

MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY, BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Over the past half century, Biological Anthropology has undergone tremendous change from a discipline that was defined by a descriptive, typological approach to human morphology (the study of shape) to one that includes both experimental and comparative analyses in a population-based framework.

Biological anthropologists continue to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and interact with both the physical and natural sciences including biology, anatomy, genetics, chemistry, biometry, and endocrinology as well as the social sciences.

The expertise of existing faculty in Biological Anthropology at CSU includes:

- Human skeletal biology
- Forensic anthropology
- Evolutionary theory
- Neanderthal paleobiology and paleobiogeography
- Dental anthropology
- Early hominin feeding ecology
- Taphonomy
- Plio-Pleistocene Africa
- Pleistocene Asia
- Primate origins, biology, and locomotion

Two broad themes exist within biological anthropology. The first emphasizes evolutionary theory and morphological transformations, and the second is concerned with adaptations that are the product of the interaction between human biology and culture. Current faculty research addresses both of these themes.

Special resources include the Bone Lab, the Zooarchaeology Lab, the Human Osteology Lab, the 3-D Imaging and Analysis lab, the Center for Paleoanthropological Research, and the Primate Origins lab. The biological anthropology program sponsors an annual paleontology field school each summer in Wyoming. Existing faculty also have geographic foci significant to their research. Research areas include Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Croatia, Kenya, and Tanzania.