

University Scholars Program
MS in Merchandising Apparel and Textiles
BS in Merchandising Apparel & Textiles

Background:

The MS in Merchandising, Apparel and Textiles (MAT) at the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, School of Human Environmental Sciences, Department of Retailing and Tourism Management presently has one track – Merchandising, Apparel and Textiles. The degree program is available as a thesis option (Plan A) requiring 30 hours of course work (including thesis) or as a project option (Plan B) requiring 30 hours of course work. The Department of Retailing and Tourism Management offers a 120 credit-hour Bachelor of Science degree in Merchandising, Apparel and Textiles with a supervised internship. The program is presently accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences located at (400 N. Columbus Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 2231).

This document proposes the establishment of a University Scholars program in the Retailing and Tourism Management program for the MS in MAT for students pursuing the undergraduate degree in MAT. This program will appeal to students in the MAT program who want to pursue a graduate degree in our area. University Scholars program in MAT will provide motivated students an opportunity to accelerate the student's ability to pursue and acquire a Master's degree on a fast track.

Program Structure:

Admissions: A student desiring admission into the MS MAT University Scholars program is required to meet the following: 1.) The applicant must be an undergraduate pursuing a BS degree in Merchandising Apparel and Textiles and must apply for the MS MAT University Scholars program at the end of his/her junior year. 2.) The applicant must have senior standing (completed at least 90 hours of course work) and have completed all University Studies requirements. 3.) The applicant must have an overall grade-point average of 3.2 or above on a scale of 4.0 and a grade-point average of 3.5 or above in the undergraduate major. 4.) The applicant must follow the current application procedures for the Graduate School and must meet the admissions standards of the Graduate School and the MS MAT program.

Program of Study:

One of the criteria used for admission into the MS MAT program is that at least one faculty member in MAT agrees to serve as a graduate research advisor for the applicant. Upon admissions into the program, the director of graduate studies in MAT and the aforementioned faculty member will advise students regarding their participation in the dual degree program and in their graduate coursework. The students' undergraduate departmental advisors will advise on undergraduate coursework.

In this dual degree program, the total credit hour requirements for the bachelor's and master's degrees remain unchanged; however, up to twelve (12) credit hours will be shared between both degrees. Thus, the total number of credit hours completed for the combined program may be up to twelve (12) hours fewer than the total required for both the bachelor's and master's degree. In order that these 12 credits satisfy the requirements of the BS and MS degrees, a student will select course work in consultation with the undergraduate advisor and the director of graduate studies in MAT such that the courses meet the requirements of both programs.

Example:

A student in the fourth (senior) year of his/her undergraduate curriculum could choose from the following courses:

Course		Credits*
HES 600	Research Methodology in HES	3
STA 570	Basic Statistical Analysis	4
MAT 510	Brand Management	3
MAT 514	Retail Entrepreneurship	3
MAT 515	Specification & Evaluation of Textiles & Apparel	3
MAT 520	Textiles for Interiors	3
MAT 522	History of Textiles	3
MAT 533	History of Costume	3
MAT 547	Social & Psychological Aspects of Apparel	3
MAT 559	Special Topics in MAT	3
MAT 570	E-Commerce	3

MAT 600+Courses

Courses accepted from Business, Marketing, or education require committee approval.

*Up to twelve of these credits are shared between the undergraduate and the graduate curriculum.

It is expected that the student will have started working on a thesis or research project in the first semester as a graduate student in MAT with their effort focused on completion of the research in the second semester. It is anticipated that students in this program may be able to complete the requirements for an MS degree within three semesters after starting the graduate program.