

1. Briefly describe the proposed new program. Please indicate if it is an expansion of an existing program; a new program; a cooperative effort with another institution, business, or industry; or an on-campus or off-campus program. Attach any formal agreements established for cooperative efforts.

The Forensic Anthropology Undergraduate Option is a proposed new option within the anthropology Bachelor of Arts major. The Anthropology Department currently offers options in Archaeology and Linguistics, and offers a minor.

2. Summarize a needs assessment conducted to justify the proposal. Please include how the assessment plan was developed or executed and the data derived from this effort.

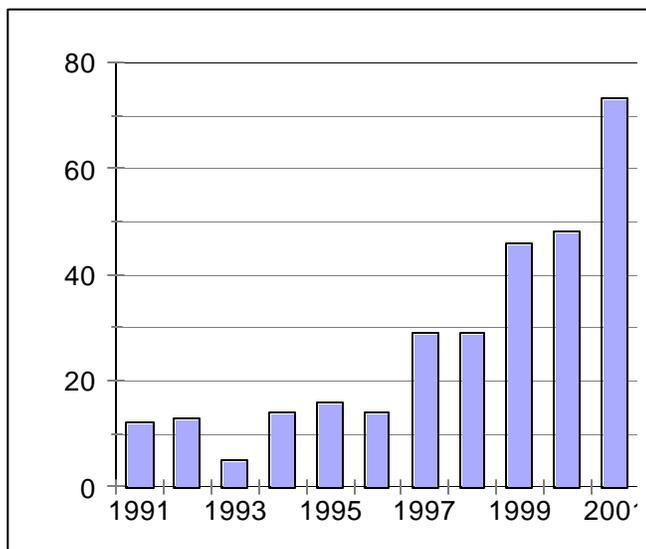
Preliminary Assessment of Need

Initially, the need for a forensic anthropology option within our undergraduate degree program was identified from the number of inquiries by students within the program, high school students from various locations around the state, and email and telephone inquiries by potential students seeking a program with the name forensic anthropology attached to it.

Need Within The Institution as Identified from Enrollment Trends

The past decade has brought growth to the anthropology program, especially those classes involving forensic anthropology and forensic science. The Department of Anthropology has made several changes designed to provide more students the opportunity to study forensic anthropology and these changes have been met with increased enrollments. These changes have included the creation of new classes and the reorganization of existing classes to accommodate more students.

Below is a graph of the data we have available. These data indicate that the number of students served in forensic anthropology classes has increased by a factor of six over the past 10 years and have more than doubled in the past 3 years. Our experience is that if we offer a class in forensic anthropology or forensic science it gets filled. Spring 2002 we are offering a new class, 'Survey of the Forensic Sciences' and it has an enrollment of over 140 students.



During Fall and Spring semesters, 1999, we administered a brief survey to students in our physical anthropology classes (Intro to Physical Anthropology, Primatology, Human Variation, Osteology, and Forensic Anthropology). A total of 104 surveys were collected. The survey questions and the results obtained document a clear and significant interest in a forensic anthropology option among current anthropology students. These are the survey questions and their results.

1. If the Anthropology Department offered a forensic anthropology option, would you be likely to enroll in it? 104 responses: Yes (86%), No (8%), Uncertain (7%)
2. Do you believe that having the fact that you completed a forensic anthropology option noted on your transcript will increase your ability to pursue your career goals? 102 responses: Yes (73%), No (11%), Uncertain (17%)

3. Are you:
 - A. Not planning on applying to graduate school
 - B. Planning on applying to graduate school at in Montana
 - C. Planning on applying to graduate school in another state102 responses: A (72%), B (15%), C (13%)

4. If you are planning on applying to graduate school in another state, would having a forensic anthropology option at the graduate level available at The University of Montana influence you to apply here instead? 13 responses: Yes (54%), No (23%), Uncertain (23%).

Need Within the Community and Society

There are a number of career paths that students in forensic anthropology could pursue. Although our option is in forensic anthropology, there are opportunities for students to educate themselves in other forensic sciences by taking coursework in other disciplines linked to the forensic sciences. We will be able to advise students on appropriate coursework choices.

In the past, some of our baccalaureate graduates who have taken courses in forensic anthropology have obtained positions with government or private crime labs. Employers have included the Montana State Laboratory of Criminal Investigation (4 students), the Portland Crime Lab, and National Medical Services (a large, private forensic toxicology firm). In addition, the methodology of forensic anthropology can also be applied to archaeological projects that involve human remains, so they can find employment with cultural resource management companies.

Law enforcement agencies are coming to realize that there is a great deal of similarity between interpreting a crime scene, and interpreting an archaeological site or fossil locality. All of these endeavors require past events to be reconstructed from the pattern of evidence left as the result of human behavior. As one example of this trend, in the fall of 1999, the City of Las Vegas was advertising specifically for anthropologists to fill vacancies in their detective division.

These examples show that there is an increasing need within society for people trained specifically in forensic anthropology.

3. Explain how the program relates to the Role and Scope of the institution as established by the Board of Regents.

The Role and Scope or Mission Statement of The University of Montana - Missoula, as contained in the current catalog includes the following relevant passages.

"- Promote programs of study that combine theory and practice, research and service, along with hands-on and creative activities." The forensic anthropology option is an applied option in that it combines theoretical perspectives transmitted in lectures with hands-on experience in the laboratory, and offers at least some students the opportunity to participate in casework in a way that their contributions may lead to the solution of criminal cases.

"-Provide academic opportunities to the citizens of Montana when and where they need them and at a price they can afford." Nationally, the demand for forensic anthropology and forensic science programs seems to be increasing. A few other institutions are offering program or options in forensic anthropology or forensic science (see <http://www.anthro.umt.edu/schools/forensic.htm> for a partial list) all of which are in other states. Providing a forensic anthropology option at The University of Montana - Missoula, would allow Montanans to obtain this education within the state.

The Mission Statement of The University of Montana begins with these words *"The University of Montana capitalizes on its unique strengths to create knowledge, provide an active learning environment for students, and offer programs and services responsive to the needs of Montanans."* Above, we demonstrate that there is a perceived need for a forensic science option among the current University of Montana - Missoula students, so providing this option would constitute a case of being responsive to the needs of Montanans.

The Role of the Anthropology Department at The University of Montana - Missoula

The Anthropology Department of The University of Montana - Missoula represents the largest concentration of anthropologists at an institution of higher education in Montana. This department employs the only physical anthropologist in Montana who is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists. We are in the process of hiring a second physical anthropologist who will also have expertise in forensic anthropology. In addition, the Montana State Laboratory of Criminal Investigation is located in Missoula, and a long-standing cooperative relationship exists between the Department and the Crime Lab wherein all cases involving skeletal remains that come to the Crime Lab are handled by the Department of Anthropology as a free service to the state. The Crime Lab also provides a limited number of opportunities for internships, volunteer positions, and work-study positions that offer students the opportunity to get hands-on experience.

4. Please state what effect, if any, the proposed program will have on the administrative structure of the institution. Also indicate the potential involvement of other departments, divisions, colleges, or schools.

The forensic anthropology option will have no effect on the administrative structure of the institution. The forensic anthropology option may have the effect of increasing interest and enrollment in the Department of Sociology's criminology program. We have met with Sociology to explore the opportunities, and continue to hold dialogues with them.

5. Describe the extent to which similar programs are offered in Montana, the Pacific Northwest, and states bordering Montana. How similar are these programs to the one herein proposed?

Similar programs are offered at University of Wyoming, California State University Chico (Forensic Science administered by Anthropology), Hamline University (Forensic Science administered by Anthropology), University of Tennessee Knoxville, and perhaps others. The requirements for all of them are similar: a survey class in the forensic sciences, classes in forensic anthropology and human variation, and additional coursework in the sciences, especially chemistry & biology.

6. Please name any accrediting agency(ies) or learned society(ies) that would be concerned with the particular program herein proposed. How has this program been developed in accordance with the criteria developed by said accrediting body(ies) or learned society(ies)?

No accrediting agencies would be concerned with the forensic anthropology option.

7. Prepare an outline of the proposed curriculum showing course titles and credits. Please include any plans for expansion of the program during its first three years.

We have no plans for expansion of this program during its first three years.

For a degree in anthropology with an option in forensic anthropology, the student must meet all the general requirements for the BA degree in Anthropology and in addition:

- A. complete ANTH 261N (Survey of the Forensic Sciences, 3cr) or 461 (Forensic Science & Technology, 3cr), 353 (Archaeological Survey, 3cr), 460N (Human Variation, 3cr), and 462 (Principles of Forensic Anthropology, 3cr);
- B. complete an additional 12 credits of courses in physical anthropology (not counting ANTH 260), archaeological methods, or other disciplines with subject matter relevant to the forensic sciences.

Students are strongly encouraged to pursue a minor in a discipline of relevance to the forensic sciences.

FACULTY AND STAFF REQUIREMENTS

1. Please indicate, by name and rank, current faculty who will be involved with the program proposed herein.

Randall R. Skelton, Professor

David Garrett Kerr, Visiting Lecturer. We are currently searching for a new hire who will at least partly replace Mr. Kerr.

Thomas A. Foor, Professor

- 2. Please project the need for new faculty over the first five-year program. Include special qualifications or training. If present faculty are to conduct the new program, please explain how they will be relieved from present duties.**

We are currently searching for an authorized new hire who will participate directly by teaching classes relating to this option.

Current faculty do not need to be released from teaching duties because they are already teaching the classes listed above on a regular basis.

- 3. Please explain the need and cost for support personnel or other required personnel expenditures.**

No support or other personnel are required.

CAPITAL OUTLAY, OPERATING EXPENDITURES, AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES

- 1. Please summarize operating expenditure needs.**

There will be no operating expenditures other than the ongoing salary of the faculty teaching the classes.

- 2. Please evaluate library resources. Are they adequate for operation of the proposed program? If not, how will the library need to be strengthened during the next three years?**

A Griznet search produced 20 titles in forensic anthropology held by the Mansfield Library. The Mansfield Library subscribes to the two most important journals in the field, *The American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, and *The Journal of Forensic Science*. Forensic Sciences International is also an important journal in the field, and its articles are available through Ingenta.

- 3. Please indicate special clinical, laboratory, and/or computer equipment that will be needed. List those pieces of equipment or computer hardware presently available in the department.**

We currently have an small, but adequate forensic osteological collection. We have a PC-compatible computer to run specialized software and access to the computers in the Social Sciences Research Laboratory, which is next door to the physical/forensic anthropology laboratory.

- 4. Please describe facilities and space required for the proposed program. Are current facilities adequate for the program? If not, how does the institution propose to provide new facilities?**

All classes required by the option are lecture classes, which may be held in existing rooms. Some of the optional classes are laboratories which will be held in the existing physical/forensic anthropology laboratory.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM

- 1. Please name faculty committees or councils that have reviewed and approved the program herein proposed.**

The Academic Senate Curriculum Review Committee and the Faculty Senate have reviewed and approved the proposal for a forensic anthropology undergraduate option.

- 2. If outside consultants have been employed, please list the names of these consultants, their current positions, and titles. Append copies of their written reports (this is required of new doctoral programs).**

No outside consultants have been used.

Fiscal Impact and Budget Information

There is no fiscal impact for the implementation of the option.