

**PROFESSIONAL ELECTIVES
FOR THE
TEXTILES, FASHION MERCHANDISING AND DESIGN MAJOR**

Professional electives give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skill sets in subject areas related to the textile and apparel industries. Through careful planning it is possible to use professional electives credits to earn a minor or even a second degree.

TMD majors are required to take 18 credits of professional electives. 9 of the 18 credits must be in one subject matter area. TMD classes cannot be used for professional electives.

The following courses are possible choices for professional electives, not a prescriptive list. Students may decide that courses not on the list better meet their specific interests and needs, but should do so only after a conversation with their advisor.

*Courses marked with an asterisk also count for General Education credit. Go to the Gen Ed page here for which outcomes each class fulfills: <https://web.uri.edu/general-education/gen-ed-courses/approved-courses-by-department-2/>

While courses can fulfill both Professional Elective and General Education credit, the student is required to complete 40 Gen Ed credits and 120 total course credits to graduate with the TMD degree.

ART/ART HISTORY

Art and art history classes are strongly recommended for students interested in design, visual merchandising, styling, and apparel product development. The fashion industry is a design-focused industry. Art and Art History courses expand student understanding of creativity and the effect of socio-cultural forces on the development of art.

Art and art history classes in the TMD core requirements cannot also be used for professional electives. See the TMD curriculum.

ART 101 Two-Dimensional Studio*
ART 103 Three-Dimensional Studio*
ART 120 Introduction to Art*
ART 203 Color
ART 204 Graphic Design I
ART 207 Drawing I*
ART 208 Drawing II
ART 213 Photography 1: B/W Photography
ART 214 Photography 1: Digital
ART 231 Printmaking 1
ART 251 Introduction to Art History: Ancient-Medieval*
ART 252 Introduction to Art History: Renaissance-Modern*
ART 284 Introductory Topics in Architectural History
ART 364 American Art
ART 380 Topics in Art and Architectural History

The TMD curriculum requires one 3-credit ART course, so complete 15 more credits for the minor for a total of 18 credits.

BUSINESS

Understanding business gives fashion merchandising students the knowledge critical to their future work in the textile and apparel industries. Therefore, many students majoring in TMD choose professional elective classes in Business, specifically marketing and management. Many complete a minor in Business. All Business courses count as professional electives for TMD majors.

See the requirements for the Business minor here: <https://web.uri.edu/business/general-business-minor/>

ECONOMICS

Understanding the economy of a society creates understanding of most societal structures, including the textile and apparel markets.

ECN 201 and 202 are part of the required core classes for TMD majors. If students do well in ECN 201 and 202 they can continue with 300-level courses.

ECN 306 Introduction to Economic Research Methods
 ECN 386 Economics of Race, Gender and Class
 Any other two electives.

The Economic minor requires 18 credits.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

HDF Courses provide insight into specific age-related consumer markets and thus improve student understanding of market segments.

HDF 200 Life Span Development I
 HDF 201 Life Span Development II
 HDF 205 Family Financial Issues Across the Life Span
 HDF 225 Consumer in the Economy*
 HDF 418 Personal Finance
 HDF 424 Personal Finance Applications
 HDF 426 Retirement Planning
 HDF 451 Debt Management
 HDF 428 Consumer Protection

The HDF minor requires 18 credits. HDF 480 cannot be used for the minor.

JOURNALISM

While URI does not offer specific fashion journalism courses, general journalism courses will improve the writing of those students interested in fashion writing.

JOR 110 Introduction to Mass Media*
 JOR 220 Media Writing
 JOR 311 Journalism Criticism
 JOR 313 Alternative News Media in the US
 JOR 321 Magazine and Feature Writing
 JOR 340/PRS 340 Public Relations (PR majors and declared minors only)

JOR 341 Editing for Publication
 JOR 441/PRS 441 Public Relations Practices*

The minor in Journalism requires completion 18 credits from courses currently eligible to count toward the major. See major requirements here: <https://harrington.uri.edu/academics/journalism-b-a/curriculum/>

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The success of the fashion industry depends on its ability to communicate to people interested in fashion. Public Relations courses are valuable for TMD students interested in event planning and understanding how to communicate with the fashion public.

PRS 100 Introduction to Public Relations
 PRS 200 Introduction to Event Management
 PRS 340/JOR 340 Public Relations (PR majors and declared minors only)
 PRS 441/JOR 441 Public Relations Practices*

Students minor in public relations by completing 18 course credits from the following courses: PRS 100, COM 100, PRS 200 or 300, PRS 340, COM 200-level or COM 300-level, WRT 200-level, and PRS 491.

COMMUNICATION

The fashion industry thrives on its ability to communicate effectively with people interested in fashion. Communication courses are valuable for TMD students interested in communicating effectively with the fashion public.

COM 100 Communication Fundamentals*
 COM 202 Public Speaking
 COM 208 Argumentation and Debate
 COM 201 Persuasion: The Rhetoric of Influence
 COM 243G Advertising and Consumerism*
 COM 246 New Media and Society
 COM 271 Web Design and Programing

The minor in Communication requires the completion 18 credits from courses currently eligible to count toward the major. See major requirements here: <https://harrington.uri.edu/academics/communication-studies-b-a/curriculum/>

LEADERSHIP STUDIES

The fashion industry can always use more leaders. This minor can create “exceptional skills in the areas of interpersonal and group management, problem solving, critical thinking and effective communication.”

See the department web site for details about the Leadership Studies Minor:
<https://web.uri.edu/leadership/minor/>

MODERN LANGUAGES

Students can study any modern language to complete their professional electives. French and Italian are the traditional 'fashion languages' associated with luxury fashion markets. Spanish and Chinese are also extremely important to the contemporary fashion industry.

The minor in a modern language requires 18 credits, only two of which (6 credits) can be at the 100 level.

SOCIOLOGY

Understanding human behavior within societal groups through the study of sociology can help TMD students understand group behavior within specific fashion markets.

SOC 100 General Sociology*
 SOC 204 Social Psychology
 SOC 212 Families in Society*
 SOC 240 Race and Ethnic Relations
 SOC 242 Sex and Gender
 SOC 320 Organizations
 SOC 336 Social Inequality
 SOC 350 Work and Family Life
 SOC 438 Aging in Society

Minor: see the requirements for the Sociology minor here:

<https://harrington.uri.edu/academics/communication-studies-b-a/curriculum/>

PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding human behavior through the study of psychology can help TMD students understand individual behavior in specific fashion markets.

PSY 113 General Psychology*
 PSY 200 Quantitative Methods in Psychology
 PSY 232 Developmental Psychology*
 PSY 335 Psychology of Social Behavior
 PSY 399 Introduction to Multicultural Psychology
 PSY 405 Psychological Anthropology
 PSY 480 Psychology of Women

See the requirements for the Psychology minor here: <https://web.uri.edu/psychology/minor/>

THEATRE

Theatre classes are appropriate for TMD students interested in apparel design and apparel product development. Costuming classes improve technical proficiency in a creating apparel.

THE 100 Introduction to Theatre*
 THE 250 Costume Laboratory
 THE 350 Makeup (1 credit)
 THE 351 Principles and Theories of Theatrical Costuming I*
 THE 352 Principles and Theories of Theatrical Costuming II*

THE 355 Stage Costume Design
THE 451 Stage Costume Technology
THE 455 Advanced Costuming

The theater minor is 18 credits.

WRITING

Solid writing skills are always valuable, no matter which path is taken in the textiles and apparel industry.

WRT 100 Introduction to College Writing
WRT 104 Writing to Inform and Explain*
WRT 106 Introduction to Research Writing*
WRT 201 Writing Argumentative and Persuasive Texts*
WRT 227 Business Communications*
WRT 235 Writing in Electronic Environments
WRT 332 Technical Writing*

The Writing minor requires 18 credits from the same classes eligible for the writing and rhetoric major. See the department web page here:

<https://harrington.uri.edu/academics/writing-and-rhetoric-b-a/curriculum/>