FASHION DESIGN - B.F.A.

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

About This Program
The Fashion Design B.F.A. program offers a specialized curriculum, experienced faculty and real-world opportunities to help you develop your creative talent and succeed in the fashion industry. Enroll now and take your design skills to the next level. Read more...

Contact Information
• Noël Palomo-Lovinski | npalomo@kent.edu | 330-672-0137
• Kendra Lapolla | klapolla@kent.edu | 330-672-0138
• Speak with an Advisor
• Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery
• Delivery: In person
• Location: Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers
• Fashion designer
• Creative director
• Illustrator
• Product developer
• Print designer
• Technical designer
• Textile designer
• Knit designer
• Knit programmer
• Sourcing

Accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

Admission Requirements
The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

New Students: Admission to this degree is selective and not open to new students at Kent State University. The B.F.A. degree requires applicants to have a minimum 2.750 overall Kent State GPA and the support of the Fashion Design faculty. To be considered for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, students must be enrolled in junior-level fashion design studio courses and submit a letter of intent and B.F.A. proposal by the established deadlines.

Transfer Students: Admission to the Fashion Design major requires a minimum 2.750 overall GPA based on minimum 24 credit hours of college-level coursework at an accredited institution. Those students meeting this GPA requirement but with fewer than 24 credit hours will be evaluated as new freshmen.

Students who do not meet the criteria for admission to the Fashion Design major may be eligible for admission to the Pre-Fashion Design and Merchandising non-degree major. In addition, students who do not meet the admission criteria may initiate the process for declaring the B.A. degree in Fashion Design after completing minimum 12 credit hours of non-developmental coursework at Kent State University and earning a minimum 2.750 overall GPA.

Effective for the fall 2025 admission term, transfer students will follow the same admission criteria as new students.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning a minimum 71 TOEFL iBT score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score, minimum 47 PTE score or minimum 100 DET score, or by completing the ELS level 112 Intensive English Program. For more information on international admission visit the admissions website for international students.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>FDM 10010</td>
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<td>FDM 10023</td>
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<td>FDM 15055</td>
<td>BASICS OF APPAREL CONSTRUCTION</td>
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<td>FDM 20013</td>
<td>HISTORY OF COSTUME</td>
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<td>FDM 20050</td>
<td>FASHION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS</td>
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<td>FASHION DRAWING</td>
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<td>FASHION DESIGN CONCEPTS</td>
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<td>FDM 20156</td>
<td>2-D FASHION DESIGN PRACTICE</td>
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<td>FDM 20157</td>
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<td>FDM 35010</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY FASHION DESIGNERS (WIC)</td>
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<td>SENIOR FASHION DESIGN THESIS I (ELR)</td>
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<td>FASHION PORTFOLIO I</td>
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<td>FASHION PORTFOLIO II</td>
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<td>FDM 40199</td>
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<td>FDM 35010</td>
<td>FASHION STUDY AWAY REQUIREMENT</td>
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Additional Major Electives, choose from the following: 3

- Any Fashion Design and Merchandising (FDM) course
- Any Accounting (ACCT) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Architectural Studies (ARCS) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Art History (ARTH) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Art Studio (ARTS) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Business Administration Interdisciplinary (BUS) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Business Analytics (BA) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Computer Information Systems (CIS) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Design Innovation (DI) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Economics (ECON) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Entrepreneurship (ENTR) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Finance (FIN) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Management (MGMT) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Marketing (MKTG) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Media and Journalism (MDJ) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Theatre (THEA) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Any Visual Communication Design (VCD) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level)
Fashion Design Studio I Electives, choose from the following: 6
FDM 30161 FASHION DESIGN STUDIO I
FDM 30189 FLORENCE FASHION DESIGN STUDIO I (DIVG) (ELR)
FDM 30190 NEW YORK CITY FASHION DESIGN STUDIO I (ELR)
Fashion Design Studio II Electives, choose from the following: 6
FDM 30162 FASHION DESIGN STUDIO II
FDM 30289 FLORENCE FASHION DESIGN STUDIO II (DIVG) (ELR)
FDM 30290 NEW YORK CITY DESIGN STUDIO II (ELR)
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)
ARTH 22006 ART HISTORY: ANCIENT TO MEDIEVAL ART (KFA) 3
ARTH 22007 ART HISTORY: RENAISSANCE TO MODERN ART (KFA) 3
ECON 22060 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS (KSS) 3
MATH 10041 INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS (KMCR) 4
MKTG 25010 PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING 3
UC 10001 FLASHES 101 1
Kent Core Composition 6
Kent Core Humanities 3
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines) 3
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory) 6-7
Kent Core Additional 6
Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

1 A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.
2 Students are required to participate in a study away opportunity. Students must have a minimum 2.500 overall GPA to participate in this study away requirement. Choose from the following: FDM 30189; FDM 30190; FDM 30289; FDM 30290; FDM 35070; FDM 35080; FDM 35589; FDM 35689; FDM 35789; FDM 35889; FDM 35989; FDM 45392; FDM 45589; FDM 45590; OGE 10095.
3 Maximum 6 credit hours of FDM 45093 can be used as an Additional Major Elective. Maximum 6 credit hours from each non-Fashion Design and Merchandising (FDM) subject area can be used as an Additional Major Elective.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA Minimum Overall GPA
2.500 2.500

• Participation in a study abroad/away experience
• Minimum 2.500 overall GPA required for internship
• Minimum 2.500 overall GPA required for study away

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One Credits
ARTH 22006 ART HISTORY: ANCIENT TO MEDIEVAL ART (KFA) 3
! FDM 10010 FASHION FUNDAMENTALS 3
FDM 10023 FASHION VISUALS 1
FDM 10024 FASHION VISUALS LABORATORY 2
FDM 15055 BASICS OF APPAREL CONSTRUCTION 3
UC 10001 FLASHES 101 1
Kent Core Requirement 3
Credit Hours 16

Semester Two Credits
ARTH 22007 ART HISTORY: RENAISSANCE TO MODERN ART (KFA) 3
! FDM 10033 FASHION FABRICS 1
! FDM 10034 FASHION FABRICS LABORATORY 2
! FDM 10043 SUSTAINABLE FASHION THINKING 1
! FDM 10044 SUSTAINABLE FASHION THINKING LABORATORY 2
FDM 10053 INTRODUCTION TO FASHION TECHNOLOGY 1
FDM 10054 INTRODUCTION TO FASHION TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY 2
MATH 10041 INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS (KMCR) 4
Credit Hours 16

Semester Three Credits
ECON 22060 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS (KSS) 3
FDM 20050 FASHION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS 3
! FDM 20121 FASHION DRAWING 3
! FDM 20156 2-D FASHION DESIGN PRACTICE 3
Kent Core Requirement 3
Credit Hours 15

Semester Four Credits
! FDM 20013 HISTORY OF COSTUME 3
! FDM 20123 FASHION DESIGN CONCEPTS 3
! FDM 20157 3-D FASHION DESIGN PRACTICE 3
MKTG 25010 PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING 3
Additional Major Elective 3
Credit Hours 15
The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Fashion Design integrates conceptual, technical and production design knowledge and skills, leading to a synthesis of the design process from concept to production. These processes include color, design and trend research; technical sketching and rendered illustration; pattern-making and garment construction; analysis of appropriate fit and fabric selection; best practices in sustainable methods and knowledge and the ability to communicate specifications for production using industry standards appropriate to specific markets.

The degree program prepares students for professional careers by developing technical competency, creative/dependent problem solving and conceptual understanding necessary for the challenges of a career in the creative industries. Students develop portfolios for presentation at industry interviews and are prepared to be strongly competitive for any entry-level design position in the industry. In addition, students participate in a study abroad/away experience, which includes opportunities to study for a semester in New York City and Florence, Italy, as well as through collaborative partnership programs with the Paris American Academy, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Regent’s University in London.

The B.F.A. degree in Fashion Design engages students in a focused-study thesis project (collection development) as a capstone experience that results in submitting their collection for formal review by faculty and industry designer-critics, followed by public presentation in a fashion venue and completion of a thesis “magazine” (print collateral).