

# DESIGN, HOUSING AND MERCHANDISING

## Graduate Programs

The Department of Design, Housing and Merchandising offers graduate work leading to the Master of Science in Design, Housing and Merchandising and the Doctor of Philosophy in Human Sciences with an option in design, housing and merchandising. The programs are scientifically based research and/or design oriented. Graduate degrees in the department are tailored to departmental areas of expertise, professional goals of the candidate and College of Human Sciences and Graduate College requirements. Graduate programs may focus on either merchandising or design. Students may investigate design and merchandising from the following perspectives: product development and evaluation, consumer and supplier behavior, business development and management, and constructed environmental and individual interrelationships.

## The Master of Science Degree

The Master of Science degree is awarded in four options—Apparel Design and Production, Interior Design, Merchandising, and Retail Merchandising Leadership (offered online through the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance)—and is designed to prepare individuals for careers in business, industry, extension and post-secondary or college teaching. The thesis plan (research or design) is available for students in apparel design and interior design. For merchandising master students, research thesis and non-thesis options are available. For retail merchandising leadership master students a non-thesis plan is required. Programs of study are built around the academic background, experience, needs, special interests and professional goals of the student. The selection of courses that meet departmental requirements is made in consultation with the advisory committee. A minimum of 21 credit hours must be taken in the department. Additional courses may be selected from other areas of human sciences or from supporting areas such as marketing, sociology, history and physiology. If the undergraduate degree is not in the area of specialization, specific undergraduate courses in design, housing and merchandising will be required as prerequisites. The newest offering is an accelerated MS degree for current students in Apparel Design and Production and Interior Design where students can earn the MS degree in one year beyond the BS degree.

## The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD prepares individuals for research positions in universities, business and industry, for university teaching and for administrative or management level positions. The student will be expected to have a master's degree or equivalent in design, housing and merchandising or in a closely-related area from a college or university of recognized standing. A student may be required to demonstrate competence in the area of specialization and in related areas, and further coursework may be required before admission will be granted.

The plan of study is individually determined for the student in cooperation with an advisory committee. Each plan of study will be an integrated combination of courses and research providing for specialization within an area of design and merchandising, including synthesis of knowledge drawn from departments within and outside of human sciences. Emphasis is on attainment of competencies rather than on the completion of specific numbers of credits; however, a minimum of

60 credit hours beyond the master's degree must be completed. Each student will develop competence in the area of specialization which includes courses in the major and the support area. International and management dimensions are included.

The program includes a strong emphasis on research and application of statistical procedures, as well as having students gain experience in resource generation, knowledge-sharing and community engagement.

More detailed information on graduate study in the Department of Design, Housing and Merchandising can be obtained from the department website [humansciences.okstate.edu/dhm](http://humansciences.okstate.edu/dhm) (<http://humansciences.okstate.edu/dhm/>) or by writing the head of the department.