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Fashion Studies

The fashion industry is known for rapid change and is characterized by new technology, globalization and changing consumer desires. The fashion industry employs millions of people and reflects the health of a nation's economy because of the millions of dollars spent by consumers for fashion goods. The fashion industry is composed of businesses that design, produce and sell a unique array of consumer goods known for seasonal changes in fabrics, colors and silhouettes. Fashion products are not exclusive to women's apparel. Rather, fashion production and sales are organized into several different product categories: men's, women's and children's apparel and accessories, cosmetics and fragrances, and home furnishings. A fashion career is for any individual who thrives on change.

The four-year curriculum in fashion studies offers the beginning level of education for those who intend to pursue a career in fashion. There are two specializations in the Fashion Studies major: Fashion Design and Fashion Merchandising. Within each specialization, a structured sequencing of courses is included which provides for a gradual interactive development of required knowledge and skills. This preparation is combined with the University Core Curriculum courses to provide a comprehensive scholarly foundation for advancement.

A fast-paced atmosphere is created by the amount of information to be covered, the frequency of assignments, and the pressure of due dates. Successful students must be able to handle multiple projects simultaneously and manage their time wisely. While facilities are provided for use, cost for supplies, individual equipment and field trips necessary to the successful completion of the program are borne by the student. Due to variation in choice of individual materials used, it is impossible to predict the exact costs for each student. The Fashion Studies program maintains the right to retain student work for exhibition or for records and accreditation purposes. Students are advised to assemble a photographic file of their work for their portfolios. All students in the fashion studies major are required to have a laptop computer at the beginning of the second semester first-year.

Potential Occupations

Participation in work experience, internships, externships and volunteer activities is recommended to enhance the academic curriculum. In addition, educational travel opportunities are provided allowing students to visit major fashion market cities with on-site business appointments. Graduates who pursue advanced studies can attain more responsible positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels.

Graduates of the fashion design specialization are prepared to design clothing, accessories and other soft goods. Some designers are self-employed and design for individual clients. Other designers cater to specialty stores or department stores. Most fashion designers, however, work for apparel manufacturers creating and adapting fashions for the mass market. Some examples of careers in this area include, but are not limited to, manufacturer's representative, sales representative, production manager, inventory controller, stylist, apparel designer, textile designer, pattern maker, customer service representative, fashion illustrator, costing engineer, technical services, government or private researcher, and computer-aided design (CAD) manager.

Fashion merchandising professionals operate at the wholesale or retail level in the fashion industry. Career placement is very high and is complemented by the work experience component of the program. Careers in fashion merchandising include, but are not limited to, account representative, personal shopper, wholesale buyer, retail buyer, independent wholesaler, sales manager, visual merchandiser, inventory planning and distribution analyst, manufacturer's representative, customer service management specialist, retail sales and sales support manager, and showroom coordinator.

Selective Admission and Grade Requirements

Prospective students attending another college or university prior to transferring to Southern Illinois University Carbondale should concentrate on completing courses articulated or approved as substitutes for Southern Illinois University Carbondale's University Core Curriculum requirements. Prior to taking courses that appear to equate to the professional sequence, the applicant should consult with a program representative.

Students must pass all Fashion Studies prefix courses with a minimum grade of C in order to satisfy prerequisites and to graduate. If a student receives a grade of F three times in the same course, the course cannot be taken again. Students cannot repeat FASH Prefix courses in which they received a grade of C or better.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Fashion Studies

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements - As per University requirements for baccalaureate degrees, but must include AD 207A, AD 207B, AD 207C (select two)	39
Requirements for Major in Fashion Studies	81
Major Core requirements	27
The following courses are required for all Fashion Studies majors: FASH 101, FASH 172, FASH 241, FASH 281, FASH 330, FASH 340, FASH 442, FASH 462, (FASH 431 or FASH 432 or FASH 433)	
Specialization Requirements	54
Total	120

Fashion Design Specialization

In the fashion design specialization, students learn about all facets of the apparel and textile industries from raw materials to the consumer. This encompasses knowledge of textiles and fashion design from product development through promotion and distribution.

The curriculum focuses on fashion design, production and merchandising strategies to develop the skills necessary to work in the fashion industry. Courses provide instruction for students in all aspects of the industry including development and trends of national and foreign fashion; fibers, fabrics, and finishes basic to the selection, use and care of textiles; basic fashion production; current technology in computer-aided design; visual analysis of fashion; fashion sketching; pattern drafting; pattern grading; pattern-making techniques; draping; and history of fashion. In addition to knowledge of the fashion industry, students may obtain background and skills in art, history, journalism, theater, marketing, business management, production management, finance and accounting. A variety of opportunities are available to assess student learning in fashion design, production, and textiles, including comments on garments selected for the annual senior fashion show, senior portfolio review and evaluation from on-site field experience supervisors.

B.S. Fashion Studies - Fashion Design Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Requirements for Fashion Design Specialization	36
To include FASH 111, FASH 112, FASH 121, FASH 251, FASH 252, FASH 272, FASH 311, FASH 351, FASH 352, FASH 451, FASH 452, (FASH 431, FASH 432, or FASH 433)	36
AD 110, Art and design (Select)	6
Professional Electives	12
Total	54

Fashion Merchandising Specialization

The fashion merchandising specialization offers in-depth study of the process of planning, negotiating, acquiring, selling and evaluating merchandise throughout the distribution channel. It is designed for students interested in product sales careers at the wholesale or retail level. Students acquire knowledge of merchandise, sales techniques, and trends in the market place and customer service. This specialization assumes a global perspective and is complemented by business courses to allow for career flexibility. In addition to knowledge of the fashion industry, students are encouraged to develop a background and related skills in art, marketing, or management. Because fashion production takes place worldwide, developing and/or enhancing writing and speaking skills in a second language such as Spanish, French, or Chinese is also encouraged.

Courses provide instruction to students in all aspects of fashion product sales – from product conception, sales floor visual merchandising plans, seasonal sales plan, and promotional campaigns. All courses include analytical skills necessary to interpret sales data and consumer behaviors. Fashion merchandising students are required to gain on-the-job work experience for course credit.

B.S. Fashion Studies - Fashion Merchandising Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Requirements for Fashion Merchandising Specialization	9
To include FASH 381, FASH 482, FASH 492 (or approved substitute)	9
HTEM 250 or HTEM 255 (Select one)	3
ACCT 220	3
MGMT	3
PSYC 322 (Prerequisite: PSYC 102)	3
PSYC 323 (Prerequisite: PSYC 102)	3

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
MKTG 304, MKTG 305, MKTG 363, MKTG 401 plus 3 additional hours in MKTG	15
Professional Electives	15
Total	54

Fashion Studies Courses

FASH101 - Careers in Fashion Explores the wide range of careers and key activities at each level of the fashion industry; raw materials manufacturing, product development, apparel manufacturing, retailing, and promotion. Credit Hours: 3

FASH111 - Fashion Production I Beginning skills in fitting, construction, and pattern and fabric usage. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH112 - Fashion Production II Intermediate skills in fitting, construction, and pattern and fabric usage. Prerequisite: FASH 111. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH121 - Fashion Illustration Introductory illustration course concentrating on developing skills necessary to create fashion illustrations and working drawings. Focus on designing apparel for women, men, and children. Prerequisite: AD 110. Credit Hours: 3

FASH172 - Visual Communication in Fashion Beginning skills in Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop for fashion rendering of story boards, trend boards, and product design. Prerequisite: FASH 101 with a grade of C or better. Restricted to FASH major. Credit Hours: 3. Credit Hours: 3

FASH241 - Textiles I Introduction to the study of textiles with focus on fiber, fiber properties, legal and environmental issues in the textile industry. Restricted to majors in Fashion Studies and Interior Design. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH251 - Flat Patternmaking and Drafting Drafting and fitting basic patterns; making sloper; making styles through flat pattern manipulation and drafting; testing and refining patterns to provide perfect fit. Prerequisite: FASH 112 with a grade of C or better. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. To be taken concurrently with FASH 252. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH252 - Draping Application of draping principles and techniques. Prerequisite: FASH 112, 121 with grades of C or better. Must be taken concurrently with FASH 251. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH258 - Work Experience Credit granted for past work experience while employed in business, industry, labor, government service or military organizations. Credit determined by program director evaluation. Prerequisite: completion of 12 semester hours of Fashion Studies courses with C or better. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies or consent of instructor and program director. Credit Hours: 1-30

FASH259 - Occupational Education A designation for credit granted for past occupational educational experiences related to the student's educational objectives. Credit will be established by program director evaluation. This credit may only be applied at the 100- and 200-level for the fashion studies degree unless otherwise determined by the director. Credit Hours: 1-60

FASH272 - Computer-Aided Apparel Design Hands-on experience in computer patternmaking and grading. Prerequisite: FASH 251. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH281 - Fashion Promotional Strategies The study of promotional strategies unique to the fashion industry. Emphasis is placed on methods used at the point-of-sale to sell merchandise to the

final consumer. Promotional methods to include: sales floor layouts and design, personal selling and specialized customer service department. Prerequisite: FASH 101 with a grade of C or better. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Credit Hours: 3. Credit Hours: 3

FASH311 - Fashion Production III Advanced skills in fitting, construction, patterning, and fabric usage. Introduction to apparel line development. Prerequisites: FASH 251 and FASH 252 with grades of C or better. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH330 - Fashion Forecasting and Trend Analysis Perform in-depth analysis of current and future trends in lifestyle, business, ready-to-wear, art, and other cultural, economic, marketing, political factors. Study techniques and procedures for identifying and forecasting fashion trends based on research and analysis. Prerequisite: FASH 101 with a grade of C or better. Restricted to Fashion Studies majors. Credit Hours: 3. Credit Hours: 3

FASH340 - Textiles II Advanced course in textiles focused on textile product performance due to the following factors: yarn classifications, fabrication methods, special finishes, dyeing and printing techniques. Prerequisite: FASH 241. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH351 - Advanced Patternmaking Advanced patternmaking and draping skills applied to original designs. Prerequisite: FASH 121, 251, 252, 272, 311. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH352 - Experimental Custom Apparel Design Development of apparel to meet aesthetic, structural and functional needs; problem solving for exceptional proportions, rehabilitation, activity, performing arts, new technology, materials and environment. Prerequisite: FASH 121, 251, 252, 311. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH381 - Fashion Merchandising Mathematics A comprehensive introduction to the financial management of merchandising fashion goods: merchandising and retailing concepts, managerial planning and decision-making processes, and mathematical formulas used in retail operations. Prerequisite: FASH 101 and ACCT 220 with grades of C or better. Restricted to Fashion Studies majors or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

FASH392 - Field Study I Study of, and tours to apparel manufacturers, markets, museums, retailers, testing laboratories, textile mills, trade associations and other areas of interest within the softgoods industry. Variable credit with a maximum of six hours. Prerequisite: nine hours in Fashion Studies. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Special approval needed from the instructor. Credit Hours: 1-3

FASH398 - Independent Study I Independent study for qualified 1st Year and 2nd Year students in fashion design, merchandising, and styling. Fashion Studies. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies or consent of instructor and school director. Credit Hours: 1-3

FASH431 - Ethnic Dress The study of ethnic dress in non-western cultures, with attention to aesthetics, symbolism and uses of ethnic dress. Cultures studied may vary with each offering. May be repeated for credit. Credit Hours: 3

FASH432 - Historic Clothing: Western Cultures Development of clothing in Western civilization to 1850. Consideration of social, economic, aesthetic factors and technical innovations influencing clothing. Credit Hours: 3

FASH433 - History of Western Costume 1860 to Present Evolution of Western costume from 1860 through the present time. Emphasis on the interrelationship between costume, social, political, economic, and technical changes. Credit Hours: 3

FASH442 - Fashion Industry in the Global Economy Emphasizes the issues and importance of the role the United States' softgoods industry plays in the global economy. Not for graduate credit. Prerequisite: FASH 340. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

FASH451 - Fashion Design Studio I Design a line, write garment specifications and sequence of operations, determine work flow and calculate production costs. Prerequisites: FASH 121, 251, 252, 311. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH452 - Fashion Design Studio II Business principles of apparel design, including systems, forms and logistics of money and materials. Functions and responsibilities of the fashion designer. Career opportunities in the fashion industry. Prerequisite: FASH 121, 251, 252, 311, 451. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Studio fee: \$36. Credit Hours: 3

FASH462 - Fashion Motivation Psychological motivation for wearing clothing, societal functions of clothing, cultural differences in dress. Restricted to Fashion Studies majors and 4th Year students or approval of instructor. Credit Hours: 3. Credit Hours: 3

FASH482 - Fashion Merchandising Focus on the entire process of fashion merchandising: strategic planning; branding; trend forecasting; consumer research; product development; buying, pricing, and costing; product sourcing or manufacturing; retail operations; and presentation to the consumer. Prerequisite: FASH 381 with a grade of C or better. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies or consent of instructor. Not for graduate credit. Credit Hours: 3

FASH492 - Field Experience Supervised work experience in an approved position in the fashion industry. Clock hours to be arranged. Restricted to 3rd Year students and major in Fashion Studies. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Credit Hours: 3

FASH495 - Field Study II Approved fashion field trip to regional and national fashion conferences, fashion weeks, or special education and professional events for fashion students. Class may be repeated for a maximum of 6 earned credit hours. Restricted to approval of instructor. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Credit Hours: 1-3

FASH496 - Professional Internship Provides a supervised experience in a professional setting in the fashion industry. Activities must be related to the student's academic program and career objectives. Reports and assignments are required to be completed by the student. Mandatory pass/fail. Class may be repeated for a maximum of 6 earned credit hours. Restricted to Fashion Studies major and consent of supervising instructor. Credit Hours: 1-6

FASH497 - Practicum Application of work education skills and knowledge. Prerequisite: twenty hours in specialty. Approval of school director. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies. Mandatory Pass/Fail. Credit Hours: 1-3

FASH498 - Independent Study II Independent study for qualified 3rd Year and 4th Year students in fashion design or merchandising. Restricted to major in Fashion Studies or consent of instructor and school director. Credit Hours: 1-3

Fashion Studies Faculty

Cho, Siwon, Associate Professor, Fashion Merchandising, Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 2008; 2009. Consumer behavior and pedagogy.

Kidd, Laura K., Associate Professor and Program Director, Fashion Design, Ph.D., Iowa State University, 1994; 1996. History and design.

Lee, Seung-Hee, Professor, Fashion Merchandising, Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1998; 2013. Consumer behavior, brand marketing, sustainability, fashion technology.

Robinson, Joyce R., Senior Lecturer, Fashion Design, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2011; 2024. Fashion design and fiber arts.

Emeriti Faculty

Workman, Jane, Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., Purdue University, 1982.

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