

The Impact of Forensic Anthropology in Undergraduate Anthropology Programs

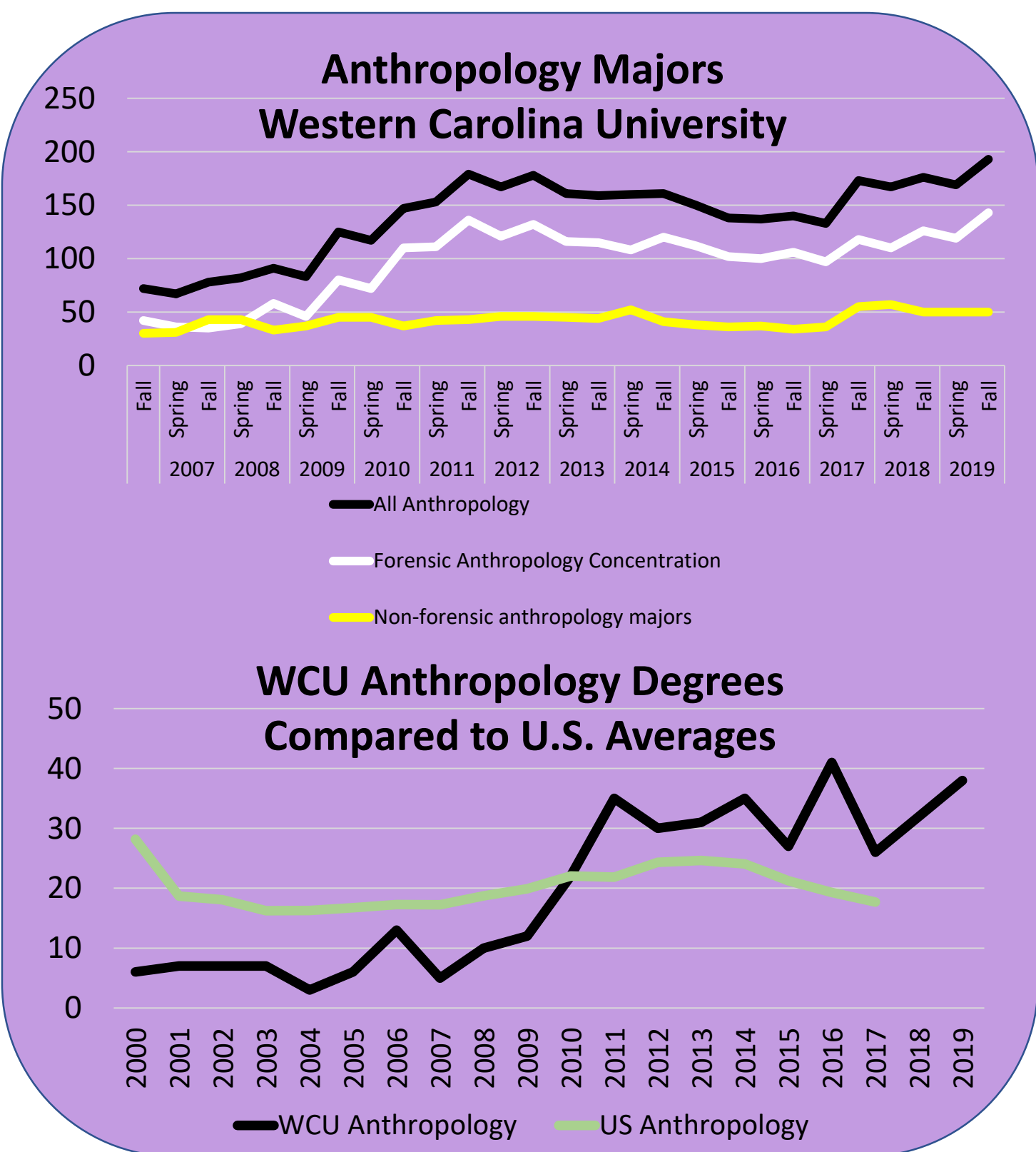
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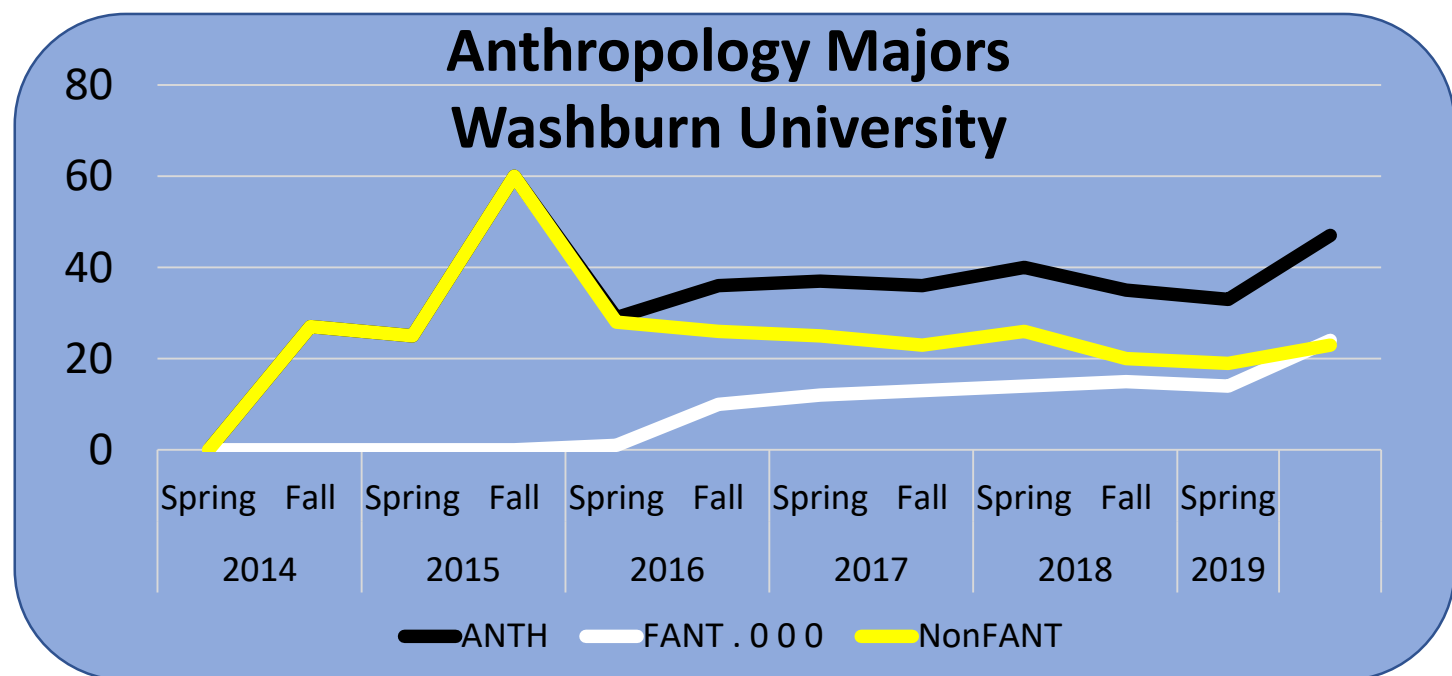
Undergraduate programs with forensic anthropology concentrations also have more anthropology majors

Forensic anthropologists are less likely to be hired at academic institutions, even for positions that emphasize candidates with backgrounds in forensic anthropology



Job postings using keyword forensic anthropology

Year	Included "Forensic anthropology"	Emphasized forensic anthropology	Total biological anthropology job postings	Percent of forensic anthropology-emphasis postings from all biological anthropology postings
2010-2011	3	2	60	3.3%
2011-2012	6	2	79	2.5%
2012-2013	7	2	94	2.1%
2013-2014	9	4	60	5.6%
2014-2015	9	4	72	5.6%
2015-2016	11	4	57	7.0%
2016-2017	8	3	52	5.8%
2017-2018	11	6	56	10.7%
2018-2019	5	5	55	9.1%
Total	69	32	585	5.5%



Hiring practices of forensic anthropologists in academia
 Of these 69 positions, **34 individuals (49%) were hired with a background in forensic anthropology**. From the 32 postings specifically emphasizing the desire for a forensic anthropologist, **only 18 (56%) actually hired someone with a background in forensic anthropology**. Frequently individuals specializing in bioarchaeology were hired instead.

Conclusions
 These data support: (1) undergraduate anthropology students are interested in forensic anthropology and (2) academic anthropology programs are not interested in hiring forensic anthropologists, even for forensic anthropology specific positions. If forensic anthropology can be used to recruit anthropology majors and increase the overall tenets of anthropological thought in undergraduate programs, then forensic anthropology and forensic anthropologists should be a highly-regarded aspect of our discipline.