

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 Graduate Option is a proposed new option within the anthropology Master of Arts degree. The anthropology department currently offers options in Cultural Heritage and Linguistics.

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.

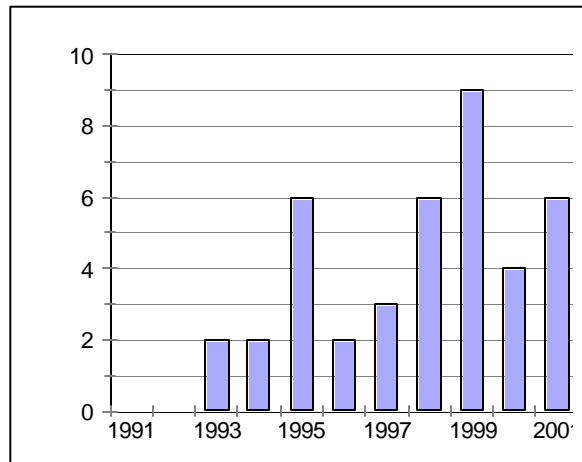
### Preliminary Assessment of Need

Initially, the need for a forensic anthropology option within our graduate degree program was identified from the number of inquiries by students within the program 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 and Application Trends

The past decade has brought growth to the anthropology program, including graduate classes relevant forensic anthropology. The Department of Anthropology has developed a new graduate class and several undergraduate classes that provide more graduate students the opportunity to study forensic anthropology, and these changes have been met with increased enrollments.

Over the past decade we have experienced continued growth in the number of applicants to our Master of Arts program seeking education in forensic anthropology. This has been reflected in increased admissions of students with an interest in forensic anthropology as. The numbers of such admissions per year are shown in the graph below. There have been several years, when applicants interested in forensic anthropology have constituted more than half of the applicant pool.



### The Potential to Attract More Students

During Fall and Spring semesters, 1999, we administered a brief survey to students in physical anthropology classes (Intro to Physical Anthropology, Primatology, Human Variation, Osteology, and Forensic Anthropology). A total of 104 surveys were collected. The results of a subset of questions suggest that a graduate forensic anthropology option would be attractive and might increase the number of students electing to pursue graduate studies at The University of Montana - Missoula, rather than going out of state. This set of questions was:

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 state**

102 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%).

It is widely recognized within the anthropological community that forensic anthropology is a graduate specialty in high demand, but with a limited number of programs serving the demand. The "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" document of the sci.anthropology usenet newsgroup reports: "Posters frequently ask sci.anthropology for advice on grad school. Out of all proportion to other specialties, though, are questions about forensic anthropology."

(<http://starbase.neosoft.com/~claird/sci.anthropology/s.a.FAQ.htm>).

Although it is difficult to predict, there is every indication that a graduate option in forensic anthropology might attract more students to The University of Montana - Missoula.

### **Need Within the Community and Society**

There are a number of career paths that students in forensic anthropology could pursue. In the past, many of our graduate students have obtained positions with government or private crime labs. For example three of our current and former graduate students are employed at the Montana State Laboratory of Criminal Investigation, one was just promoted to Chief Investigator within the State of New Mexico Medical Examiner's Office, and one works for the King County, WA, Coroner's Office. The skills of forensic anthropology can also be applied to archaeological projects that involve human remains, so graduates 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.

The majority of our students who complete the Master of Arts degree in anthropology plan to go on to a Ph.D. program, and many of them have obtained admission to pursue Ph.D. work. There are relatively few programs around the country that offer a specialization in forensic anthropology at the Masters level, which may make our program especially attractive to those students wishing to go on to Ph.D. study.

These examples show that there is a need for a specialized option in forensic anthropology at the graduate level.

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 or upon any other department.

**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?**

A similar MA program is offered at Arizona State (Bioarchaeology). This program is similar to ours in that they combine a broad foundation in anthropology with specialized coursework in forensic anthropology or skeletal analysis.

**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 graduate 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.

### **The Forensic Anthropology Option:**

In addition to the Graduate School's requirements and Anthropology M.A. core requirements students must meet the following requirements:

- A. ANTH 564 (Advanced Forensic Anthropology) and 583 (Theories & Concepts in Forensic Anthropology).
- B. ANTH 353 (Archaeological Survey), 450 (Archaeological Theory), 460N (Human Variation), 461 (Forensic Science & Technology), 462 (Principles of Forensic Anthropology), and 463 (Osteology) or the equivalents, if not taken as an undergraduate.

### **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 these classes.

- 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 a 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?**

Current classroom and laboratory space are adequate for this program.

#### **EVALUATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM**

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

The Graduate Council 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.