

# FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

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## Program Description

Forensic anthropology is the use of anthropological techniques to assist law enforcement, with the focus on the study of the human skeleton. Generally, physical anthropologists concentrate on the recovery and identification of human remains, most often where the victim's remains are in advanced stages of decomposition. There are two main foci—osteology (the study of bones) and taphonomy (the study of how organic matter decays). An osteological analysis of a skeleton assesses the age, sex, ancestry, stature, and unique features of an individual from the skeleton. The study of taphonomy helps to determine a post-mortem interval and what happened to a body from the time of death to the time of discovery. The minor is suited to those majoring in criminal justice or biology with an interest in death investigation.

## Contact Information

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## Bachelors/Minors

- Forensic Anthropology (Minor) (<http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/forensic-anthropology/forensic-anthropology-minor>)