

Los Angeles Pierce College
Forensic Science Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 3, 2025

Present:

Kathy Oborn – LAPC Criminal Justice department
Jacob Seror – Criminalist II LAPD
Larry O'Connor – retired forensic specialist
Brian Pierson – Professor of Anthropology

The committee met to discuss the feasibility of creating a Forensics, Evidence and Investigation, 17-unit certificate of achievement at Pierce College

Based on the available data for the Labor Market Analysis, there appears to be a supply gap for forensic science technicians in the region. Furthermore, entry-level wages exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, and more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Therefore, due to all the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.

Professor Pierson added that there are many forensic anthropologists that go into Criminalistics and CSI. Also, forensic anthropology is not offered in many of the community colleges, so for a student to have a certificate showing that they have been trained in the fundamentals of forensic anthropology, this can be very valuable in the job market. Most Anthropologists that want to pursue forensics as a career run into a wall when they are asked for their experience prior to applying for an entry level position such as at the Coroner or Medical Examiner's Office. Therefore, in cases like this, the certificate can be very helpful.

Members Pierson, Oborn, Seror and O'Connor concurred with the report and were in favor of the creation of said certificate of achievement in Forensics Evidence and Investigation.

CURRIULUM

The planning action for the creation of this certificate started back in 2014, as indicated in our annual program plan at that time. In researching the substance of said certificate, we collaborated with our Anthropology department to add Anthro 118 – 3 units (Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology) and Anthro119 – 2 units (Introduction to Forensic Anthropology) to our certificate, which we believe to be the perfect complement to the other courses required which are:

AJ 1 - Introduction to the Administration of Justice (3)

AJ 3 – Legal Aspects of Evidence (3)

AJ 5 – Criminal Investigation (3)

AJ 104 – Introduction to Forensics (3)

O'Connor moved to approve the Forensics, Evidence and Investigation Certificate. Motion carried 4/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Oborn

Chair