



UNIVERSITY OF
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University Council

April 20, 2018

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Family and Consumer Sciences to offer the existing major in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (M.S.) with a Non-Thesis option will be an agenda item for the April 27, 2018, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Alison F. Alexander, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

Proposal to Add a Non-Thesis Option in Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors (M.S.)
College of Family and Consumer Sciences
Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors

Submitted to: Dean Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D.
 Graduate School
 University of
 Georgia

Submitted by: Suraj Sharma, Ph.D., Graduate Coordinator
 Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and
 Interiors University of Georgia

Basic Information

Proposed Change: Add a Non-Thesis option for the major in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (M.S.) for students wishing to pursue a non-research, professionally-oriented track.

Start Date: Fall 2018

Program Description

The Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors Department requests that a non-thesis option be added for the Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (M.S.) program. The proposed non-thesis program’s fundamental course work comes from the existing thesis track; however, a consideration of practical, applied competencies have been added for the non-thesis option. Students will still be required to take various research method courses, as critical thinking, statistical methodology and understanding into scientific inquiry are still professionally valued skills in the apparel and textile industry. In the non-thesis option, an internship will be mandatory for students to acquire industry job experience instead of completing research and a thesis. For students not pursuing an academic or research career, internship credit will give students practical, marketable skills that potential employers in the apparel and textile industry will value. The total minimum credit hours (30) needed for graduation are the same for both tracks.

At the time of applications, students must choose whether they will pursue the non-thesis or thesis option. Currently enrolled students wishing to switch tracks will follow current procedures for changing degree focus.

Table 1: Requirements for the M.S. in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors

Current M.S. with Thesis		Proposed M.S. Non-Thesis	
Core (15-16 Credits)	Credit Hours	Core (15-16 Credits)	Credit Hours
STAT 6210, Introduction to Statistical Methods I OR STAT 6315, Statistical Methods for Researchers	3-4	STAT 6210, Introduction to Statistical Methods I OR STAT 6315 Statistical Methods for Researchers	3-4

STAT 6220, Introduction to Statistical Methods II OR STAT 8200, Design of Experiments for Research Workers OR Equivalent	3	STAT 6220, Introduction to Statistical Methods II OR STAT 6260, Statistical Quality Assurance OR Equivalent	3
TXMI 6520, Apparel and Textile Economics	3	TXMI 6520, Apparel and Textile Economics	3
TXMI 8050, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors Research Methods	3	TXMI 8050, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors Research Methods	3
TXMI 8900 Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors Seminar	3	TXMI 8900, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors Seminar	3
Focus Areas Electives* (9-12 credits)		Focus Areas Electives* (9-12 credits)	
6000-8000 level courses	9-12	6000-8000 level courses	9-12
Research and Thesis (12 credits)		Internship or Co-op (12 credits)	
TXMI 7000, Master's Research	6	TXMI 7910, Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors Internship	12
TXMI 7300, Master's Thesis	6		
Oral Deference of M.S. Thesis		M.S. Comprehensive Exam¹	
Minimum Total Credit Hours	33-36		33-36

***Focus Area Electives:**

Polymer, Fiber and Textile Sciences (select 9–12 hours from the following)

- TXMI 6150, Nonwovens Science and Technology (3 hours)
- TXMI 6160, Product Development in the Textiles and Apparel Industries (3 hours)
- TXMI 6900, Special Topics in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)
- TXMI 7710, Study Tour in Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors (1-3 hours)
- TXMI 8000, Biomaterials Based on Polymers, Fibers, and Textiles (3 hours)
- TXMI 8120, Polymer Science I (3 hours)
- TXMI 8130, Chemical and Instrumental Analysis of Nanostructured Polymers Materials (3 hours)
- TXMI 8180, Physics of Polymer, Fiber, and Textile Structures (3 hours)

Merchandising and International Trade (select 9–12 hours from the following)

- TXMI 6160, Product Development in the Textiles and Apparel Industries (3 hours)
- TXMI 6230, Dress, Society, and Culture (3 hours)
- TXMI 6240, Fashion Promotion and Visual Merchandising (3 hours)
- TXMI 8270, Merchandising Theories and Methodologies (3 hours)
- TXMI 8250, Apparel Trade and International Retailing (3 hours)
- TXMI(THEA) 6270, History of Dress: Antiquity to Nineteenth Century (3 hours)
- TXMI 6280, Apparel Design Studio (3 hours)
- TXMI 6520, Apparel and Textile Economics (3 hours)
- TXMI 6900, Special Topics in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)
- TXMI 7210, Digital Apparel Design and Development Applications (3 hours)
- TXMI 7240, Retailing Apparel and Textiles (3 hours)
- TXMI 7270, E-tailing in Apparel and Textiles (3 hours)

¹ M.S. Comprehensive exam will be administered by a committee comprising Major Professor, GSG Distinguished Professor, Graduate Coordinator, Internship Coordinator & Industry Internship Mentor (or equivalent)

- TXMI 7710, Study Tour in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)
- TXMI 7820, Museum Issues in Historic Clothing and Textiles (3 hours)

TXMI 8240, Advanced Topics in Retailing (3 hours)
TXMI 8260, Advanced Topics in Consumer Behavior (3 hours)
TXMI 8500, Contemporary Topics in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (3 hours)

Interior Environments (select 9–12 hours from the following)

CVLE(MCHE)(LAND) 6660, Sustainable Building Design (3 hours)
EDES 6540, Ideas of Community and Place (2 hours)
FHCE 6300, Advanced Housing Theories (3 hours)
FHCE 8100, Theory of Households, Consumer Economics, and Financial Behavior I (3 hours)
HIPR 6350, Building Materials Conservation (4 hours)
LAND 6040, Community and Place (5 hours)
LAND 6730, Issues and Practices in Sustainable Design (3 hours)
TXMI 6350, History of Design, Interiors, and Furnishings (3 hours)
TXMI 6360, Decorative Arts and Antiques (3 hours)
TXMI 6380, Interior Fabrics and Materials: Specifications and Estimations (3 hours)
TXMI 6900, Special Topics in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)
TXMI 7320, Professional Practices in Residential Design (3 hours)
TXMI 7310, Studio VII: Residential Interior Design for the Community (3 hours)
TXMI 7710, Study Tour in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)

Historic/Cultural Dress and Textiles (select 9–12 hours from the following)

TXMI 6160, Product Development in the Textiles and Apparel Industries (3 hours)
TXMI 6230, Dress, Society, and Culture (3 hours)
TXMI 6290, History of Dress and Fashion: Nineteenth Century to the Present (3 hours)
TXMI 6330, American Historic House Museums (3 hours)
TXMI 6900, Special Topics in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)
TXMI 7710, Study Tour in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (1-3 hours)
TXMI 7820, Museum Issues in Historic Clothing and Textiles (3 hours)
TXMI 8250, Apparel Trade and International Retailing (3 hours)
TXMI 8270, Merchandising Theories and Methodologies (3 hours)

Justification for Proposed Non-Thesis Option

Offering a non-thesis option for the major in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (M.S.) will open the program beyond traditional graduate students. Students whose goals are beyond research and academic fields, and who want a specialized, high-level education in the apparel and textile industry, will benefit from a non-thesis option as this provides students with more freedom to pursue new career paths. Employers care about the applied skills, job experience, and high-level management training that students receive relating to their specific job field. Many employers are looking for highly skilled and trained individuals. The proposed non-thesis track allows students to gain real-life job experience and training, which would be useful to their future employers. Moreover, students already in their career fields would be more likely to consider a higher degree if a non-thesis option is available. In today's business world, companies seek graduates with a good understanding of business and the associated technical skills combined with competencies in research and analytics in order to have an immediate impact when hired.

Faculty Vote

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum committee voted 10 yes and 0 no to approve.

Admission Procedure for Applicants

Admission to the non-thesis program will follow the same admission procedure as the existing Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors (M.S.) program. However, students will need to declare their track (Thesis or Non-Thesis) upon submission of their application.

Impact on Current Students

Existing students will have the option to change to their track from Thesis to Non-Thesis following the same procedure in place for changing a focus area.

Financial Impact

No new faculty, facilities, or services will be required to implement a non-thesis version of the existing major. Thus, no funds are required.

Assessment

The current assessment plan for our graduate studies program will be used (with modifications when necessary) to assess the non-thesis program.

Approvals on File

Proposal: Offer the existing major in Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors (M.S.) with a Non-Thesis option

College: College of Family and Consumer Sciences

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2018

Department:

- Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors Department Head, Dr. Gajanan Bhat, 3/30/2018

School/College:

- College of Family and Consumer Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Patricia Hunt-Hurst, 3/30/2018

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Dean, Dr. Suzanne Barbour, 3/29/2018