

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

## College of the Arts

School of Fashion Design and Merchandising

[www.kent.edu/fashion](http://www.kent.edu/fashion)

## About This Program

The global fashion industry is competitive, but it also offers an incredibly rewarding career. With our Master of Fashion Industry Studies degree, you can gain real-world experience, valuable connections and an in-depth understanding of fashion's global value chain to stand out, and thrive in the industry. Read more...

## Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Jihyun Kim-Vick, Ph.D.** | [mfis@kent.edu](mailto:mfis@kent.edu) | 330-672-1473
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - In person
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Fashion designers

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

### Buyers and purchasing agents

- -8.8% decline
- 449,300 number of jobs
- \$66,690 potential earnings

### Market research analysts and marketing specialists

- 17.7% much faster than the average
- 738,100 number of jobs
- \$65,810 potential earnings

### Additional careers

- Fashion entrepreneur
- Supply chain director or manager
- Assistant buyer
- Inventory planning analyst

## Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes 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.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university<sup>1</sup>
- Minimum 3.300 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcripts(s)
- GRE or GMAT scores if GPA is below 3.300 for conditional admission
- Goal statement (maximum 1,000 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)
- Résumé
- 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
  - Minimum 94 TOEFL IBT score
  - Minimum 82 MELAB score
  - Minimum 7.0 IELTS score
  - Minimum 65 PTE score
  - Minimum 120 Duolingo English score

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Funding deadline: February 15  
*Applications must be submitted by this deadline to be considered for an assistantship or any other funded position.*
  - Application deadline: April 15  
*Applications received after this deadline will be considered on a space-available basis.*

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
FDM 60005	RESEARCH METHODS IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	3
FDM 60015	FASHION SYSTEMS THINKING	3

FDM 60025	GLOBAL CONSUMER IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	3
FDM 60092	FASHION INDUSTRY PRACTICUM	3
Non-Fashion Elective from Cognate Area <sup>1</sup>		3
Fashion Electives, choose from the following:		9-12
FDM 55035	HISTORIC TEXTILES	
FDM 60020	FASHION INDUSTRY DESIGN MANAGEMENT	
FDM 60050	TECHSTYLELAB: DIGITAL DESIGN AND NEW MEDIA IN THE 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 65095	FASHION INDUSTRY SPECIAL TOPICS	
FDM 65096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
Thesis or Practicum, choose from the following:		3-6
FDM 60092	FASHION INDUSTRY PRACTICUM	
FDM 60199	THESIS I <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Non-Fashion Elective from Cognate Area must be approved by the student's thesis advisor.

<sup>2</sup> Students who select the thesis option 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 minimum 6 credit hours of thesis **or** 27 credit hours of graded graduate coursework and minimum 3 credit hours of practicum capstone
- 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.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a capacity for critical analysis of fashion to identify pertinent issues.
2. Demonstrate an ability to use cross-disciplinary and applied research methods with appropriate knowledge and technologies.
3. Demonstrate the skill of critically generating concepts and-or pragmatic solutions through testing and experimentation that connects fashion history, theory and-or practice(s).

4. Demonstrate abilities to effectively synthesize ideas and present innovative and pragmatic research-based investigations.

## Full Description

The Master of Fashion Industry Studies degree in Fashion Industry Studies addresses the highly interdisciplinary character of practice within fashion as an industry.

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 and provide impactful solutions for the fashion industry.