

FORENSIC SCIENCE CERTIFICATE

The Certificate in Forensic Science fosters student interest in applying scientific knowledge and skills of the physical anthropologist to legal issues (i.e., in an area of the forensic sciences). This program promotes both the development of important methods such as human skeletal identification and assessment in collaborative involvement with local law enforcement agencies.

Students wishing to pursue a career in one of the forensic sciences should consult advisors in anthropology, biology, or chemistry. Entry-level employment in criminalistics commonly requires a major in one of the physical or natural sciences, including a year of general chemistry and a course in quantitative analysis.

Graduate programs in criminalistics commonly require a major in one of the physical or natural sciences.

Grading Requirement

All courses taken to fulfill program course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as credit/no credit grading only.

An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for the entire program.

Course Requirements for the Certificate

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this certificate. Contact the Department of Anthropology for enrollment.

Course	Title	Units
Core Program		
ANTH 311	Survey of Forensic Science	3
ANTH 489A	Biological Anthropology Internship (must be taken for a total of 3 units)	3
ENGL 330W	Introduction to Technical Writing (W)	3
Methods and Techniques		
Select three of the following: ¹		9-12
ANTH 380	Field Archaeology	
ANTH 415	Forensic Anthropology	
ANTH 480	Advanced Field Archaeology	
ANTH 481	Human Identification	
BIOL 103	Human Anatomy	
BIOL 211	Allied Health Microbiology	
BIOL 303	Human Genetics	
BIOL 360	Genetics	
BIOL 430	Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates	
BIOL 460	Histology	
BIOL 462	Hematology	
Additional upper-division BIOL courses may be counted for the Methods and Techniques requirement with approval of the Forensic Coordinator.		
CHEM 111	General Chemistry I	
CHEM 112	General Chemistry II	
CHEM 270	Organic Chemistry I	

CHEM 320	Quantitative Analysis	
CHEM 370	Organic Chemistry II	
CHEM 370L	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	
Legal Systems		
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 250	Introduction to Criminal Justice	
POLS/PHIL 438	Jurisprudence: Philosophy of Law	
POLS 450	Criminal Procedure	
SOCI/POLS 384	Criminology	

Total Units 21-24

¹ These courses must be selected from outside the student's major department and chosen with the prior approval of the certificate coordinator. A specific program of courses may be required depending upon the student's major and previous preparation.

Professional Standards

The forensic certificate signifies readiness to begin professional work in an area requiring trust and high ethical standards. Students are expected to meet the ethical and professional standards set by the agencies with which they may serve as an intern. Should it be determined that students do not meet such standards, they may be disqualified from fulfilling the internship component of the certificate and thus prevented from completing the certificate.

Contact the Department of Anthropology for enrollment.

Prerequisites to Program

Candidates for the certificate must be a California State University, Chico undergraduate currently enrolled in a complementary bachelor's degree program.