

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the costs for forensic anthropological analysis at the UNT Center for Human Identification?

Forensic anthropological services are provided at no cost. Submitting agencies are asked to cover shipping costs and travel expenses for testimony if needed.

Must I submit the entire set of remains?

Partial remains are acceptable if that is all that is recovered. Please submit all of the remains that were recovered so we may provide the most complete and accurate analysis.

Can I submit remains for both anthropological and DNA analyses at the same time?

Yes, a common submission form is utilized for the Center for Human Identification and you can select anthropology, DNA, or both. Our laboratory will analyze the remains and then forward an appropriate sample to the molecular laboratory for DNA analysis and CODIS entry.

Can I submit remains that are partially decomposed and not completely skeletal?

Please call us before shipping remains that are not dry skeletal material. We can analyze these cases, but need to speak with you first.

Will my case be used for teaching or will students have access to my case?

No, the laboratory is **NOT** an academic lab, and access to the space and submitted casework is restricted to Center for Human Identification anthropologists.

What is your policy regarding the media?

Reports are confidential and issued only to the submitting agency. No information will be released to the media by the laboratory.

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National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs, www.namus.gov, fills the nation's need for a unified, online, free database system for unidentified remains and missing persons records. **NamUs.gov** is the one place where everyone interested in solving missing persons and unidentified decedent cases — law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners, victims advocates and families — can share information to help solve these difficult cases.



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National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs

ANTHROPOLOGY

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Forensic Anthropology involves the analysis of human skeletal remains within an investigative context. While many cases are recovered in a skeletal state, this analysis may be appropriate for decomposing remains or traumatic skeletal injuries in fleshed remains.

The UNT Center for Human Identification's Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology

Located in restricted access space on the UNT Denton campus, the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology has provided anthropological analyses of skeletal remains to investigative agencies since 1988. The laboratory is under the direction of a board certified forensic anthropologist and employs three full-time forensic anthropologists dedicated to active casework.

As part of the UNT Center for Human Identification, the laboratory provides services to investigative agencies, medical examiners, and other medicolegal entities at no cost.



Forensic anthropological analyses may include:

Assessment of Skeletal Remains

- Determination of forensic significance
- Postmortem interval estimations

Biological Profile

Basic biological descriptions (sex, ancestry, age, stature) based on skeletal analysis

- Needed to accurately complete case profiles in various databases such as **NamUs** and **NCIC**.
- Aids in the search for possible matches with missing persons
- Includes the recognition and documentation of unique skeletal features or pathologies which may aid in narrowing the pool of potential missing persons or form the basis for positive identifications.



Identifications

Comparisons with medical history and imaging may yield positive identifications. Additionally, the laboratory works directly with the **NamUs** forensic odontologists to provide dental imaging, radiographs, and charting to facilitate dental identifications.

Trauma Analysis

Recognition and documentation of skeletal traumatic injuries. These findings may contribute to cause and manner of death determinations.

Court Testimony

Sworn testimony supporting the findings provided in the anthropological report.

Contact Us

UNT Center for Human Identification
Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology.

For further information regarding the laboratory or questions related to anthropological analyses, please contact us directly at:

800-279-1339 or 940-565-4335

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For submission forms, shipping questions, or questions regarding DNA analysis, please contact Evidence Control at:

800-763-3147

missingpersons@unthsc.edu



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