

# DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING

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## Graduate Programs

The Department of Design and Merchandising offers graduate work leading to the Master of Science in Design, Housing and Merchandising. The program is 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 Education and 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 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.

More detailed information on graduate study in the Department of Design and Merchandising can be obtained from the department website <https://education.okstate.edu/departments-programs/design-housing-merchandising/index.html> (<https://education.okstate.edu/departments-programs/design-housing-merchandising/>) or by writing the head of the department.