

Qualifications

1.0 Principle, Spirit and Intent

Establishing qualifications to practice forensic anthropology ensures that the best interests of the profession, the justice system, and society are served. Practitioners should possess the appropriate qualifications relevant to the forensic anthropology-related duties they are expected to perform.

2.0 Purpose and Scope

The following guidelines recommend levels of education, training, experience, and professional activities required to practice forensic anthropology at various levels. These guidelines apply to forensic anthropologists practicing in any laboratory setting including medicolegal facilities, universities, law enforcement agencies, government laboratories, and other crime laboratories.

Laboratories should strive to employ the most qualified forensic anthropologists appropriate to its case-working functions and organizational requirements. Outside the United States, consideration should be given to the availability of comparable education and professional development programs. In the absence of specific guidelines or procedures, the principle, spirit and intent should be met.

3.0 Forensic Anthropologist I

A Forensic Anthropologist I should work under close supervision of a Forensic Anthropologist III. Responsibilities may include data collection (taking measurements and notes), assisting with forensic anthropological analyses, and co-signing reports. A Forensic Anthropologist I should possess the following qualifications:

- A Master's Degree (MA or MS) or equivalent in Physical/Biological Anthropology or closely-related field, with a significant emphasis on skeletal biology, human variation, human anatomy, and statistics
OR
A Bachelor's Degree (BA or BS) or equivalent, and active enrollment in a graduate program with a Forensic Anthropologist III, with similar emphasis
- Participation in relevant continuing education and training (e.g., workshops, short courses) in forensic anthropology or related fields

- Active membership, at any level, in relevant professional organizations (e.g., American Academy of Forensic Sciences, International Association for Identification, American Association of Physical Anthropologists)

4.0 Forensic Anthropologist II

A Forensic Anthropologist II independently conducts forensic anthropological analyses and writes and signs reports in a laboratory preferably supervised by a Forensic Anthropologist III. A Forensic Anthropologist II should possess the following qualifications:

- A Master's Degree (MA or MS) or equivalent in Physical/Biological Anthropology or closely-related field, with a significant emphasis on, human osteology, skeletal biology, human variation, human anatomy, and statistics
- Three (3) years of relevant experience supervised/mentored by a Forensic Anthropologist III, following the above degree
- Active certification in forensic anthropology by a Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board-accredited organization (if and when available)
- Participation in relevant continuing education and training (e.g., workshops, short courses) in forensic anthropology or related fields
- Continuing professional development in forensic anthropology including one or more of the following:
 - Conducting research and authoring peer-reviewed publications
 - Professional service
 - Teaching relevant courses at the collegiate level
 - Enrollment in a doctoral program
- Voting Membership in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences or comparable organization

5.0 Forensic Anthropologist III

A Forensic Anthropologist III independently conducts forensic anthropological analyses and writes and signs reports. They may be the sole forensic anthropology practitioner in a laboratory, and may supervise individuals at the Forensic Anthropologist I or Forensic Anthropologist II levels. A Forensic Anthropologist III should possess the following qualifications:

- A Doctoral degree (PhD) or equivalent in Physical/Biological Anthropology or closely-related field with a significant emphasis on forensic anthropology, human osteology, skeletal biology, human variation, human anatomy, and statistics
- Three years of sustained, relevant, mentored casework and professional activity, following the above degree
- Active certification by the American Board of Forensic Anthropology or other Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board-accredited organization (if and when available)
- Participation in relevant continuing education and training (e.g., workshops, short courses) in forensic anthropology or related fields
- Continuing professional development in forensic anthropology including one or more of the following:
 - Conducting research and authoring peer-reviewed publications
 - Professional service
 - Teaching relevant courses at the collegiate level
- Fellowship in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences or comparable professional organization

6.0 Additional Considerations

A laboratory providing forensic anthropological services or analyses (including sole practitioners/consultants) should have at least one Forensic Anthropologist III in residence who directly supervises the work of individuals at the Forensic Anthropologist I and II levels.