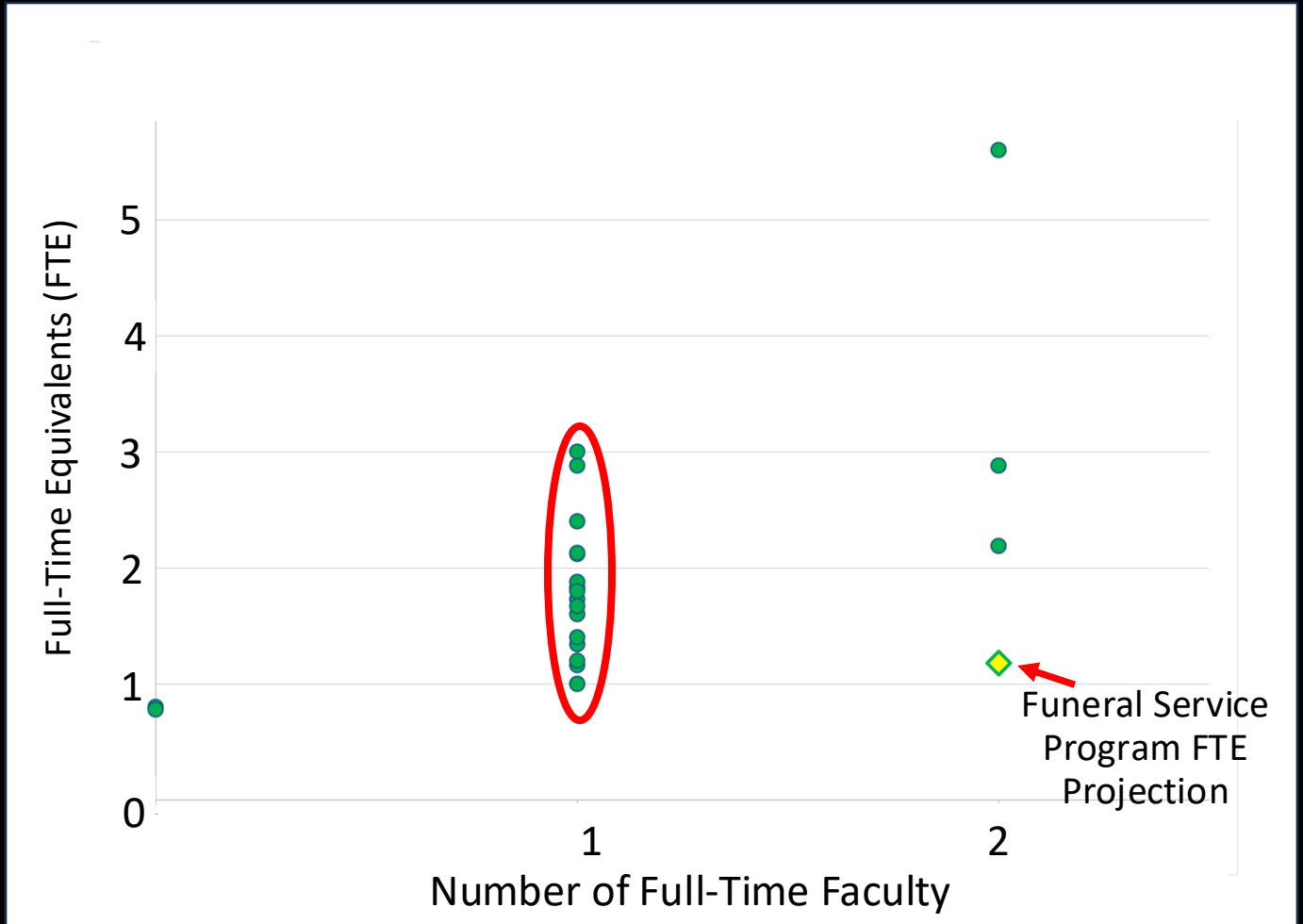
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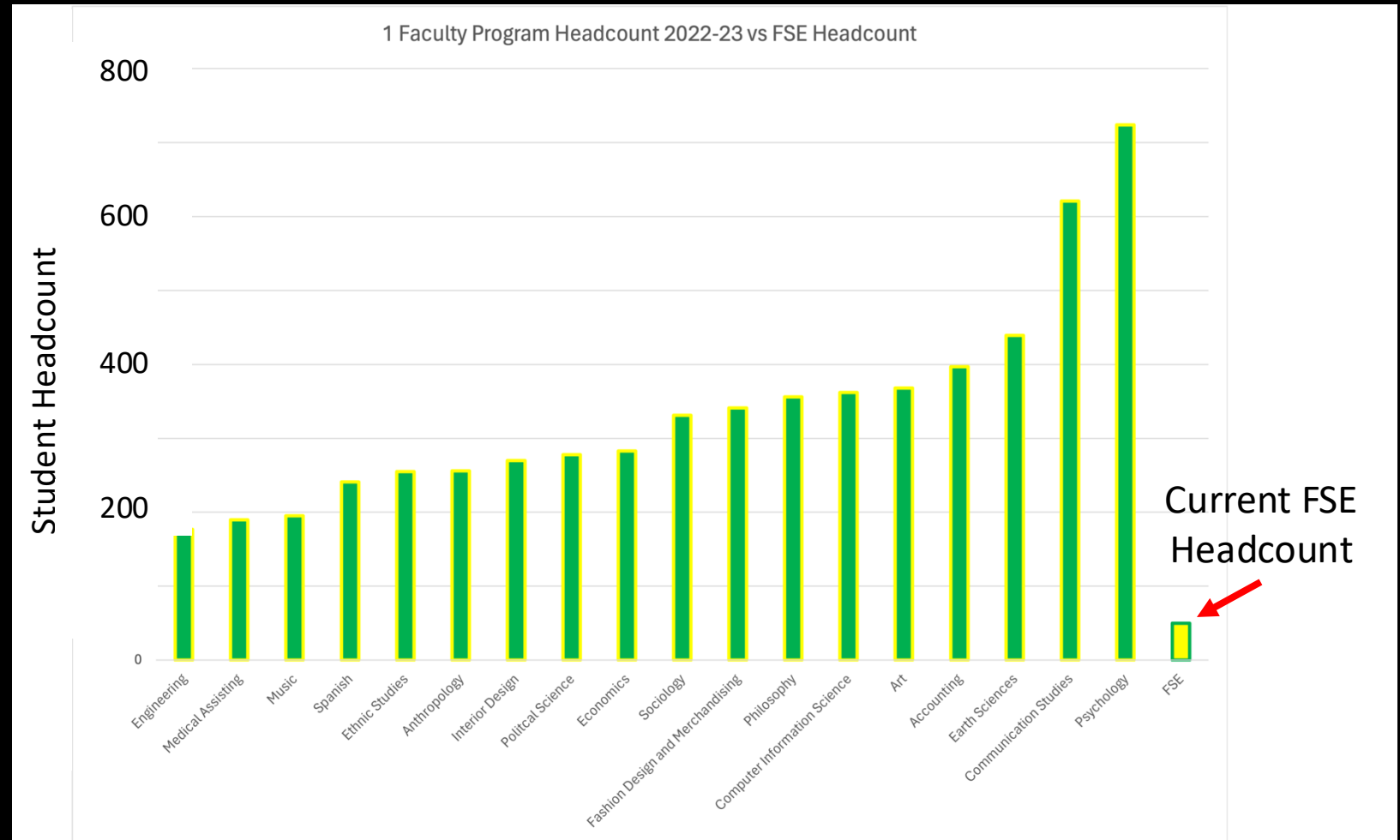
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Source: Cañada College Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness



# Student Headcount for Programs with One Full-Time Faculty



# How Does FSE Occupational Outlook Compare to Other CTE Programs?

## Funeral Service Job Projections (2022-2032)

- 3% Growth Rate
- 5,700 Job Openings

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Occupational Outlook Handbook

May 21, 2024

Cañada College Mortuary Science Advisory Board & Industry Partners

To Whom It May Concern,

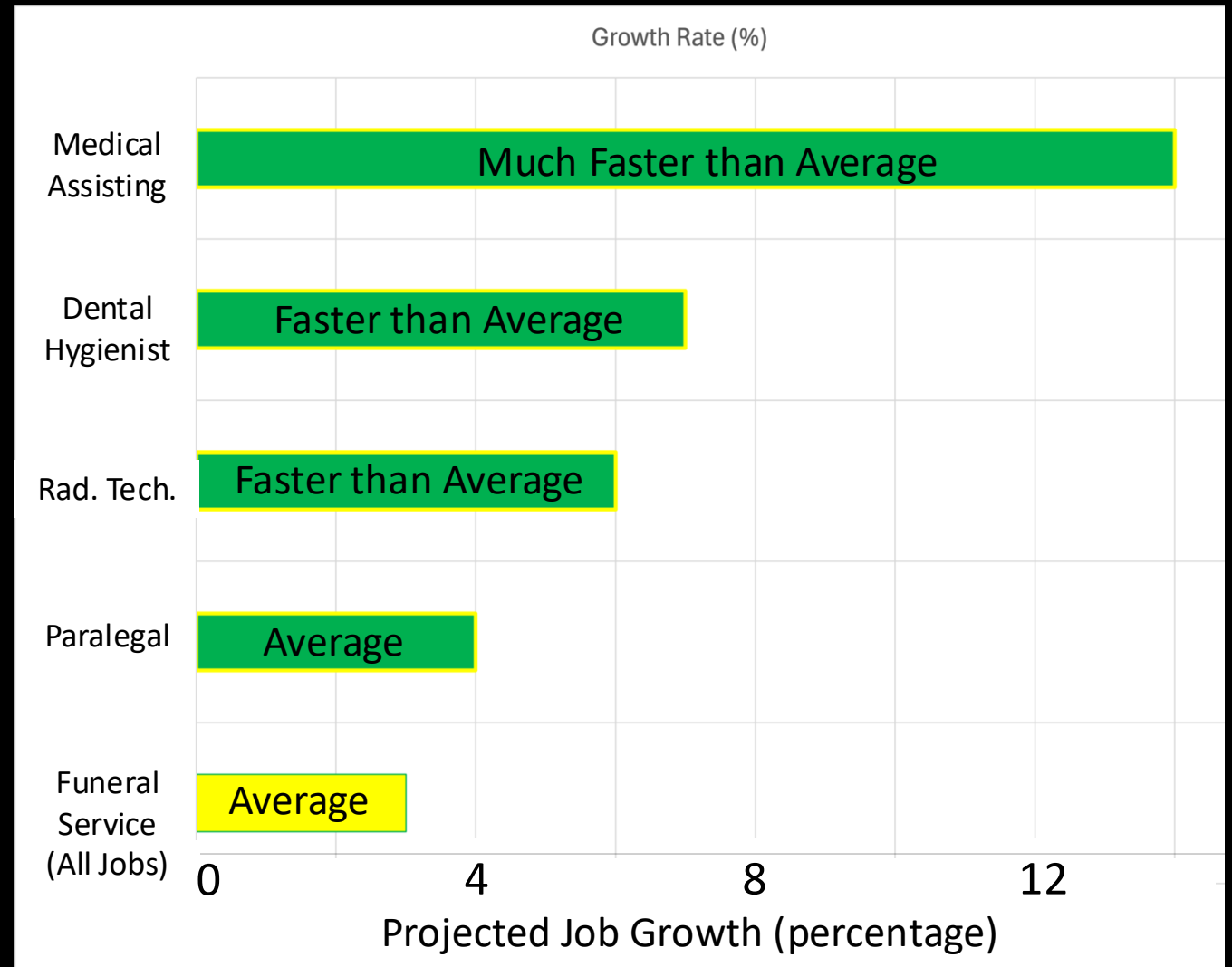
In response to the recent ABFSE accreditation requirement changes, including the addition of requiring two (2) full-time faculty by the academic year of 2027, we as funeral professionals in the State of California want to emphasize how incredibly vital this program is to the future of funeral care in our state.

Overall employment of funeral service workers is projected to grow by 3 percent from 2022 to 2032. About 5,700 openings for funeral service workers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of these openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations, or who exit the

labor force entirely, according to the research provided by the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. Unfortunately, employment demands are outpacing the

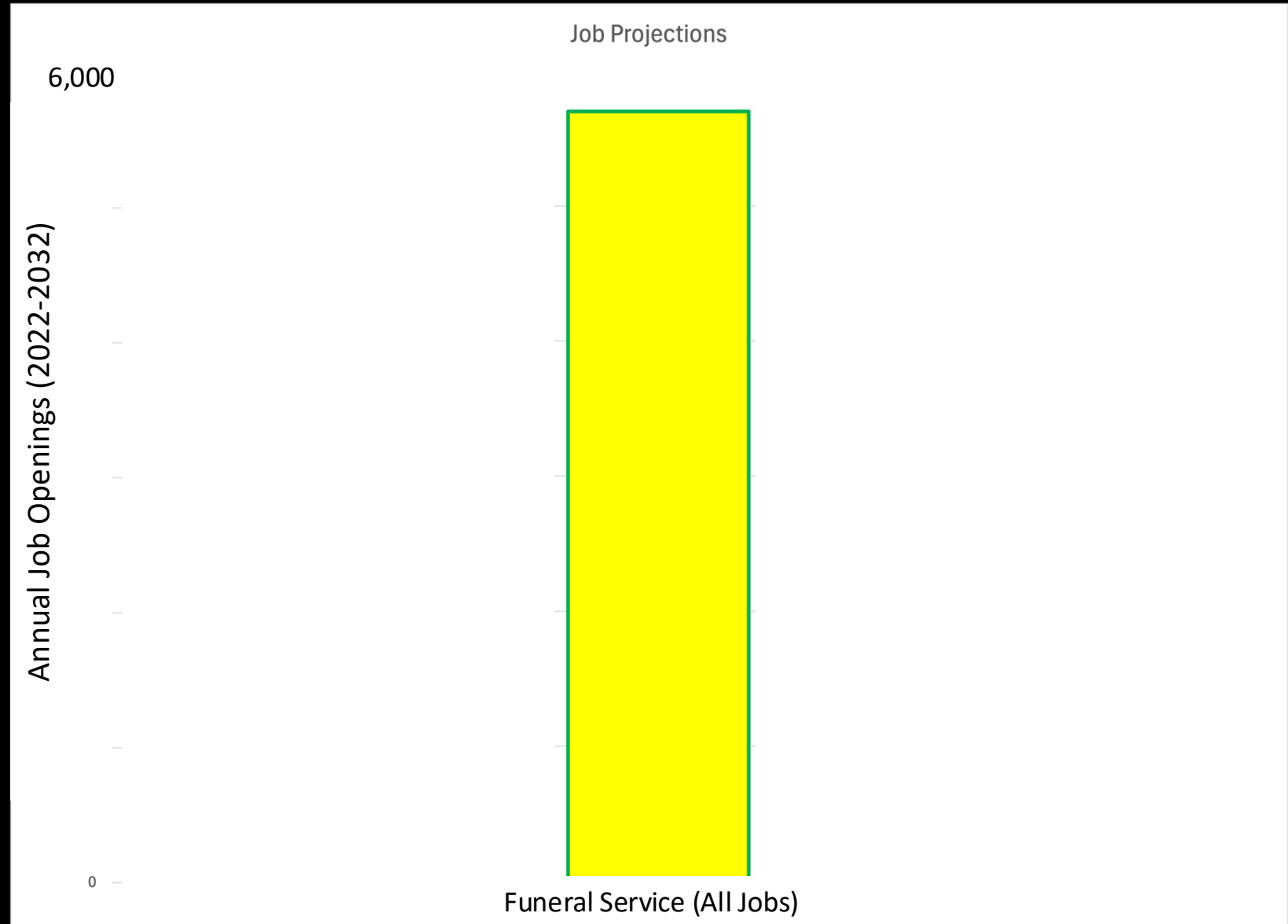
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Projected Job Growth  
Rate of CTE  
Programs in United  
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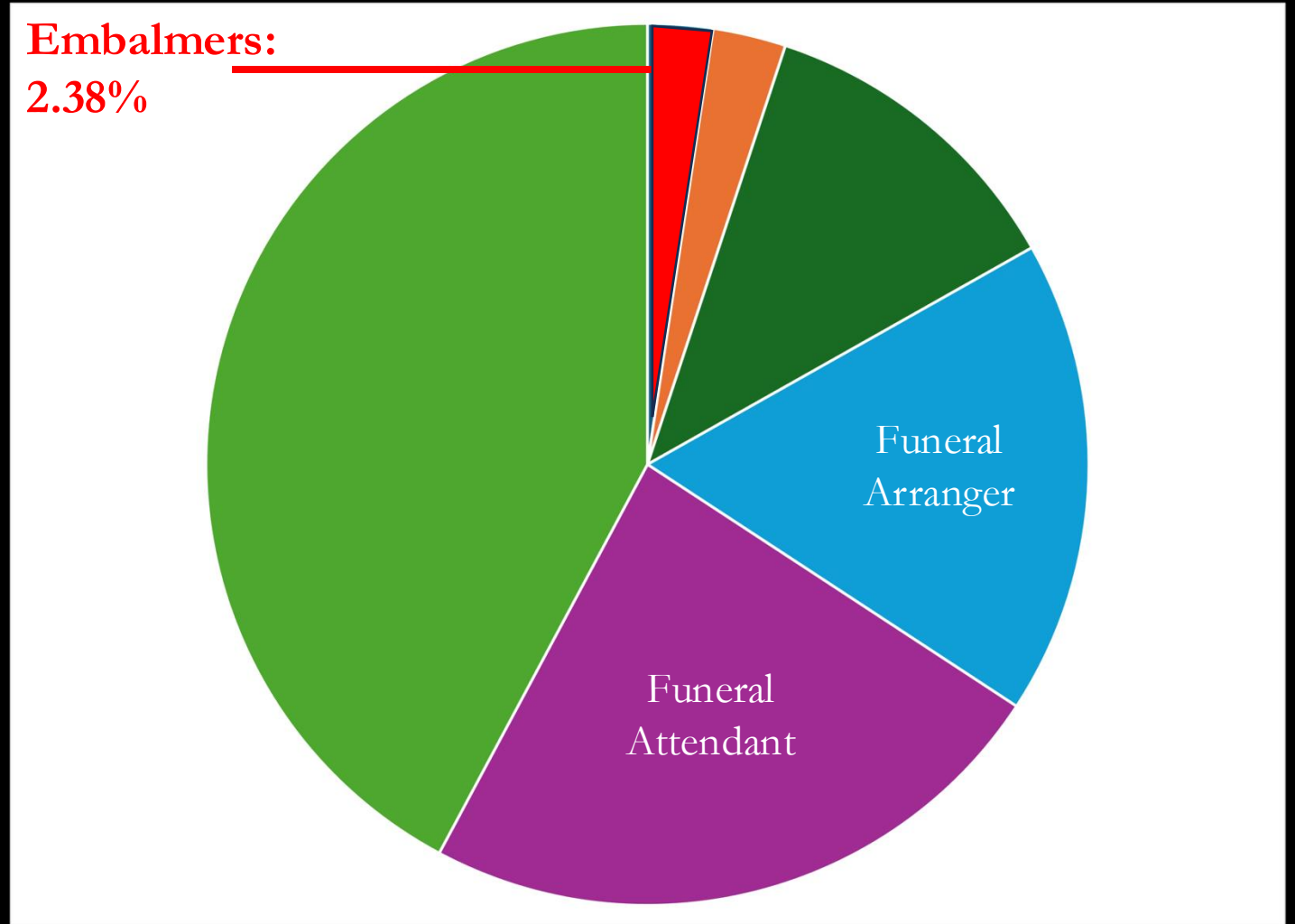


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

# How Does FSE Occupational Outlook Compare to Other CTE Programs?

## Distribution of Funeral Service Jobs

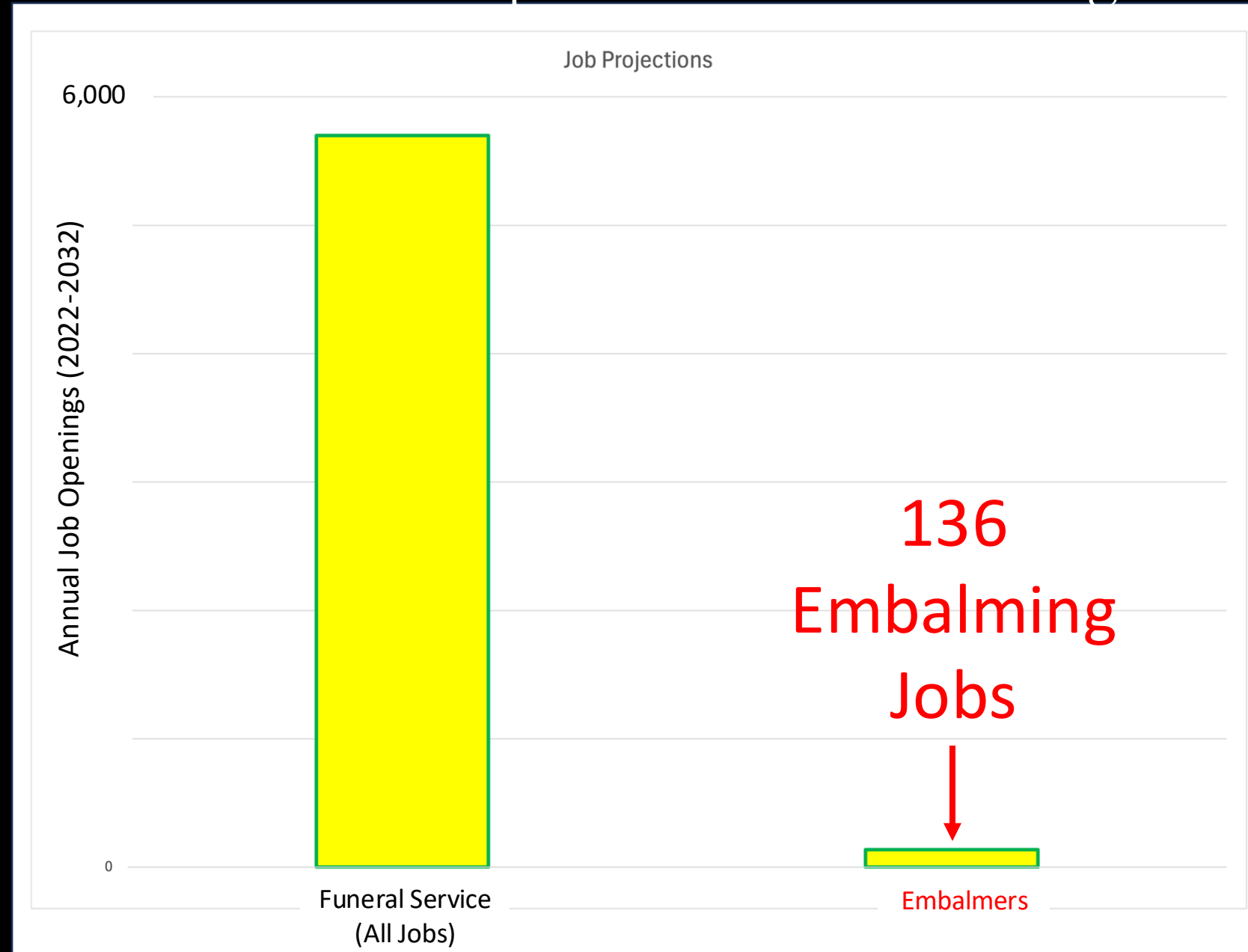
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Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

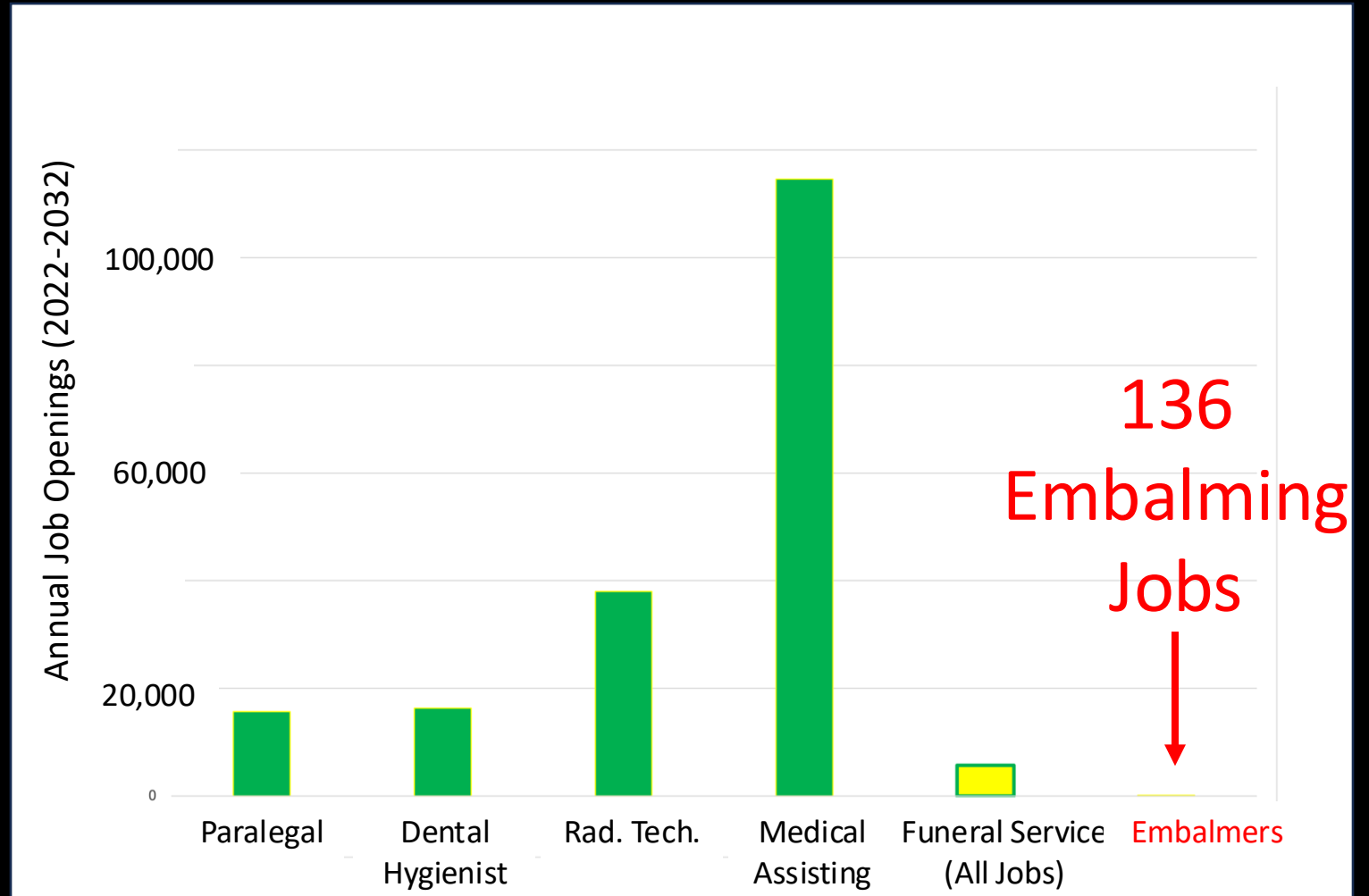
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5,700 Projected Annual Job Openings for Funeral Service Jobs in the United States (2022-2032)



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

# Projected Annual Job Openings for CTE Programs in the United States (2022-2032)



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

# Summary

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- ARC hybrid program pathway for students
- Accreditation candidacy rejected
  - Only required for embalmers
  - Need two full-time faculty
- Insufficient FTE for two faculty
- Average job growth
- Low number of job prospects relative to other programs



# Next Steps

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- Do not re-enter the accreditation process (i.e., don't re-apply for candidacy)
- Recommended Motion:
  - Initiate the Program Improvement and Viability process