

FM: Fashion Business Management

FM 108 — First Year Experience I

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

This course is part one of a two-part first year experience course that covers the evolution of fashion and the relationships between fashion industry sectors. Students begin to formulate their career path and understand the importance of "Brand You." Technology platforms widely used in the industry are introduced to provide the skills for a successful college introduction to fashion business management.

FM 109 — First Year Experience II

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

This course is the second part of the first year experience series. Students delve into the history of retailing and retailers, and concentrate on retailer strategies and positioning with relation to various store types. They explore the global supply chain from concept to consumer with a focus on sustainability and ethics.

Prerequisite(s): FM 108.

FM 110 — Product Elements and Principles

2 credits; 2 lecture hours

Students learn the key components necessary for development of fashion apparel products. They gain experience in identifying apparel construction techniques, fabric strategies, product processes, bill of materials (costing), global sourcing, and learn key apparel terminology to develop garment prototypes.

Corequisite(s): TS 110.

FM 114 — Introduction to the Fashion Industry

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This survey covers the history, characteristics, and global interrelationships of all segments of the fashion industry. The course explores how fiber, textile, and apparel producers, retailers, and home furnishings companies merchandise and market their products within the industry and to the ultimate consumer.

FM 116 — Fashion Business Practices

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

A comprehensive introduction to the modern fashion business environment with insight to the structures, finances, management, leadership, organization and ethical responsibilities of varied global fashion enterprises. Emphasis is placed on careers, job descriptions and the preparation necessary for a successful career in the fashion business.

FM 117 — Introduction to Fashion Marketing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course focuses on the integration of fashion marketing concepts, practices, and applications and facilitates the development of a marketing/merchandising plan. Through a case study approach, students analyze opportunities regarding merchandise positioning, brand imagery, targeting, and segmentation of an apparel or other fashion product.

FM 144 — Product Knowledge for Merchandising

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Familiarizes students with the terminology and characteristics of merchandise of non-textile fashion accessories and home furnishings at all price levels. Enables retail buyers, product developers, and wholesale salespersons to differentiate criteria for price and quality.

FM 201 — Social Media Applications for Fashion Business

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students explore the social media platforms used by the fashion business industry. Course assignments emphasize blogging, vlogging, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Pinterest, and any emerging social media platforms.

FM 203 — Business Intelligence in Planning and Buying

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course addresses business analytics used by merchants, product developers, planners, wholesale sales, and more. Students are prepared to think critically, measure, and analyze the financial elements (key performance indicators) used in the fashion business.

Prerequisite(s): Mathematics Proficiency.

FM 204 — Innovation in Product Development

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Introduces students to the processes of apparel product development, including planning, forecasting, fabric, silhouette, size specifications, pricing, and sourcing. Students examine the best practices and innovative approaches for apparel product development in the apparel fashion industry in order to compete in today's competitive retail environment.

Prerequisite(s): FM 110.

FM 205 — Fashion Marketing and Digital Technology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Focuses on marketing in the context of the global fashion industry. Topics include research, analysis, market segmentation, target customer identification, the marketing mix, strategic planning, brand strategy and positioning, customer relationships, social media, and mobile marketing, as well as the use of online analytics and new technologies.

FM 206 — Strategies of Merchandising

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Focuses on various merchandising decision-making paths used in the fashion industry. They review a variety of businesses and develop hands-on strategies targeted to achieve business goals. A succession of team-driven strategies is developed, culminating in the creation of a business ePortfolio that illustrates their business knowledge and career objectives. Prerequisite(s): FM 203.

FM 207 — Retail Strategies

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Explores current practices in the retail industry. Topics and disciplines include retail landscape, channel classification, industry segments, retail market strategies, data analytics, customer relationship management, financial strategy, supply chain structures and retail management.

FM 212 — Case Studies In Fashion Marketing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Through the case study method, analyze the decision-making process used to arrive at independent solutions to typical marketing problems. Student analyses and presentations of actual cases are evaluated for weighing of factual data, disciplined thinking, and arrival at rational conclusions. Prerequisite(s): FM 116.

FM 213 — Direct and Digital Marketing for Fashion Business

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Presents a comprehensive overview of the direct marketing industry, including its various components and career opportunities. Through the use of case studies and/or assignments, students learn strategic planning; how to choose and merchandise a product, pinpoint a target audience, develop marketing tests, and analyze results. Students are also introduced to the various electronic vehicles currently used in this ever-changing industry.

FM 222 — Import Buying

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Analyzes key factors in developing import programs, distribution of products, market sources, financing, and aspects associated with apparel and other imported products. The impact of imports on domestic apparel businesses is examined. Prerequisite(s): FM 108.

FM 223 — Creative Fashion Presentations

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students prepare and present fashion information through clinics, shows, and written communicues. They learn how to research, analyze, and forecast fashion trends. Awareness of career opportunities in the fashion industries is fostered.

Prerequisite(s): FM 108.

FM 224 — Merchandising Math Applications

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students develop an understanding of the merchandising concepts and calculations necessary for interpreting and responding to financial planning and control reports of the merchandising and store operational teams. Among such reports are sales analyses, maintained markup reports, gross margin, and seasonal plans.

Prerequisite(s): Passing grade on FBM math placement test or mathematic proficiency.

FM 225 — Fashion Merchandising

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course provides a comprehensive look at the merchandising environment, including the functions and objectives of the merchandising team and the principles and techniques of today's buyers, planners, product developers, and account executives. Students work in teams on simulated merchandising projects to execute a seasonal plan.

Prerequisite(s): FM 224.

FM 226 — International Buying and Marketing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students, under faculty supervision, visit principal European cities to study the factors involved in fashion marketing and the international customer's attitudes about fashion. Discussions involve methods, practices, and reasons for importation and exportation. Students are expected to complete written assignments. Approximately three weeks in June.

Prerequisite(s): Approval of instructor.

FM 228 — The Business of Fashion Styling

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

In the course, students explore the role of a fashion stylist as it applies to the field of merchandising. They learn about career opportunities in fashion styling and wardrobe consulting. The business requirements and entrepreneurial opportunities in the field of fashion styling are explored.

FM 231 — Strategies of Selling

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Principles of personal selling techniques, presentation skills, the art of persuasion, negotiating, and account building in the wholesale markets are developed through lectures and workshops.

FM 244 — Product Development

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Introduces the concepts and methods by which retailers create special, store-branded merchandise for targeted customer segments. The process of product development, from research to production to distribution, is studied.

Prerequisite(s): TS 111.

FM 245 — Fashion Forecasting for Merchandisers

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students explore and apply various forecast research methods in preparation for developing, planning, purchasing, or merchandising apparel lines and collections. Using the case study method, trend research is evaluated through the use of scholarly texts, articles, databases, and relevant websites to identify opportunities for growth and profitability in a fashion business.

FM 251 — Small Store Fashion Retailing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Enables students to understand the procedures of organizing a small fashion retail enterprise and to become aware of the decision-making inherent in successful small-store merchandising. Students develop a model for a small fashion retail store.

Prerequisite(s): FM 108.

FM 262 — Contemporary Retail Management

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students study all operational segments of the fashion industry and describe the functions of each. Contributions employees add to sales productivity and customer satisfaction in retail establishments are studied. New technologies are researched and the impact on consumers' shopping experiences explored.

Prerequisite(s): FM 114.

FM 268 — Team Development Workshop

2.5 credits; 2 lecture and 1 lab hours

Through individual and team role-playing and workshop activities, students learn the management skills needed in the international workplace. Communications skills, teamwork, and process management are stressed.

FM 300 — Case Study Method: Fashion Business Applications

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Introduction to methodology strategies for fashion business cases. Research and identification of current internal and external environmental factors and business trends for solving fashion business cases. Aspects of the fashion industry are reviewed through various cases and current industry issues.

FM 303 — Fashion Business Law

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course provides a practical introduction to the legal environment of the fashion industry. Students learn to anticipate and manage the key legal issues and problems faced by fashion designers and companies from the start-up phase through branding, sourcing, sales, and distribution phases.

FM 304 — Business of Virtual Merchandising

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course focuses on the changes in retail merchandising for: wholesale showrooms, retail visual merchandising, and online platforms; B2B and B2C business models. This student experience in working in a virtual merchandising environment will be gained through the use of ByondXR Virtual Showroom Platform. This course applies cloud based virtual software that students will use to create virtual showrooms for wholesale and retail brands. Students will apply their skills to merchandise collections, plan and allocate product, and create visual merchandising presentations all in a virtual setting.

FM 322 — Fashion Inventory Management

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

In computer simulations and using advanced functionality in Excel, students make decisions involving inventory models, inventory replenishment, and seasonal and long-term replenishment strategies. Using the case study method, students learn to manage a business by developing seasonal financial plans, creating store plans, and balancing multi-store inventories.

FM 324 — Business of Licensing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students examine the business aspects of licensing as they apply to the fashion industry, from licensing assignments through the merchandising approval process. Appropriate skills for negotiating and planning licensed product lines are developed. Business and career opportunities with manufacturers, retailers, product developers, and designers of licensed fashion merchandise are explored.

FM 325 — Financial Assortment and Planning

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

A comprehensive study of financial and merchandise assortment plans utilizing JDA Enterprise Planning software. Business trends, along with historical data, will be used to construct a six-month plan that achieves the financial goals of the department for all key metrics. In-season strategies will be developed to address current business projections.

FM 326 — Sustainability in Fashion Merchandising

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Using the case study method and primary research, this course enhances student knowledge of sustainability issues. Attention is also paid to the fiscal implications of implementing sustainability initiatives, illustrating that sustainability and profit are not mutually exclusive.

FM 328 — Merchandising for Multichannel Retailing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course covers Multichannel retailing, which is rapidly gaining momentum in the industry as consumers gain control of the shopping experience and demand to shop everywhere and in every way. The course looks at how e-commerce and social commerce, as well as mobile devices and tablets, are revolutionizing the role of the brick-and-mortar store to create a seamless shopping experience.

Prerequisite(s): FM 224 and FM 225.

FM 329 — Predictive Analytics for Planning and Forecasting (Interdisciplinary)

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

This is an interdisciplinary course cross-listed with MA 329. This course provides students interested in predictive analytics with an understanding of statistical applications to retail merchandising with a focus on case studies from the company Planalytics. Students apply time series analysis to case studies to understand how analytics techniques lead to stronger sales, fewer markdowns and improved gross margins.

Prerequisite(s): MA 222.

FM 330 — Data Insights and Fashion Analytics

2 credits; 1 lecture and 2 lab hours

Various social media platforms and databases are used as part of the big data conversation to understand and quantify consumer sentiment on fashion apparel before financial decisions and strategies are finalized. Data Insight and predictive analytics are employed in order to maximize revenue and margin. Critical thinking is required to analyze, interpret and incorporate data into the final merchandise assortment plan.

FM 341 — Computer-Aided Product Development I

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

This course examines how technology is used to create, merchandise, and communicate during each phase of the product development process. It focuses on the creative and analytical phases of product development, including trend research, data analytics, sourcing for color, silhouette, and patterns, and assortment planning.

Prerequisite(s): FM 244.

FM 361 — Leadership Development for Retailing

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

A comprehensive study of the leadership skills inherent to being an effective, efficient manager in retail today. Students learn the effect of an organization's culture on the management process and how it is viewed from a global perspective. Decision-making, planning and strategic management, driving change and innovation, controlling, and managing communication and information technology are also studied.

FM 362 — Dynamics of Store Operations Management

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course identifies the divisions of retail management from the store operations perspective. Specific areas of operations management are analyzed. Students compare and contrast management practices among retailers using skills gained from roundtable discussions with industry executives and field trips.

Prerequisite(s): FM 361.

FM 363 — Corporate Social Responsibility

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Using case studies, students gain an understanding of the importance of corporate ethics and of the ethical challenges faced by retailers, marketers, and manufacturers in the United States. Also addressed are the ways a company manages its retail business processes to produce a positive impact on society, and how it integrates social, ethical, and environmental concerns with retail profit objectives.

Prerequisite(s): FM 361.

FM 380 — Special Topics in Fashion Business Management Studies

0 credits

FM 380A — Special Topic: Case Study in Distributors- Amazon

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Amazon challenges whole industries on a weekly basis. It has changed how the publishing, retail, fashion, grocery, tv/cable, technology, delivery, banking, pharmaceutical businesses operate, and the list continues to grow. This class will dissect these aspects of how Amazon's business makes this all possible as well as explore how it has turned the investment world upside-down and revolutionized what "business-as-usual" means.

FM 422 — Merchandising Strategies

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This is the capstone course for B.S. degree students, which integrates the skills and knowledge acquired in previous FM and related courses. Working in teams, students research financial, merchandising and competitive data and combine with information provided by executives from various retail organizations. Students articulate merchandising strategies in a final presentation.

Prerequisite(s): MA 300 or MA 311 or MA 321 or MA 322 or MA 331.

FM 423 — Fashion Planning and Allocation

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

Students assume the roles of merchandise and location planners and allocators for a multi-door retailer. Using the case study method, students utilize industry technology and advanced Excel applications to analyze and evaluate data to develop allocation strategies to support seasonal assortments and location plans.

Prerequisite(s): FM 322 or FM 329 or MA 329.

FM 424 — Global Merchandising

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course explores the multiple merchandising practices used around the world in fashion apparel companies-- both retail and wholesale. American merchandising theory is used as a base of comparison in the consideration of various religions, cultures, legal systems, and other global systems.

Prerequisite(s): FM 361.

FM 431 — Sales Management

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course includes the formulation of strategic sales programs for manufactured products and services. Students implement sales programs and evaluate control of the organization's sales activities. The course blends dynamic processes composed of interrelated sections, all geared to reach the sales objectives.

FM 441 — Computer-Aided Product Development II

3 credits; 2 lecture and 2 lab hours

This course applies web-based content and computer applications during product development. Students implement professional technical packages including bill of materials, construction details, specifications, cost sheets, etc., based on the creative content from FM 341.

Prerequisite(s): FM 341.

FM 480 — Special Topics in Fashion Business Management Studies

0 credits

FM 480A — Structural Racism and the Challenges of Diversity in the Fashion Business Retail Industry

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course explores structural racism in the fashion industry from a historical and scholarly perspective. Prominent themes include Reconstruction, Jim Crow and how the Civil Rights Movement desegregated fashion retail stores. The rich contributions of Black designers such as Elizabeth Keckley and Ann Lowe frame a significant historical narrative.

FM 492 — International Product Development Practicum

4 credits; 4 lecture hours

In this course students apply principles learned in FM 244 to an international work experience in collaboration with an industry sponsor. They simulate the development and sourcing of a product in overseas factories. Offered in summer and winter only.

Prerequisite(s): FM 110 and FM 204.

FM 499 — Independent Study in Fashion Merchandising Management

1-3 credit

Prerequisite(s): a minimum 3.5 GPA and approval of instructor, chairperson, and dean for Business and Technology.