

Career

Paths

TEXTILES, FASHION MERCHANDISING AND DESIGN

With a degree in Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design (TMD), classes focusing on textiles and the fashion business are complemented with supporting course work in marketing, consumer behavior, sustainability, technology, innovation, and creative skills. This comprehensive course of study will give you a deep understanding of the development, buying, promotion, and selling of apparel and home furnishings. You'll also gain a full understanding of the global textile and apparel supply chain—from design to the consumer. So, while you can focus your degree on a specific part of the supply chain, you will know them all, and you'll be equipped to communicate with experts in the fashion world outside your area of concentration.

Buying/Purchasing

Example Career Paths: Contract Management | Contract Negotiation | Global Buying | Indirect Sourcing | Procurement Analyst | Supplier Sourcing | Product Development | Planning & Allocation | Global Sourcing

Potential Employers: Discount Stores | Department Stores | Manufacturers | Mass Merchants | Specialty Stores | Online Retailers

Professional Associations: [American Purchasing Society](#) | [Advanced Textiles Association](#) | [Association for Supply Chain Management](#)

Related Occupations: [Cost Estimators](#) | [Industrial Production Managers](#) | [Logisticians](#) | [Purchasing Managers, Buyers, and Purchasing Agents](#)

Retail

Example Career Paths: Management (Corporate | Regional | Store | Department) | Visual Merchandising | Space Planning | Sales | Direct Marketing | E-Commerce

Potential Employers: Discount Stores | Department Stores | Mass Merchants | Specialty Stores | Online Retailers | Advertising Agencies | Internet Marketing Companies | Home Shopping Networks

Professional Associations: [Retail Industry Leaders Association](#) | [National Retail Federation](#)

Related Occupations: [Advertising, Promotions, and Marketing Managers](#) | [Merchandise Displayers](#) | [Sales Managers](#) | [Retail Sales Workers](#)

Sales

Example Career Paths: Retail | Industrial | Wholesale | Direct Marketing | Financial Services | Advertising | E-Commerce | Customer Service

Potential Employers: Discount Stores | Department Stores | Manufacturers | Mass Merchants | Specialty Stores | Online Retailers | Consumer Product Companies | Print/Electronic Media Outlets | Self-Employed/Independent Consultant

Professional Associations: [National Association of Sales Professionals](#)

Related Occupations: [Advertising Sales Agents](#) | [Sales Managers](#) | [Retail Sales Workers](#) | [Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives](#)

Design

Example Career Paths: Fashion | Industrial Design | Interior Design

Potential Employers: Manufacturers | Wholesale Companies | Apparel Companies | Theater/Dance Companies | Retailers | Design Firms | Architectural Services | Self-Employed

Professional Associations: [American Society of Interior Designers](#) | [Council of Fashion Designers of America](#) | [Industrial Designers Society of America](#)

Related Occupations: [Fashion Designers](#) | [Industrial Designers](#) | [Interior Designers](#)

Preparing for your Career

- Obtain retail experience through summer jobs, part-time jobs, or internships.
- Become familiar with software and technology related to sales, distribution, and inventory tracking.
- Maintain up to date knowledge of trends in design, retail, and merchandising through industry publications.
- Consider developing proficiency in multiple languages to increase marketability. Study abroad to gain multicultural experience.
- Supplement program with courses in marketing, accounting, and/or communications.
- Seek opportunity for hands-on design experience through student organizations, theater productions, etc.
- Develop computer-aided design (CAD) skills.
- Create and maintain a design portfolio.
- Join relevant [College of Business clubs](#) to gain knowledge about professions of interest.
- Pursue internships to learn about the field and gain experience. Consider completing multiple internships during the school year and/or the summer to build more connections.
- Learn to work well on a team and to work effectively with a wide variety of people.
- Conduct informational interviews or job shadows with professionals in field of interest to learn more about their work and build a network of contacts.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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