

Forensic Anthropology Center Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am a UT student interested in working with the FAC for credit as an intern. What do I do?

If you are interested in interning for credit please indicate this in the appropriate spot on the first page of the application. You will automatically be enrolled in ANTH 493 for **1 credit** with Dr. Lee Meadows Jantz. Please note the earlier application due date for those wishing to receive credit. It is listed on the first page of the application.

***note: If you have course conflicts or holds on your student account, this could prevent you from participating for credit, or could incur university fees.**

2. What is the difference between an intern and volunteer with the FAC?

An intern is a student in Anthropology that works for the FAC for credit during the academic year. A volunteer does not work for credit. Many of the tasks performed by interns and volunteers overlap, but interns will be expected to be present during assigned work hours and be available for assisting with other FAC activities on an as needed basis.

3. Do you need to be a UT student in order to work with the FAC?

Yes you must be a UT student in order to volunteer with us. You may be a transfer student or a recent graduate with prior FAC work experience. We do offer summer internship opportunities for non-UT students.

4. I am a previous volunteer or intern, what do I need to do to maintain or renew my relationship with the FAC?

All volunteers and interns must complete a registration form each semester. This allows us to have the most up to date information for emergency purposes and record keeping. You are able to switch between an intern and volunteer depending on your interest and availability.

5. Do you need to be an Anthropology major to volunteer?

This is a preference, but not a requirement. Related fields (Biology, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, or Pre-med/Pre-Dental) will also receive preference. We ask that you are at least minoring in Anthropology.

6. What types of jobs are available?

This program focuses on people interested in physical anthropology. Tasks range from processing skeletal remains, body donation placements and skeletal pick-ups, bone labeling, collection upkeep, to maintaining databases, filing, and data entry. Experience level and osteology skills are the major factor in determining your role with us.

7. What are the minimum requirements to work at the Anthropology Research Facility?

New undergraduate students with the FAC cannot immediately work at the outdoor facility. An undergraduate must pass Osteology with a “B” or better, have had all required immunizations, have maintained proper BBP training in the last year, and have worked in the processing aspect of the center for at least 1 semester. Graduate students do not have the minimum requirement of 1 semester to help at the facility. Job assignments are based on experience, skills, and at the discretion of the FAC staff.

8. What are the minimum requirements to work in the collections as a labeler?

An undergraduate must pass Osteology with a “B” or better and have worked in the processing aspect of the center for at least 1 semester. Job assignments are based on experience, skills, and at the discretion of the FAC staff.

9. Do I need to purchase an FAC shirt?

All volunteers and interns are asked to purchase a black FAC shirt to wear while working in order to be able to clearly identify your affiliation with the center. These shirts can be obtained during the semester training (check or cash only) or during business hours in the anthropology department. You may purchase one short sleeved shirt at a discount.

10. Where can I get the necessary vaccinations?

The Student Health Center provides most vaccinations needed. You also can go the County Health Building. Or consider making an inquiry of your primary care physician.

11. Can I start processing before I get shots?

No, you must have at least started the Hepatitis series prior to working in any of our labs. The hepatitis vaccine is a requirement of attendance at the university. It is assumed that you have at least begun the series if not completed it. If neither is the case, you may not participate in lab or facility activities.

12. It has been a long time since I had my Hepatitis vaccination, do I need to get one again?

No, there is a titer you can get to see if you have the antibodies.

13. What type of vaccination documentation is necessary?

We do not require documentation of vaccinations. HIPAA prevents us from seeing your records without a release. Signing our application prevents us from being liable if you receive an injury and did not provide accurate or honest information. Please do not provide us with your full medical records.

14. Do I need health insurance?

Yes. It is a good idea. Do understand that as a volunteer the University does not cover doctors' appointments if an accident occurs.

15. What is the Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) and OSHA training?

This is a 1 to 2 hour lecture on exposure risks associated with human materials and the general safety precautions that should be taken specific to the FAC. Once completed for the first time, you will be given a site-specific training and the protocols associated with your assigned duties. The site-specific training is one-time training. However, the BBP training is a required annual training. If you are a returning student you will be sent an email requesting that you take an online refresher course and test through Blackboard. This test is typically taken in the fall even if you started working in the spring semester.

16. What types of risks are associated with this work?

Most volunteers will be handling material that is of low risk for any biological agents. The FAC does not accept donations from those with communicable or infectious diseases. The most common risks include mishandling of sharp implements and tripping hazards.