College of Human Ecology
Apparel and Textiles

Overview
Kansas State University apparel and textiles students are talented individuals preparing for careers in apparel design, product development, marketing, merchandising and retail management. Students have opportunities to develop technical knowledge, problem-solving skills and leadership abilities while being challenged to excel.

The apparel and textiles program at K-State emphasizes the importance of sustainability in understanding the production, distribution and consumption of apparel and textile goods. Students are encouraged to integrate sustainability concepts into all stages of the apparel supply chain.

K-State's apparel and textiles program has been developed to give its graduates a competitive advantage.

Professional options
Careers
K-State apparel and textiles graduates have great career prospects. Both apparel manufacturing companies and retailers have a history of seeking out K-State graduates because of their creativity, product knowledge, interpersonal skills and willingness to diligently apply themselves to their work.

Most new graduates earn salaries of $35,000 to $45,000. Depending on their career path, they can earn six figures within 10 years if they are successful in their position.

Apparel design and production
The apparel manufacturing industry, which includes the design and manufacture of apparel, is a global enterprise that takes advantage of highly sophisticated technologies. Graduates find careers within the industry from design to mass production in many markets.

Points of pride

Ranked among the best apparel and textile programs in the U.S. by FashionSchools.org, and awarded first place for three consecutive years in the Alpaca Owners Association student competition.

K-State graduates work in the industry as:
- Creative designers
- Technical designers
- Pattern makers
- CAD specialists
- Product developers

Apparel marketing
Retailing is the largest single industry in the nation. About 1 out of every 8 people employed in the United States works in some capacity of retailing. The U.S. has nearly 2 million retail firms, many of which sell apparel and textile products.

K-State graduates work in retail organizations as:
- Department and store managers
- Merchandisers
- Buyers
- Planners
- Market researchers
- Visual merchandisers
- Distribution analysts
- Stylists

Graduates also work for apparel manufacturers as:
- Sales representatives
- Merchandising managers
- Product brand managers
- Sourcing agents

Employers
The design, production, distribution and marketing of apparel and textile products is a multibillion-dollar industry. U.S. fiber, textile, apparel and retailing industries employ the largest number of people in all of the manufacturing sectors.

While at K-State, apparel and textile students participate in internships at retail companies, with designers or at textile/apparel manufacturing firms, all under the joint supervision of corporate management and university faculty.

Graduates have obtained internships at companies such as:
- Abercrombie and Fitch
- Academy Sports + Outdoors
- Anthropologie
- The Buckle
- Design Resources Inc.
- Dillard’s
- Fossil
- Gear for Sport
- GTM Sportswear
- Halls
- J.C. Penney
- Kohls
- Lord & Taylor
- Nike
- Nordstrom
- Payless Shoesource
- Pottery Barn
- Rally House
- Rebekah Minkoff
- Stitch fix

Job experience
Students participate in internships with apparel designers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

Internship programs are available at retail companies, with designers or at textile and apparel manufacturing firms, under the joint supervision of corporate management and university faculty.

Academics
Two specializations are offered in the apparel and textiles program: apparel marketing and apparel design and production. Students learn about all aspects of the apparel and textile industries from the manufacture of fibers to apparel design, production, distribution and marketing.

The goals of the apparel and textiles program are to prepare graduates for professional careers in apparel design, apparel manufacturing and the retailing industry; to develop individuals with creative and analytical thinking abilities; and to develop competent, resourceful business leaders who have a liberal and general education, along with a thorough understanding of the apparel design and marketing fields. The program provides detailed practical experience and a solid base for graduate studies.

Coursework for all majors includes a foundation in liberal and general studies, including mathematics, computer science, and written and oral communications.

All majors also participate in an integrated core of studies in analysis of the textile, apparel and retailing industries, textile and apparel evaluation, consumer behavior, historic analysis of dress, and production and marketing.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
While completing the core courses, students also enroll in specialized coursework in either apparel design and production or apparel marketing.

**Degree options**

**Apparel marketing**

The apparel marketing specialization prepares students for positions in product development, retail management, merchandising and marketing of apparel and textile products.

**Apparel design and production**

Students are prepared for creative and technical positions in design and product development that use their training and computer methods.

**Business minor**

Students majoring in apparel and textiles may fulfill the academic requirements for a business minor while completing their degree.

**Facilities**

Recently renovated teaching and learning facilities are utilized for all apparel and textiles classes, and industry-standard software is integrated across the undergraduate curriculum. The apparel design and production studio also went through a recent renovation, including industrial sewing, pressing and printmaking equipment; as well as ergonomic furnishings and high-tech teaching technologies.

**Accreditation**

The apparel design and production specialization is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

**Preparation**

Students who meet the Kansas qualified admission requirements are prepared to enter the apparel and textiles program at K-State. For those who specialize in marketing, two years of high school algebra and work experience in retailing is recommended.

Those specializing in apparel design and production are expected to have coursework or other experiences in sewing, design and art. Cultural activities, travel and exposure to a wide variety of media are also encouraged for all students entering the program.

**Activities**

**Professional development**

The Apparel Marketing and Design Alliance student group fosters professional and leadership development and sponsors monthly meetings and events such as career days, fashion shows and interactive gatherings with established career professionals.

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**Study abroad**

Upper-level undergraduates can participate in the visiting student program at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York or study abroad at Regent’s University in London, the Paris Institute of Fashion or Lorenzo de Medici in Italy.

Students can participate in a wide variety of study tours, including fashion centers in New York, Los Angeles, Dallas, Paris and Milan or production centers in India, Guatemala or China.

**Admission**

Incoming undergraduate students interested in the program need to complete the general admissions application for the university at k-state.edu/admissions/apply.

**Apparel design and production**

Admission to the apparel design and production specialization is selective and based on performance criteria. Students applying to the specialization first are admitted to apparel and textiles.

Those who have completed prerequisite courses may apply for advancement to the apparel design and production specialization.

**Suggested coursework**

**Specialization in apparel design and production**

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<th>Hrs.</th>
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<td>Apparel and Textile Industry</td>
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<td>Introduction to Spreadsheet</td>
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<td>Expository Writing I</td>
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<td>Introduction to Physical Geography</td>
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<td>Foundations of Human Ecology</td>
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<td>PSYCH 110</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
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**Specialization in apparel marketing**

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**For more information about the apparel, textiles and interior design program, contact:**

**Department of Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design**

College of Human Ecology
Kansas State University
225 Justin Hall
1324 Lovers Lane
Manhattan, KS 66506-1405
785-532-6993
atinfo@k-state.edu
he.k-state.edu/atid

**For information about transferring course work from other institutions, contact:**

Karen Pence
Dean’s Office
College of Human Ecology
Kansas State University
119 Justin Hall
1324 Lovers Lane
Manhattan, KS 66506-1401
785-532-5500
ktpence@k-state.edu

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**For more information about Kansas State University, contact:**

Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Drive North
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or 785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/admissions

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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
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