Career-Related Services

Career Counseling
Graduate School Planning
Career Resource Library
Career Assessments
Internship Planning
Credentials Services

Hours

Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm
Career Options for Textiles & Apparel Majors

This booklet contains specific information about majoring in Textiles and Apparel at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as career opportunities related to this major. The careers listed typically require a bachelor’s degree, and special certification or training requirements are noted. Please use this booklet as an idea generator, rather than as a comprehensive list of all career options for Textiles and Apparel majors. The career descriptions were obtained from the Center for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling (CSA&CC) library resources and career websites (see listing of sources on last page).

The first section, “Direct Career Opportunities,” includes careers that use the research and analytical skills acquired by Textiles and Apparel majors. The second section, “More Career Opportunities,” lists careers that are potentially available to all natural sciences majors who have related experience or coursework.

For Textiles and Apparel majors, there are many career options that require a master’s or doctoral degree but do not require any particular undergraduate degree. Examples of these include law, international affairs, museum administration, library and information studies, hospital administration, and many more. For careers requiring graduate education, please visit our library or speak to a career counselor.

The CSA&CC offers many other services and resources to help you with your career planning. These include:

• Career Counseling
• Career Assessment
• Career Information Library
• Internship Information
• Graduate School Planning Assistance

Visit our website at utexas.edu/ugs/csacc or call 232-8400 for more information.
MAJORING IN TEXTILES AND APPAREL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Departmental Website: www.he.utexas.edu/txa/index.php
Campus Location: GEA Room 117
Phone Number: 471-4287

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR
Textiles and Apparel involves the application of principles from the arts, sciences and humanities as they apply to career interests in Retail Merchandising, Apparel Design and Conservation.

AREAS OF STUDY
Apparel Design
Conservation
Retail Merchandising

EXAMPLES OF COURSES
TXA 212K Apparel Industry
Introduction to the integrated apparel design industry from the creative and merchandising perspective.

TXA 327 Clothing and Human Behavior
The social significance of clothing and the influence of clothing on behavior.

TXA 355C Computer-Aided Design for Apparel
Computer technology used to create textile prints, weaves, illustrations, flat patterns, promotional pieces, and pattern markers.

TXA 355P Problems in Retail Merchandising
Intensive study of selected problems related to field experience; development of analytical and problem-solving skills for retailing.
Skills gained by Textile and Apparel Majors:
Analyzing and interpreting information
Problem-solving
Creating and designing
Understanding and forecasting trends in the fashion industry
Translating abstract ideas to visual form
Collaborating with others

DIRECT JOB OPPORTUNITIES
This sampling includes careers that use the creating and designing skills typically acquired by textile and apparel majors.

Apparel Sales Representative
Sell apparel lines to fashion buyers in the retail industry. Makes sales calls, give presentations, answer customer inquiries, and negotiate a purchase price. Work for apparel manufacturing companies.

Costume Designer
Conduct research into the locale, period, and social background of the production, using libraries and museums to study clothing styles and fabrication. Draw sketches of costumes for the director’s approval. Get bids from costume shops. Select fabric, approve clothing patterns, and monitor the progress of developing the costumes or shop for ready-made clothing, wigs, and beards. Schedule fittings and a dress parade under stage lights with scenery and props.

Fabric Librarian
Develop and maintain an organized library of fabric and fiber samples for a company. Track materials used in the past and highlight new materials for future use. Consult with apparel manufacturers to help them make decisions about future products. Work for fiber or fabric companies and textile professional organizations.
Fashion Buyer
Select and purchase apparel and accessories from manufacturers or wholesalers for retail resale to consumers. Analyze industry trends, pay attention to competitors’ offerings, and predict what consumers will buy. Work for department stores, retail chains, or wholesale distributors.

Fashion Consultant
Educate individuals, groups, or corporations about fashions and accessories. Help people make fashion choices that reflect their lifestyles, personalities, and needs. Work for retail stores or on a freelance basis.

Fashion Coordinator
Work with buyers and salespeople to coordinate the different departments of a retail store or chain to ensure that all departments and stores offer a consistent fashion look.

Fashion Designer
Conceptualize, create, and promote new clothing and accessory designs for apparel manufacturers, specialty or retail stores, and individual clients. Keep informed about current and forecasted fashion trends, understand fabrics, create patterns and samples, and market new designs.

Fashion Forecaster
Use research skills, fashion industry experience, and intuition to predict which fashions will be popular for the future. Gather and analyze information and develop ways to communicate and display fashion predictions. Work for textile and apparel manufacturers, design firms, and consulting companies.

Merchandise Manager
Supervise the buying and distribution of accessories and apparel for a retail store, division, chain, or department. Monitor buying decisions of fashion buyers and maintain quality and quantity of product distribution and inventory. Travel to trade shows and industry events to keep up-to-date with fashion trends and forecasts.
Merchandiser
Decide what particular fashions and accessories and apparel manufacturers will produce each fashion season by analyzing apparel market trends and forecasts, sales data, and production costs. Collaborate with sales representatives, designers, and stylists.

Piece Goods Buyer
Collaborate with designers and merchandisers to decide which fabrics and trims an apparel manufacturer should buy to produce its latest fashion collections. Order fabric, negotiate price, and ensure quality of purchase.

Showroom Sales Representative
Show fashion buyers a manufacturer’s or designer’s new line of apparel and accessories, convince buyers to place an order, and ensure that merchandise reaches buyers’ stores in a timely manner. Work in showrooms of large apparel manufacturers and designers.

Sketcher
Create technically precise sketches of a fashion designer’s ideas for patternmaking, presentations, or archival purposes. Requires training in art and computer applications.

Textile Conversion Manager
Coordinate the processes used to turn uncolored, unfinished textiles into finished fabrics that may be purchased by apparel manufacturers, fabric retailers, or other companies that use textiles in their products.

Textile Designer
Use artistic, color, and technical skills to design new fabrics or modify the designs of previous fabrics. May specialize in area such as print fabrics, woven fabrics, and knits. Work for textile manufacturers or on a freelance basis.

Textile Market Researcher
Research and analyze market data that helps textile manufacturers make decisions about types and quantities of fabrics to produce in the future. Work for large textile producers.
Textiles Product Manager
Plan and coordinate the conceptualization, design, manufacturing, selling, and distribution of a textile producer’s fabrics.

Textile Research Scientist
Study technical aspects of fibers and fabrics to improve existing fibers, yarns, and fabrics and to create better ones. Work for fiber manufacturers, textile mills, and testing and development laboratories. Requires solid background in chemistry.

Textiles Sales Representative
Sell fibers to companies that produce yarn or finished yarn to textile manufacturers or finished fabrics to apparel manufacturers. Make sales calls, give presentations, answer customer inquiries, and negotiate a purchase price.

Textile Stylist
Plan and coordinate the conceptualization, development, and production of a textile producer’s annual fabric line. Work as liaison between design and production staff to ensure that each line’s “look” is correct.

Visual Merchandiser
Design and create visual displays of apparel and accessories for stores, trade shows, and fashion showrooms.

More Job Opportunities
This section lists other opportunities that may be available to all arts-related majors. Entry into these careers usually requires internship or volunteer experience or relevant coursework. Some students choose careers such as these that are less directly related to the arts and design yet allow them time to pursue their creative work on the side. This is a sampling of job opportunities; for more options and ideas, please visit the CSA&CC career information library.
ADVERTISING/MARKETING/SALES

Advertising and Promotions Manager
Plan and direct advertising policies and programs or produces collateral materials, such as posters, contests, coupons, or giveaways, to create extra interest in the purchase of a product or service for a department, an entire organization, or on an account basis.

Art Buyer
Research and solicit artwork used in advertising projects. Evaluate portfolios, negotiate fees and usage terms, and present estimates to art director. Coordinate photo shoots and retouching work.

Display Designer
Design and install displays of clothing, accessories, furniture, and other products to attract customers. Collaborate with other marketing professionals to develop product campaigns and branding concepts.

Stylist
Work with photographers to create a certain “look” or image in the print advertising industry or for film and commercial shoots. Can specialize in areas such as food, home, furnishings, or casting and research trends in these areas.

Survey Researcher
Design or conduct surveys. May supervise interviewers who conduct the survey in person or over the telephone. May present survey results to client.

BUSINESS

Artist Agent
Represent freelance artists, photographers, musicians, actors, and dancers and connects them with work opportunities. Negotiate prices, deadlines, and copyright issues and collect and distributes payment. Typically work on a freelance, commission basis.
Auction Gallery Assistant
Work for a particular department within an auction gallery, such as prints or contemporary art. Acquire works for sale, perform appraisals, write catalogues, and organize auctions. Interact with art dealers, collectors, and administrators of trusts and estates.

Corporate Recruiter
Maintain contacts in the community and travel, often to college campuses, to seek qualified job applicants. Screen and interview applicants and makes job offers. Stay up-to-date on organizational hiring policies, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action guidelines. Work for companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Management Consultant Analyst
Analyze business problems by collecting information from both internal and external sources, developing possible solutions, and then making recommendations to management team. Usually work for consulting firms, who hire recent college graduates for 2-3 year analyst positions.

Retail Manager
Oversee profitable operation of retail stores (example music store or art supply company), including hiring and supervising employees, managing inventory, and managing the budget. May be responsible for merchandise promotions and advertising.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting and Convention Planner
Coordinate all aspects of group meetings and conventions, including speakers, location, audio-visual equipment, and publicity. Work for nonprofit organizations, professional associations, hotels, corporations, and government agencies.

Public Relations Specialist
Write articles for internal publications, write press releases, assemble press kits, arrange speaking engagements, assist in fundraising activities. Work in a variety of settings: business, government, non-profit, and education.
Special Event Planner
Plan, organize, and implement special events for corporations, non-profit agencies, or individuals. Consult with client, manage budget, supervise vendors, and perform follow-up assessment. Examples of special events include corporate open houses, anniversaries or weddings, charity fundraisers, political rallies, concerts, and festivals.

Technical Writer
Write technical materials that communicate scientific and technical information to readers with little technical background, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work.

Web Designer
Use knowledge of computer applications to translate client needs into artistically appealing website. Select color, text, and artwork and update/maintain site as needed.

EDUCATION

College Admissions Officer
Evaluate freshman and transfer applicants; counsel and advise the general public including, but not limited to, prospective applicants, parents, faculty, and administration on admission-related issues; and participate in various recruitment and yield activities.

Corporate Trainer
Develop and conduct individual, group, and classroom training for employees on a wide variety of subjects. Develop training manuals, handouts, procedures, and supplemental training materials. Other duties involve test creation and administration for the advancement of employees.

Disability Services Coordinator
Serve as an advocate for students with disabilities. Work with faculty to understand and provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Promote disability awareness on campus.
Elementary School Teacher
Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills. Public schools require teacher certification, but private schools do not.

Residence Life Coordinator
Supervise undergraduate and/or graduate staff, develop residence hall community, respond to student concerns, manage administration and facilities, and participate in department initiatives and campus life.

ENVIRONMENT AND OUTDOOR

Environmental Education Specialist
Plan, develop, and conduct programs to inform public of historical, natural, and scientific features of national, state, or local parks.

Landscape Architect
Design topography, vegetation, walkways, and other decorative features for businesses, parks, and residential areas. Confer with client, analyze site data, and prepare plans, drawings, and cost estimates. May require coursework in landscape architecture.

Recreation Program Manager
Plan, organize, and evaluate citywide recreation programs, including sports, games, hobbies, arts & crafts, and special events.

Recycling Coordinator
Design and implement curbside and drop-off recycling and hazardous waste programs through city governments or private firms. Conduct public outreach campaigns to educate people about the advantages of recycling. May ensure compliance with ordinances or apply for grants.

GOVERNMENT

Grants Specialist
Plan, manage, and represent government agencies that fund research or cultural programs. Oversee budget and organize panelists who review grant applications. Supervise disbursement
of funds and monitor usage of grant monies.

**Legal Assistant**
Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.

**Legislative Analyst**
Perform quantitative and qualitative analysis of information needed by legislators and other government officials. Evaluate policy issues and options, write reports, conduct briefing meetings, and respond to inquiries.

**Legislative Assistant**
Meet with lobbyists, arrange committee and subcommittee hearings, assist in developing legislation and amendments. Respond to requests for information, prepare memos and reports based on completed research for legislators.

**Lobbying Organizer**
Distribute information about a particular issue or organization (such as funding for the arts), recruit volunteers, solicit funds, and organize such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registrations drives. Work for special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

**HUMAN SERVICES**

**Americorps Volunteer**
Serve full-time for a year in organizations and agencies throughout the country, work to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide. Benefits include an Education Award or an end-of-service stipend.

**Community Organizer**
Establish and organize community groups to solve social problems in the community. Assess strengths and weaknesses of existing resources and propose changes. Promote cooperation and coordination among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other community groups. Conduct research,
prepare budgets, and assist in fundraising.

Social Service Caseworker
Help families and individuals secure assistance from social service agencies. Interview clients to understand degree and nature of problems and refer to appropriate community resources. May determine eligibility for financial assistance and/or advocate on clients’ behalf to government or nonprofit agencies.

Volunteer Coordinator
Recruit, train, schedule and provide supervision to volunteers at non-profit organizations. Arrange for on-the-job and other required training, supervision and evaluation of volunteers. Serve as liaison between administration, staff, and volunteers.

Youth Organizer
Manage and administer youth and community projects and resources; conduct needs assessment and plan and deliver relevant programs of personal and social education via discussions, arts-based activities, community/environmental projects, residential activities, and outdoor/sports activities.

INTERNATIONAL

Cultural Tour Guide
Plan and organize themed trips that encompass sites and experiences related to the fine arts. Educate travelers, handles special needs, and coordinate transportation. Work for tour company or on freelance basis.

ESL/ESOL Teacher
Provide rigorous and appropriate instruction to international students that supports the acceleration of English and appropriate academic content. Also, serve as a liaison between the student, his/her family and the school, by providing cross-cultural information to all parties that foster positive relationships.
Foreign Service Officer
Analyze and report on political and economic developments, including agricultural trends, humanitarian and social conditions. Identify export markets, negotiate international agreements, and interpret US policies and interests for foreign governments, opinion leaders and publics. Issue visas to foreign nationals, provide development assistance, and arrange cultural exchanges.

Intelligence Officer
A member of the armed forces, police officer or civilian intelligence agency who specializes in the gathering, fusion and analysis of information and intelligence in order to provide advice to their government or another organization.

Peace Corps Volunteer
Peace Corps Volunteers work internationally in the following areas: education, youth outreach, and community development; health and HIV/AIDS; agriculture and environment; business development; and information technology. Within these areas, the specific duties and responsibilities of each Volunteer can vary widely.

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Copy Editor
Act as liaison between author, editor, and proofreader. Review manuscripts for grammar and style usage. May develop in-house style guide, supervise freelance staff, and handle author queries.

Copywriter
Write articles, bulletins, sales letters, speeches, and other related informative, marketing and promotional material for use by publication or broadcast media to promote sale of goods and services.

Grant Writer
Write and develop grant proposals, which includes conducting needs assessments and matching product needs with available funding. Write progress reports to organization funding the grant. Work for government or non-profit agencies.
Staff Writer
Research and write articles for fine arts magazine. May write article promos, short features, author bios, or photo captions. May work on freelance basis or for one particular magazine.

Travel Writer
Write features with detailed, accurate, timely and up-to-date information regarding destinations, hotels, restaurants, tours, activities, etc, using a variety of sources of information. Involves thorough research and travel.

RESEARCH

Information Broker
Perform research for clients in business, healthcare, government, law, and science. Use Internet, database, and library resources to find specific information. May also analyze information, write reports, and train clients in information retrieval. Often work for consulting firms or on freelance basis.

Institutional Researcher
Write institutional and policy histories; research and report on current issues and long-range trends; edit records; manage archives. Work for government agencies, private corporations, public archives and libraries.

Market Research Analyst
Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service. May gather information on competitors, prices, sales, and methods of marketing and distribution. May use survey results to create a marketing campaign based on regional preferences and buying habits.

Preservation/Restoration Assistant
Conduct architectural, art, and urban historical research; apply technological and artistic conservations skills; research-related laws and tax issues. Work for specialized preservation services firms.
Social Science Research Assistant
Assist social scientists in laboratory, survey, and other social research. May perform publication activities, laboratory analysis, quality control, or data management.

SOURCES
