

FASHION INDUSTRY STUDIES - M.F.I.S.

College of the Arts
School of Fashion Design and Merchandising
www.kent.edu/fashion

Examples of Possible Careers*

Fashion designers

- -4.4% decline
- 28,300 number of jobs
- \$75,810 potential earnings

Additional careers

- Fashion Entrepreneur
- Supply Chain Management
- Assistant Buyer
- Inventory Planning Analyst

Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Jihyun Kim-Vick, Ph.D.** | mfis@kent.edu | 330-672-1473
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Fully Offered

- Kent Campus

Admission Terms

- Fall

***Note**
Source of occupation titles and labor data is from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Description

The Master of Fashion Industry Studies degree in Fashion Industry Studies robustly addresses the highly interdisciplinary character of practice within fashion as a product-driven industry with a unique set of parameters that transverse many traditional academic boundaries.

Fashion Industry Studies is an initial master's level degree for the academic advancement of students to engage in learning and experiences applicable to the fashion industry. The degree program prepares professionals who intentionally use cross-disciplinary and applied research methods to address complex issues derived from the industry setting and provide impactful research-based solutions for the fashion industry.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university¹ for unconditional admission
- Minimum 3.300 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission
- Official transcripts(s)
- GRE or GMAT scores if GPA is below 3.300 for conditional admissions
- Goal statement (maximum 1000 words) relating career/academic goals and research interests as they relate to critical issue(s) the applicant has identified in current fashion industry practice
- Supportive materials that demonstrate research and writing capabilities (e.g., significant term paper, research project report, and/or visual portfolio with minimum 5-10 examples of work in any media documenting design process)
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
 - Minimum 587 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
 - Minimum 94 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
 - Minimum 82 MELAB score
 - Minimum 7.0 IELTS score
 - Minimum 65 PTE score
 - Minimum 120 Duolingo test score

For more information about graduate admissions, please visit the Graduate Studies admission website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

¹ Students who are expecting to pursue coursework or thesis research in a design topic are required to possess a bachelor's degree in fashion design OR a bachelor's degree in a related field and substantial employment experience (minimum two years) in the fashion industry.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a capacity for critical analysis of the fashion industry supply chain from fiber to the consumer to identify pertinent issues.
2. Demonstrate the ability to utilize cross-disciplinary and applied research methods with appropriate knowledge and technologies.
3. Demonstrate the critical generation of pragmatic solutions based on testing and experimentation that connect research findings to fashion industry issues.
4. Demonstrate abilities to effectively synthesize and present innovative and pragmatic research-based solutions applicable to the fashion industry.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
FDM 60011	THE FASHION INDUSTRY: A UNIFYING LENS	3

FDM 60031	FORMS OF INQUIRY IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	3
FDM 60092	FASHION INDUSTRY PRACTICUM	3
FDM 60100	ADVANCED FASHION INDUSTRY PRACTICE	3
FDM 60199	THESIS I ¹	6
Fashion Elective from Cognate Area		3
Fashion Electives, choose from the following:		9
FDM 55035	HISTORIC TEXTILES	
FDM 60010	THEORIES AS APPLIED TO THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 60020	FASHION INDUSTRY DESIGN MANAGEMENT	
FDM 60050	TECHSTYLELAB: DIGITAL DESIGN AND NEW MEDIA IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 60093	WORKSHOPS ON CURRENT TOPICS IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 60098	RESEARCH PROJECT IN FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 60162	ADVANCED FASHION INDUSTRY DESIGN AND PRODUCTION	
FDM 63011	VISUAL PRESENTATION IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 65010	SUSTAINABLE CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 65045	FASHION INDUSTRY MERCHANDISE MANAGEMENT	
FDM 65055	ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 65065	SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
FDM 65095	FASHION INDUSTRY SPECIAL TOPICS	
FDM 65096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		30

¹ To earn the M.F.I.S. degree, each student must complete a written thesis accompanied by a visual presentation/representation that is successfully defended and approved by a committee of faculty with feedback from an industry partner. The thesis must demonstrate an innovative and pragmatic research-based solution applicable to the fashion industry.

Graduation Requirements

- Students in the M.F.I.S. degree are required to complete 24 credit hours of graded graduate coursework and a minimum of 6 credit hours of thesis.
- Students without a fashion background may be required to complete foundational coursework, FDM 10033 and FDM 10034 concurrently during the first semester, and either FDM 30260 or FDM 30262. Students must complete these courses within the first 18 credit hours of graduate study. These undergraduate credit hours are in addition to the 30 graduate credit hours required for the M.F.I.S. degree.