

February 16, 2023

Associate Professor Brad Steinmetz
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Dear Professor Steinmetz and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee,

On February 2, 2023, the ASCC's Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel reviewed and approved a proposal from the Department of Anthropology for a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Forensic Anthropology. The rationale for this new major is based on a high student-demand for this content, and the fact that there are currently no undergraduate degrees in forensic anthropology offered in the U.S. The Department of Anthropology is well-positioned to successfully offer this degree program, having a faculty composed of experts in numerous areas, including human osteology, skeletal biology, and bone histology – to name just a few.

The BS in Forensic Anthropology will prepare students for immediate employment in the medicolegal community, will support direct college-to-career paths for students in multiple areas (e.g., morgue attendant, forensic photographer, etc.), and will provide a foundation for graduate education.

The major will require a minimum of 43 credit hours from the following categories: three pre-requisite courses (10 credit hours), two introductory courses (6 credit hours), three core courses (9 credit hours), two practical training courses (6 credit hours), two courses in applications to forensic anthropology (6 credit hours), and two courses in interdisciplinary research and application (6 credit hours).

It is anticipated that the new major will enroll between 30-40 students per year, with an expected plateau of 150-200 students.

The panel was very pleased with the proposal. The Department of Anthropology has put together a very thorough proposal with clearly articulated goals, an administrative plan, and an assessment plan. The panel offered one recommendation to clarify that at least one of the two courses selected for "applications to forensic anthropology" will need to have the advanced writing designation to complete the embedded literacy requirement. The panel also offered two comments noting the high number of 5000-level courses included in this program of study, and the need for future assessment of the GE Advanced Writing ELOs.

We advance the proposal for the BS in Forensic Anthropology to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,



Christina M. Roup, Ph.D., Associate Professor