



Major Planning Guide:

Apparel Design & Merchandising

What can I do with a degree in apparel design & merchandising?

Some students are fascinated by clothing, accessory, or shoe design and plan to earn a degree that will allow them to work for clothing designers or manufacturers, retailers, theater or dance companies, or as an independent fashion designer. These students may choose to study apparel design. Other students are more interested in sales and marketing of clothing and accessories; these students often choose to study apparel merchandising. Other names for these fields of study may include "fashion," "textile," or "fiber" in their titles, so students looking for universities offering these programs should use multiple search terms to find all possible programs.

Related Majors/Programs

Art
Business
Graphic Design
Visual Media
Design
Culinary
Architecture
Landscape Horticulture
Automotive Technology

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in apparel design & merchandising in Washington?

Certain universities offer apparel design & merchandising as an undergraduate major. Seattle Central offers apparel design as a Career Training program. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find apparel design & merchandising programs in Washington state or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in apparel design & merchandising?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that apparel design & merchandising is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in apparel design & merchandising, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Talk with admissions staff at your potential transfer schools early to find out what classes to take at Seattle Central that will transfer and how many credits you should ideally earn here before transferring.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in apparel design & merchandising often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree.

Advisors can help students understand what apparel design & merchandising requirements are necessary for transfer.

You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([*purple sheet*](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in apparel design & merchandising at a university usually take courses in art history, drawing, accounting, or economics, as well as general education requirements, to prepare to transfer. The courses required— and accepted as transfer credit — vary greatly depending on the transfer school, so it is strongly recommended that students work with advisors at the universities or art schools where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to start the apparel design program at Seattle Central are required to complete APPRL 096, APPRL 098 and APPRL 100 before you can start the program. Also, you will need to show computer competency by either completing BTM 111; BTM 101 & BTM 102; or take the [SAM Challenge](#) through our Testing Center in BE 1106. You can see the full list of eligibility requirements on our [website](#).

What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in apparel design & merchandising you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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