

## Program Overview: Minor, Forensic Anthropology



### About This Minor . . .

The Forensic Anthropology minor introduces students to the knowledge and skills necessary to employ anthropological techniques in a forensic context. Students will become familiar with both field and laboratory techniques used in forensic anthropology. Students in the minor use the Forensic Investigation Research Station, a facility built to study the decomposition of the human body. The minor especially complements such degree programs as Criminal Justice and Biology. Students with a background in Forensic Anthropology will be better prepared for jobs in areas related to death investigation.

**All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.**

Students graduating with a minor in Forensic Anthropology will be able to:

1. critically analyze the relationship of forensic anthropology to medico-legal problems and investigations.
2. establish a biological profile of skeletal remains, including age, sex, ethnicity, and height.
3. use taphonomic methodology to examine the issue of post-mortem interval for the deceased.
4. think critically to solve problems in the areas of forensic anthropology using academic sources of information. For example, investigating an area of interest in forensic anthropology by reading the literature that exists for that area.

### Program Highlights:

#### The Forensic Investigation Research Station (FIRS)

The Forensic Investigation Research station is one of six research facilities in the country using human remains to study decomposition. Only two such facilities primarily work with an undergraduate population. Students work with human donations and document the decomposition process. The skeletal collection at FIRS provides an opportunity to study modern human skeletal variation, pathology, and trauma.

#### Partnership with Rocky Mountain Forensic Services

The RMFS conducts autopsies and, when appropriate and with the permission of the jurisdiction at FIRS, allows students to watch and interact with professionals conducting the work.

#### The Crime Scene House

CMU has a house near campus host to multiple murders every year. Students learn investigation techniques in a hands-on environment.

#### Get Involved with Research

Faculty in the Forensic Anthropology program work with students to produce quality, primary research studies.

#### Get Involved in a Club

The Forensic Anthropology program sponsors an active Forensic Science Club. Students raise funds to attend the annual American Academy of Forensic Science meetings.



## Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

### 1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

### 2. What You Will Study in This Minor. . .

#### Forensic Anthropology Core

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Human Osteology
- Research Methods: Forensic Taphonomy
- Human Remains Detection and Recovery
- Internship at FIRS

#### Electives

To increase your breadth of knowledge Forensic Anthropology minors are required to take additional elective courses. Students should work with their advisors to pick the electives that best suit their career goals.

- Survey of Physical Anthropology
- Survey of Forensic Science
- Forensic Entomology
- Field Methods in Archaeology
- Independent Study
- Human Evolution

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For more information about this minor, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/firs/index.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Social and Behavioral Sciences, 414 Lowell Heiny Hall, 970.248.1932.