

MINOR IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY



Forensic anthropologists provide expert analysis of the skeleton in a medicolegal setting by utilizing methods developed in skeletal biology, archaeology, and the forensic sciences. Forensic anthropologists play critical roles in identifying victims of mass fatalities, homicides, and distinguishing cause and manner of death. Forensic anthropologists provide information on the identity of the deceased and the circumstances of their death. They also assist in the search, recovery, and identification of human remains.

The forensic anthropology minor is interdisciplinary with electives in archaeology, biological anthropology, sociology, biology, and biomedical sciences. Students that complete the minor will acquire skills that are valuable to careers in law enforcement and crime scene investigation. These skills are also in demand in medical examiner and coroner offices, educational institutions, museums, and state and federal agencies.

To declare this minor, please email department Academic Success Coordinator Keri Canada: Keri.Canada@colostate.edu.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Describe the medicolegal system and the role of forensic anthropology within this system.
2. Differentiate between human skeletal remains and non-human skeletal remains in whole or fragmentary pieces.
3. Evaluate the efficacy of anthropological methods used in forensic science.
4. Visually differentiate and classify trauma and pathology by type and interpret the timing of when those events occurred.
5. Analyze skeletal remains and apply proper standards, guidelines, and appropriate methods.
6. Create a forensic case report.
7. Implement and adhere to personal and professional forensic ethical standards.

Requirements Effective Fall 2026

Additional coursework may be required due to prerequisites.

Students must satisfactorily complete the total credits required for the minor. Minors and interdisciplinary minors require 12 or more upper-division (300- to 400-level) credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses:		
ANTH 275/SOC 275	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology	3
ANTH 372	Human Osteology	3
Select one course from the following:		3-4
ANTH 120	Human Origins and Variation (GT-SC2)	
BZ 101	Humans and Other Animals (GT-SC2)	
BZ 110	Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)	
LIFE 102	Attributes of Living Systems (GT-SC1)	
Select one course from the following:		3
ANTH 140	Introduction to Archaeology (GT-HI1)	
ANTH 274	Human Diversity (GT-SC2)	
SOC 253	Intro to Criminology and Criminal Justice	
Select one course from the following:		3
ANTH 467	Archaeology of Death - Mourning and Memory	
ANTH 474	Human Skeleton Analysis	
Select a minimum of 6 credits from the following: ¹		6
ANTH 365	Quantifying Anthropology	
ANTH 420	Digital Digging--Geophysics in Archaeology	
ANTH 465	Zooarchaeology	
BMS 300	Principles of Human Physiology	
BMS 301	Human Gross Anatomy	
BMS 302	Laboratory in Principles of Physiology ²	
BMS 305	Domestic Animal Gross Anatomy	
BZ 360	Bioinformatics and Genomics	
SOC 353	Criminal Investigations	
Program Total Credits:		21-22

¹ A minimum of 3 credits must have an ANTH prefix.

² Must be taken concurrently with BMS 300.