



Department of Textiles, Apparel Design & Merchandising
lsu.edu/agriculture/tam

Graduate Student Handbook
MS and PhD Degrees

Fall 2026



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Introduction

Welcome to LSU's Graduate Program in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising. This Handbook provides direction and assistance to graduate students and faculty in the Department of Textiles Apparel Design, and Merchandising (TAM). It contains general information applicable to M.S. and Ph.D. students with concentrations in TAM. The Handbook discusses requirements and procedures specific to each graduate program, and additional information is available on the TAM web page: lsu.edu/agriculture/tam.

This Handbook supplements the LSU General Catalog, which is the authoritative source for the university's academic regulations. ***Graduate students are responsible for fulfilling the requirements described in LSU's current General Catalog and these Guidelines. Students are also responsible for being aware of and meeting the deadlines printed in the Graduate Calendar,*** which may be obtained online:

https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/current_students/calendars.php. Although the catalog explicitly states that LSU reserves the right to change requirements at any time, TAM tries to apply those regulations that affect the year students enter their programs.

The Graduate Faculty of the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising (TAM) values your input regarding updating and improving the handbook and welcomes questions, comments, and suggestions concerning any aspect of the TAM graduate program.

TAM Staff

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Ph.D., University of New South Wales, 1986

Dr. Chunmin Lang, Associate Professor
Office: 143 Human Ecology Building, 578-7757, cmlang@lsu.edu
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2015
Sustainable consumption (e.g., collaborative fashion consumption, access-based consumption, etc.); developing product-service systems and new sustainable retail models; implementing big data in sustainability research; Life Cycle Assessment of fashion; sustainability in higher education; and entrepreneurship in fashion.

Dr. Michael E. Mamp, Associate Professor
Office: 141 Human Ecology Building, 578-1087, mmamp@lsu.edu
Ph.D., Iowa State University, 2014
Fashion and textile history, Acadian textiles, Queer theory and fashion, material culture, curatorial practice.

Dr. Casey Stannard, Professor
Office: 147 Human Ecology Building, Ph: 578-2404, stannard@lsu.edu
Ph.D., Oregon State University, 2014
Sustainable aspects of apparel design; role of traditional textile handcrafts in contemporary society; social psychological aspects of apparel design; creative scholarship incorporating fiber art techniques, theory-based design, and computer-aided pattern making.

Terminology

While terminology is shared between the M.S. and Ph.D. programs, it may apply to either or both programs.

- **Accelerated M.S. Program:** Provides students with an alternative format for completing a M.S. degree. Undergraduate students in TAM may apply to the Accelerated M.S. Program and once accepted can count up to 12 credit hours toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students choosing this option can choose either the thesis or non-thesis for M.S. degree options.
- **Application for a degree (M.S., Ph.D.):** Students must apply for a degree no later than the registration period for the semester they intend to graduate. All applications must be signed and filed with the Graduate School.
- **Graduate Advisor (M.S., Ph.D.):** The Department Head appoints the Graduate Advisor. The Graduate Advisor liaises with the Graduate School, attends Graduate School orientations, and networks with other Directors of Graduate Studies on campus and at state and national levels. By learning about your goals, interests, and abilities, the Graduate Advisor assists in assigning an appropriate Major Professor and developing a program of study prior to a significant professor being assigned. The Graduate Advisor also helps explain academic rules and policies and reviews and signs all the required forms and paperwork. The Graduate Advisor helps keep you on track and succeed in your graduate study.
- **TAM Graduate Coordinator:** The Graduate Coordinator serves as the liaison between the student, faculty and Graduate School regarding program requirements and is responsible for submitting documents that have been completed by the graduate student to the graduate school. The Graduate Coordinator helps with all the paperwork and record keeping.
- **Graduate Faculty (M.S., Ph.D.):** Graduate faculty members are either tenure track, tenured, or have been appointed to the graduate faculty because of particular expertise. Graduate faculty will generally be assistant, associate, or full professors. Faculty members from other campuses, such as the LSU AgCenter, Pennington Biomedical Center or LSU Health Sciences, require approval from the Graduate School for appointment to graduate faculty.
- **Full Member of the Graduate Faculty:** Associate or full professors with tenure, subject to annual review.
- **Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty:** Assistant professors in tenure-track positions, subject to annual review.
- **Major Professor (M.S., Ph.D.):** The Major Professor is the student's mentor and directs the student's program. The Major Professor guides the selection of other committee members and the program of study.
- **Graduate Advisory Committee (M.S., Ph.D.):** The advisory committee includes the Major Professor and faculty members representing the major areas of study. The advisory committee prepares the general exam, evaluates the oral exam, and signs off on the final defense.
- **Dean's Representative (Ph.D. only):** The Dean of the Graduate School appoints an outside member to the graduate advisory committee to ensure that the general and final

examinations are conducted correctly and consistently while maintaining program quality and that students are questioned and treated fairly. The Dean's Representative is a full-voting member of the committee.

- **Program of Study (M.S., Ph.D.):** The program of study is an agreement between the student and his/her department and outlines the student's individualized class requirements as determined by the student's Major Professor and advisory committee. M.S. and Ph.D. students must file a program of study with the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising.
- **Non-Matriculating Student:** A student may take a maximum of 6 hours of 7000 level and an unlimited number of 4000 level courses before being admitted into the graduate program. This is suggested for students not meeting all the requirements for full admission into the graduate program. Students may request that courses taken as a non-matriculating student be transferred into their program of study once accepted. It is the student's responsibility to request that courses be transferred, and it is the decision of the student's graduate advisory committee as to whether the request will be accepted. Non-matriculating students are encouraged to meet with the appropriate faculty member to ensure that any courses taken will count toward their degree if accepted into graduate school. To download the request form, visit the LSU Graduate School website.
- **Non-thesis option:** Instead of a thesis, students choosing this option will complete a final project that includes a research component that may focus more on an industrial issue or practical application. Students may also select the non-thesis option if they are moving directly from the M.S. degree into the Ph.D. degree. Students who choose the non-thesis option will have a final exam comparable to a thesis defense.
- **Research Proposal:** All students must submit a written proposal for a research problem that will become the basis for either their thesis or dissertation. A formal proposal meeting must be held with the advisory committee.
- **CITI Human Subjects Training and Certificate:** All investigators (faculty, students, and affiliates) who work on a research project that involves human subjects affiliated with LSU must also show documentation of completing a web-based human subjects training program. The National Institutes of Health have created this training program. Upon completion of the web-based program, investigators should print and save a copy of their training certificate.
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB):** All research projects involving human subjects, including theses, dissertations, and projects completed as part of a class assignment, must be submitted and approved by LSU AgCenters's Institutional Review Board (IRB) through LSU AgCenter GeauxGrants system before the solicitation and collection of data. CITI training certificate is required for the IRB application.

Graduate Assistantships

Descriptions

- All graduate assistantships are one-year contracts; academic and working performance are evaluated every semester.
- Reappointment is contingent upon the needs of the department, budget constraints, and student performance (please see GRA/GTA evaluation form in the Appendix)
- M.S. assistantships are generally for two (2) years
- Ph.D. assistantships are generally for three (3) years and, upon the approval of the Major Professor and the TAM graduate committee, *may* be extended for a fourth and final year.
- Please see “Assistantship Information” located on the Graduate School website: <https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/funding/assistantships.php>

Graduate Assistantships are “real” jobs. Although you are a student first and your class schedules will be worked around, TAM business is not scheduled around personal business.

Inadequate Performance (PS-21)

To be renewed in a graduate assistantship, a student must meet or exceed the academic standard and must complete their assigned responsibilities. Should either of these areas fall short of expectations, the student will receive an unsatisfactory evaluation and may be terminated on the assistantship.

Inadequate academic performance: If the grade point average of a GA falls below an LSU cumulative GPA of 3.0 or if a grade of “U” is earned in research, the graduate assistantship is terminated. An exception to hold an assistantship may be allowed when a student fails to maintain a cumulative LSU grade point average above 3.0 or when a student earns a grade of “U” in research. The Dean of the Graduate School must approve the exception. For consideration, the required documentation includes an academic plan for the student and a description of the academic support that will be provided to the student by the academic department. If the Department is not the student’s academic department, then both the unit supporting the student (where the GA’s responsibilities lie) and the student’s academic unit must agree to the proposed academic plan and support. Failing to meet the academic standard for a second semester (whether or not the semesters are consecutive) will result in a rating of unsatisfactory and termination for the assistantship. A GA who does not meet the performance standard and if the department wants them to work in the summer, they must be appointed as a GA, must register for courses, and may not be appointed on the Summer Allowance Plan.

Inadequate performance of GA responsibilities: If the supervisor’s evaluation of the assistantship responsibilities results in a needs improvement or unsatisfactory rating, the supervisor must clearly delineate the areas of concern, define behaviors necessary for a satisfactory evaluation, and work with the student to develop a plan for remediation if appropriate. Whether earned in consecutive semesters or not, a second unsatisfactory rating or an unsatisfactory rating following a needs improvement rating will result in termination from the assistantship.

Arriving on Campus

When you arrive on the LSU campus for the first time, you will need to complete a few tasks. The following are tasks that will ensure your first semester starts on a positive note:

Visit the department office

The Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising office is located in room 125 of the Human Ecology building. An appointment is not required, but it is advisable to contact the department office in advance by calling 225-578-2448 or emailing ericaw1@lsu.edu. Introduce yourself to the Department Head and the office staff. You will be directed to your office and introduced to your TAM graduate faculty advisor if you have already selected one. You may also be given a tour of the department as time and staffing permits.

Complete department-level paperwork If you have been offered a graduate assistantship, you will be required to see the Graduate Coordinator to go over the on-boarding process and what forms will need to be completed. You **MUST** complete these forms as soon as possible or your start date will be delayed. Please bring your ID verification documents with you. A list of acceptable options can be found on the [uscis.gov website](https://uscis.gov). **They must be originals; no photocopies will be accepted.**

Acquire a MyLSU account

An official student identification number (LSUID #) and LSU computer account are required for all students. These will allow you access to email and the myLSU portal.

Make an appointment with the Graduate Advisor

Meet the graduate advisor to plan or review your course schedule. While it is likely you have previously “met” your Major Professor by phone or email and may have already registered for your courses, reviewing your schedule before classes begin is a good idea. Each semester, information on registering and enrolling in courses can be found in the online university catalog at <http://www.lsu.edu/registrar/academics/schedule-booklet.php>.

If you have not decided on a Major Professor before you start with the LSU TAM program, please meet with the Graduate Advisor to discuss your course enrollment for the first semester. You are encouraged to talk with and get to know all the graduate faculty members before making decisions on a Major Professor. Once you decide and agree with the selected graduate faculty, you will fill out the Major Professor selection form and get it signed. You will then work with your Major Professor to develop a program of study for you to follow and complete your degree.

Understand your job responsibilities

If you have a graduate teaching or research assistantship, you should also discuss your job responsibilities with the Department Head or the professor who supports you with a grant.

Master's Degree

M.S. Course Requirements

- In the **thesis option**, a minimum of 24 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis credit (TAM 8000) are required.
- In the **non-thesis option**, 30 hours of coursework and 6 hours of research and project development (TAM 7900) are required.
- For both options, at least half (15-18 hours) of the minimum required credit hours must be in courses at or above the 7000 level (this includes the 6 hours of 8000/7900 credit).
- Students entering the program without a background in textiles, apparel design, or merchandising may be required to complete additional credit hours to make up deficiencies.
- Additional coursework and thesis hours may be taken at the student's discretion or on the recommendation of the Major Professor and the advisory committee.
- There are course requirements for each concentration area.

M.S. Core Requirements – Thesis Option

TAM 7041	Introduction to Research in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3
^a TAM 7090	Research Methods in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	3
^b Statistics	7000 level	3-4
TAM 8000	Thesis Research	6
Area of Concentration and supporting courses		14-16
Minimum Required Credit Hours		30 hrs.

^a Students pursuing a concentration in historical or cultural aspects of dress may choose a research methods class outside of TAM in place of TAM 7090 with the approval of their Major Professor.

^b Students pursuing a concentration in design, historical or cultural aspects of dress may choose a 4000-level statistics course (3-4 credits) or qualitative research methods at 7000-level (3-4 credits)

M.S. Core Requirements – Non-Thesis Option

TAM 7041	Introduction to Research in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3
^a TAM 7090	Research Methods in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	3
^b Statistics	7000 level	3-4
TAM 8000	Thesis Research	6
Area of Concentration and supporting courses		19-20
Minimum Required Credit Hours		36 hrs.

^a Students pursuing a concentration in historical or cultural aspects of dress may choose a research methods class outside of TAM in place of TAM 7090 with the approval of their Major Professor.

^b Students pursuing a concentration in design, historical or cultural aspects of dress may choose a 4000-level statistics course (3-4 credits) or qualitative research methods at 7000-level (3-4 credits)

Declared Minor

A declared minor is not required, but the student may select one. Minors may be chosen from other concentration areas in fields outside TAM. Some disciplines may need nine or more credits for a declared minor, depending on the student's previous experience and education. If a minor is formally declared, the student's advisory committee must include a representative from the minor area, and this professor provides input in selecting the appropriate minor courses. The minor department determines the number of hours needed for a minor.

M.S. Concentrations in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising

Students consult with their Major Professors before selecting the appropriate area of concentration courses from the lists below for their Program of Study. A minimum of nine hours is required from one of the following areas of concentration.

Apparel Design

The concentration in Apparel Design offers students an opportunity to refine and enhance design skills beyond the bachelor's degree. Courses focus on creativity, product development, and problem solving for a specified target market.

Students who select the non-thesis option will be required to develop creative apparel design(s) for a juried competition and/or present a focused collection exhibition or other comparable endeavor.

TAM 4037G	Apparel Design Through Draping	3
TAM 4045G	Senior Collection for Apparel Design	3
TAM 4070G	Fashion Entrepreneurship	3
TAM 4071G	History of Fashion: Ancient World to 1850	3
TAM 4072G	History of Modern Fashion	3
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance, and Fashion	3
TAM 7036	Apparel Merchandising and Global Expansion	3
TAM 7037	Consumer Behavior in the Apparel Merchandising Environment	3
TAM 7038	Merchandise Trends and Practices in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7039	Merchandising Theory Application and Strategy Implementation in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 7071	Fashion Curation & Exhibition	3
TAM 7056	Fashion, Luxury and Lifestyle Brands	3
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6

Merchandising

The concentration in merchandising provides opportunities to enhance understanding of the textile/apparel industry, including supply chain and consumption. Courses focus on consumer behavior, international retailing, fashion theory, social-psychological theories, manufacturing, product development, and evaluation.

Students who select the non-thesis option will be required to engage in experiential learning through participation in a professional field experience or special project within the industry.

TAM 4044G	Global Textile and Apparel Economics	3
TAM 4046G	Advanced Topics in Apparel Merchandising	3
TAM 4070G	Fashion Entrepreneurship	3
TAM 4072G	History of Modern Fashion	3
TAM 7030	Creativity in Product Development	3
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance, and Fashion	3
TAM 7036	Apparel Merchandising and Global Expansion	3
TAM 7037	Consumer Behavior in the Apparel Merchandising Environment	3
TAM 7038	Merchandise Trends and Practices in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7039	Merchandising Theory Application and Strategy Implementation in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 7056	Fashion, Luxury and Lifestyle Brands	3
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance, and Fashion	3

Historical/Cultural Textiles and Apparel (MS IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE)

The concentration in Historic/Cultural Aspects of Textiles and Apparel provides opportunities to enhance understanding of textiles and apparel from a broad cultural and historical perspective. Practical experience in the LSU Textile & Costume Museum is available. Courses and experiences prepare students for museum work in textiles and apparel, costuming, and more advanced studies in the area.

Students who select the non-thesis option will be required to engage in experiential learning through participation in a professional field experience, develop and present a focused museum exhibit, or complete and present a special project within the area.

TAM 4043G	Advanced Textiles	3
TAM 4070G	Fashion Entrepreneurship	3
TAM 4071G	History of Fashion: Ancient World to 1850	3
TAM 4072G	History of Modern Fashion	3
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance, and Fashion	3
TAM 7037	Consumer Behavior in the Apparel Merchandising Environment	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 7071	Fashion Curation & Exhibition	3
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6

Textile Science (MS IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE)

The concentration in textile science offers enhanced textile knowledge and preparation for various positions in the industry such as design and development of new consumer and industrial textiles, product development with bio-based materials, textile testing and textile services.

Students who select the non-thesis option will be required to engage in experiential learning through participation in a research or special textile science project within the division.

TAM 4034G	Textile and Apparel Product Evaluation	3
TAM 4043G	Advanced Textiles	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6

Minimum Undergraduate Course Preparation for M.S. Students in TAM

In order for graduate students to be adequately prepared for the course work and research requirements of the master's degree in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising, the following courses (or equivalents) should be included in their undergraduate curriculum or taken after entering the master's program.

Apparel Design

TAM 2040	Textile Science	3
TAM 3037	Flat Pattern Design	3

Merchandising

TAM 2040	Textile Science	3
TAM 2045	The Fashion Industry	3
ECON 2030	Economic Principles	6
MKT 3401	Principles of Marketing	3

Historic/Cultural

Previous undergraduate coursework from apparel, history, art history, or museum studies is preferred.

Textile Science

TAM 7091	Special topics in Textiles, Apparel & Merchandising	3
TAM 7044	Selected topics in Textiles, Apparel Design, Merchandising	3-6

Special Courses

The following courses are also available to students in the graduate program. These courses vary in topic or focus based on student needs and faculty expertise. Students may use two of these courses to fulfill up to six (6) hours of the twelve (12) hour minimum of coursework in the concentration, provided the Major Professor and advisory committee approves the topic.

TAM 7091	Special topics in Textiles, Apparel & Merchandising	3
TAM 7044	Selected topics in Textiles, Apparel Design, Merchandising	3-6

Selection of Major Professor

- If a Major Professor has not been selected prior to starting at LSU, new students should consult the TAM Department Head and the Graduate Advisor for first semester advising.
- The Major Professor is to be selected by the end of the first semester or the beginning of the second semester before a program of study is submitted.
- Students must complete the program of study form with the Major Professor and submit it to the TAM Graduate Coordinator by the end of the second semester.
- Students may change their Major Professor before the thesis/dissertation proposal defense if there is a justifiable reason following consultation with the TAM Graduate Advisor.

Graduate Advisory Committee

Purpose

The graduate advisory committee approves and directs the student's program of study and works with the student to identify research topics and selects the time and format for thesis proposal and defense.

Selection

- The Major Professor assists in selecting committee members and chairs the committee.
- A Master's committee must have at least three graduate faculty members, including the Major Professor.
- One member must be a full member of the graduate faculty.
- Two members must be full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members.
- An adjunct or non-tenure track faculty member may serve with a full-time tenured or tenure track graduate faculty member as co-chair of the student's committee.
- If the student completes a minor, one committee member must represent the minor department.
- The TAM Graduate Advisor must approve changes in the student's advisory committee.
- The committee should be selected as soon as possible after earning nine credit hours, generally at the end of the first semester or the beginning of the second for full-time students.

Master's Program of Study

Planning the Program of Study

- The student and Major Professor will list courses needed for the degree, taking into consideration the recommendations from committee members.
- Only 6 hours of TAM 8000 can be applied toward the degree.
- The program of study must include any courses taken as a non-matriculating student or in another program that the student wishes to be counted toward the degree.
- The program of study is to be approved when nine graduate credits have been

earned at LSU.

- A minor is not required, but if one is declared, the minor department determines the number of course hours needed. Courses for the minor must be listed in the program of study.
- The student completes the TAM Approval Form for the M.S. program of study and turns it in to the TAM Graduate Coordinator.
- All advisory committee members must approve the program of study.
- A program of study can be changed but requires a revised approval form signed by all committee members and submitted to the TAM Graduate Coordinator.
- Students are required to complete all courses listed on the approved program of study. To reduce the need to submit multiple changes, courses can be listed as either/or, and only one needs to be taken. Students can take more courses than the ones listed on their program of study form, and only the minimum needed for graduation should be listed.

Revalidation of Course Work

Any M.S. student who fails to complete the degree requirements within the 5 years established by the Graduate School must successfully pass a revalidation examination for each expired course. The revalidation examination will be administered by the student's graduate committee, headed by the Major Professor and in consultation with the graduate advisor. It is recommended that the faculty member who teaches the course re-examine the student and report to the advisory committee. Nine credit hours of coursework are the maximum number of credit hours that can be revalidated.

Audit

Enrolled graduate students may audit courses with the instructor's consent. Auditors will not receive degree credit, nor will they later be permitted to take a credit examination on work audited. However, audited courses may be later taken for credit. Prospective auditors should initiate registration by obtaining an "Audit Only" form from the Graduate School.

Application for Degree

At the beginning of the final semester of study, students must apply for graduation through the Graduate School. The verification of Graduate Concentration form is completed by the TAM Graduate Coordinator at this time so that a student's approved concentration will appear on the official transcript once the degree is awarded. Deadline dates for submitting these materials to the Graduate School may be found in the Graduate School calendars (<https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/students/calendars.php>), and usually occur within the first two weeks of the semester the student intends to graduate. If students do not meet the deadline dates for completion of the degree, new forms must be filed in the semester of graduation. Additional fees will be collected during registration for the final semester. If students fail to meet graduation deadlines, an additional fee will be assessed the following semester.

Master's Thesis

The master's thesis is an orderly presentation of student research that follows an acceptable bibliographic style. The faculty on the student's advisory committee must approve both the research and the style and guidelines for the thesis. Styles may vary within the Department but must conform to the Graduate School requirements. Details concerning the preparation of theses and dissertations at LSU, are given in the *Preparing and Submitting your Thesis or Dissertation*, available on-line from the Graduate School (https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/current_students/theses_and_dissertations/index.php). Students should work with the graduate school representative to finalize the thesis format.

Thesis Research Proposal

The research proposal is completed after much consultation with the Major Professor and other faculty members. It is important that all committee members approve the proposal before proceeding to reduce the chance of problems during the defense. Students generally complete their research methods course, prior to or while developing their proposal.

The proposal generally includes the first three chapters of the thesis:

- Cover sheet
- Chapter 1
 - Statement of problem
 - Research questions and objectives
 - Justification, assumptions and abbreviations/definition of terms
- Chapter 2
 - Review of literature
 - Research framework or hypotheses development
- Chapter 3
 - Methods and procedures
 - Plan for analysis of data

The structure of a research proposal could be different from the above suggested for those students who pursue a structure could pursue a humanities based (historical or cultural) approach to complete a thesis.

Research that involves animal or human subjects must have approval from the LSU or LSU AgCenter IACUC or IRB before the research can begin (refer to the terminology section).

The proposal meeting is an opportunity for students to clarify any issues with their committee and reach a consensus on expectations. Proposal meetings are required for all master's students in TAM.

The Proposal Meeting

Once the proposal is complete and accepted by the Major Professor, the student should schedule a proposal meeting with the advisory committee. Committee members should have a copy of

the proposal at least two weeks before the meeting. During the meeting, the student makes a formal presentation and should be prepared to answer questions from the committee. The student will be asked to leave the room while the committee discusses the proposal. If approved, the committee members will sign a copy of the cover sheet. Originals go to the TAM Graduate Coordinator and the Major Professor. The committee may make recommendations for further work instead of approving at that time.

Writing the Thesis

Preparing and Submitting your Thesis or Dissertation is available from the Graduate School, and the guidelines required by the graduate faculty at LSU must be strictly followed (for the most recent version of the guidelines, visit https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/current_students/theses_and_dissertations/index.php). The latest edition of the guidelines should be obtained from the Graduate School. Students should not use theses accepted in prior semesters as a guide for formatting their own thesis because requirements change. This TAM Graduate Student Handbook neither summarizes nor supersedes the Graduate School *Guidelines*.

As presented in the *Guidelines*, the Graduate School now accepts a journal style for theses and dissertations. A thesis or dissertation in this style consists of at least one discreet journal manuscript instead of the more traditional single presentation. The decision of which style to select must be made in consultation with the Major Professor, and if the journal style is selected, the Graduate School provisions specified in the *Guidelines* must be followed. In addition, TAM requires an extensive review of the literature in the introductory chapter. If a manuscript has been accepted for publication, a letter of permission from the publisher must be included as an appendix in the thesis or dissertation.

The Final Semester

During registration for the final semester

- Complete the [Application for Degree](#) and submit to the TAM Graduate Coordinator
- The TAM Graduate Coordinator will prepare the [Verification of Graduate Concentration form](#) once the application for degree is submitted.
- Deadlines for submission of forms are set by Graduate School (usually within first 2 weeks)
- When students do not meet deadlines for completion of degree, new forms must be filed, and additional fees will be assessed
- Order your cap, gown, invitations, etc. from LSU Bookstore

Request for Master's Examination

- Student initiates exam process with Major Professor prior to deadline
- Contact members of advisory committee to set date and place for exam
- Submit a signed copy of [Request for Master's Degree Audit & Defense](#) form to the TAM Graduate Coordinator.

- Forms are due no later than the date specified by the Graduate School or at least three weeks before date of the exam, whichever comes first
- The Graduate School will provide forms for reporting examination results
- Any changes in committee members or examination dates must be cleared through the TAM Graduate Advisor and the Graduate School
- Complete draft of thesis delivered to the student's advisory committee at least two weeks before the examination

Submitting Examination Reports and Approved Theses

- Allow enough time between the examination date and the final date for submitting theses to the Graduate School to incorporate corrections and suggestions made by the advisory committee
- Following the Final Exam
- Major Professor and committee must sign the examination form
- Date and signatures must be same as listed on examination request forms
- Make rewriting and retyping changes as required
- Submit changes to Major Professor and committee if requested
- Submit thesis to Graduate School in advance of the final date for submission to allow time for corrections and final approval

Final Thesis Copies

The Graduate School's requirements for final copies of theses and dissertations are included in the *Preparing and Submitting your Thesis or Dissertation* section. **Please note that the Graduate School requires electronic submission.** Currently, the following are required by the Graduate School, but it is up to the student to check to be sure the requirements have not changed.

- a. [Approval sheets](#) with correctly typed name, title, and major field and with all original signatures. (Can be found in your file in the TAM main office).
- b. Create a Digital Commons account and upload your thesis.
- c. One cataloging abstract (with special heading).

TAM does not require hard copies of a thesis, but individual faculty members may require their students to submit a hard copy to them.

Publications, Presentations, and Authorship

No research is complete until its results are made available to other researchers. To this end, students are strongly encouraged to publish and present the findings of their research through appropriate channels. When the thesis is complete, students (with the aid of the Major Professor) should immediately begin developing a manuscript or manuscripts for submission to a scientific journal in the field. Although publications are usually based on thesis results, other

research projects stemming from class assignments, independent study, or practice may serve as bases for publication. The TAM Guidelines for Authorship should be followed in all situations (see Appendix).

Research presentations at state, regional, or national meetings of professional organizations provide another method for disseminating results. Students should consult with their Major Professors before submitting papers for presentation.

A complete discussion of research publication philosophy, procedures, and authorship between the Major Professor and the graduate student should occur early in the study. The major advisor should ensure that students know and understand TAM's philosophy on publication and authorship. Students must complete the Student Acknowledgment of Guidelines for Authorship, and copies must be submitted to the TAM Graduate Coordinator and retained by both Major Professor and student. Various disciplines may follow different publication and authorship conventions, which should be clarified and agreed upon before beginning research. Avenues of communication between students and the Major Professor should remain open to address changes that may occur as work progresses. The process should be flexible to evaluate unique situations based on specific conditions and individual merit. The communication process should allow for renegotiation of authorship if substantial changes in contribution to the research occur. In all instances, graduate students must be given the opportunity for first authorship of publications and presentations based on their research.

Non-Thesis Masters Final Project

In lieu of the thesis, a student choosing the non-thesis option will be required to complete a final project with a research component. Students should enroll in TAM 7900 during the time they are working on the final project. The student should work with their Major Professor to identify the project and to have the project approved by the student's advisory committee in the proposal meeting. Upon completing the project, the student should complete the Request for Master's Examination from the graduate school. For students completing a final project, the final exam will be comparable to a thesis defense and examination. It will include a defense of the student's project and a written document made available to all committee members at least two weeks prior to the final exam.

During registration for the final semester

- Complete the [Master's Application for Degree form](#) and submit to the TAM Graduate Coordinator
- The TAM Graduate Coordinator will prepare the [Verification of Graduate Concentration" form](#) once the application for degree is submitted
- Deadlines for submission of forms set by Graduate School (usually within the first two weeks of the semester) must be met
- When students do not meet deadlines for completion of their degree, new forms must be completed, and additional fees will be assessed.

Doctoral Program

Ph.D. Course Requirements

- A minimum of 60 hours of formal graded coursework (courses taken as P/F or S/U do not count in this number) beyond the bachelor's degree. The Major Professor and the student's advisory committee determine which of the M.S. courses will be counted.
- A minimum of 20 semester hours in the formulation and execution of original research (TAM 9000) as demonstrated by production of a dissertation
- Students may be required to complete additional credit hours to make up deficiencies if entering the program without a background in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising
- Additional coursework and/or thesis hours may be taken at the students' discretion or on the recommendation of the Major Professor and the advisory committee.
- There are course requirements for each concentration area.
- **TAM 9091** may be repeated for 1-6 hrs./semester credit; a maximum of 15 semester hours is allowed toward doctoral requirements. Credit in TAM 7091 is included in these 15 semester hours allowed.

We strongly advise students entering the Ph.D. program without an M.S. to get the M.S. along the way. You will have completed the work, so you might as well have the degree to show for it. Students who pursue the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising may select a concentration in Apparel Design, Historic/Cultural, Merchandising, or Textile Science.

Ph.D. Core Requirements

TAM 7041	Introduction to Research in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising	3
TAM 7093	Protocol for Graduate Study in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising (taken 2 times)	1
TAM 7092	Scholarship Development in Textiles, Apparel, and Merchandising	1
^a Research Methods	7000 level (TAM 7090 plus another course in a supporting discipline)	6-8
^b Statistics	7000 level	6-8
TAM 9000	Thesis Research	20-30
Area of Concentration Courses		12++
Minimum Required Credit Hours		80 hrs

^a Students pursuing a concentration in historical or cultural aspects of dress may choose a research methods class outside of TAM in place of TAM 7090 with the approval of their Major Professor.

^b Students pursuing a concentration in design, historical or cultural aspects of dress may choose a 4000-level statistics course (3-4 credits) or qualitative research methods at 7000-level (3-4 credits)

Declared Minor

A declared minor is not required but the student may select one. Minors may be selected from other concentration areas in Textiles, Apparel, and Merchandising or fields outside TAM. Some disciplines may require nine or more credits for a declared minor, depending upon the previous experience and education of the student. If a minor is formally declared, the student's advisory committee must include a representative from the minor area and this professor provides input in selecting the appropriate minor courses. The minor department determines the number of hours needed to complete the minor.

Ph.D. Concentrations in TAM

A minimum of 12 hours must be taken from one of the following areas: Apparel Design, Historic Costume, Merchandising, or Textile Science. Appropriate courses will be selected by the student in consultation with the Major Professor with approval of the graduate advisory committee. Students who do not have experience or education in the area of emphasis will be required to complete additional undergraduate or graduate courses.

Apparel Design

The emphasis on apparel design allows students to refine and enhance design skills beyond the bachelor's degree. Courses focus on creativity, product development, and problem-solving for a target market.

TAM 4037G	Apparel Design Through Draping	4
TAM 4045G	Senior Collection for Apparel Design	3
TAM 4070G	Fashion Entrepreneurship	3
TAM 4071G	History of Fashion: Ancient World to 1850	3
TAM 4072G	History of Modern Fashion	3
TAM 7030	Creativity in Product Development	3
TAM 7031	Social-psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance and Fashion	3
TAM 7036	Apparel Merchandising and Global Expansion	3
TAM 7037	Consumer Behavior in the Apparel Merchandising Environment	3
TAM 7038	Merchandise Trends and Practices in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7039	Merchandising Theory Application and Strategy implementation in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6

TAM 7056	Fashion, Luxury and Lifestyle Brands	3
TAM 7071	Fashion Curation & Exhibition	3
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6
TAM 9091	Independent Research for Doctoral Students	1-6

Merchandising

The emphasis in merchandising provides opportunities to enhance understanding of the textile/apparel industry, including supply chain and consumption. Courses focus on consumer behavior, international retailing, fashion theory, social-psychological theories, manufacturing, product development, and evaluation.

TAM 4044G	Global Textile and Apparel Economics	3
TAM 4046G	Advanced Topics in Apparel Merchandising	3
TAM 4070G	Fashion Entrepreneurship	3
TAM 4072G	History of Modern Fashion	3
TAM 7030	Creativity in Product Development	
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance, and Fashion	3
TAM 7036	Apparel Merchandising and Global Expansion	3
TAM 7037	Consumer Behavior in the Apparel Merchandising Environment	3
TAM 7038	Merchandise Trends and Practices in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7039	Merchandising Theory Application and Strategy Implementation in Apparel and Textile Industry	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 7056	Fashion, Luxury and Lifestyle Brands	3
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6
TAM 9091	Independent Research for Doctoral Students	1-6

Historic/Cultural Textiles and Apparel

The emphasis on historic/cultural aspects of textiles and apparel provides opportunities to enhance understanding of textiles and apparel from a broad cultural and historical perspective. Practical experience in the LSU Textile & Costume Museum is available. Courses and experiences prepare students for museum work in textiles and apparel, costuming, independent research, and academia.

TAM4043G	Advanced Textiles	3
TAM 071G	History of Fashion: Ancient World to 1850	3
TAM 072G	History of Modern Fashion	3
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance and Fashion	3
TAM 7071	Fashion Curation & Exhibition	3
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	1-6
TAM 9091	Independent Research for Doctoral Students	1-6

Textile Science **(PhD IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE)**

An emphasis in textile science offers enhanced textile knowledge and preparation for a variety of positions in the industry such as design and development of new consumer and industrial textiles, product development with bio-based materials, textile testing, and textile services.

TAM 4034G	Textile and Apparel Product Evaluation	3
TAM 4043G	Advanced Textiles	3
TAM 4070G	Fashion Entrepreneurship	3
TAM 7031	Social-Psychological Theories of Dress and Appearance and Fashion	3
TAM 7049	Advanced Individual Field Experience in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 7091	Independent Reading and Research in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	1-6
TAM 9091	Independent Research for Doctoral Students	1-6

Special Courses

The following courses are also available to students in the graduate program. These courses vary in topic or focus based on student needs and faculty expertise. Students may use two of these courses in fulfilling up to six (6) hours of the twelve (12) hour minimum of coursework in the concentration, provided the topic is approved by the Major Professor and advisory committee.

TAM 7091	Special topics in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising	3
TAM 7044	Selected topics in Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising	3-6
TAM 9091	Independent Research for Doctoral Students	1-6

Minimum Undergraduate Course Preparation for Ph.D. Students in TAM

In order for graduate students to be adequately prepared for the course work and research requirements of the doctoral degree in Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising, the following courses (or equivalents) should be included in their undergraduate curriculum, master's degree curriculum, or taken after entering the doctoral program.

Apparel Design

TAM 2040	Textile Science	3
TAM 3037	Flat Pattern Design	4

Merchandising

TAM 2040	Textile Science	3
TAM 2045	The Fashion Industry	3
ECON 2030	Economic Principles	6
MKT 3401	Principles of Marketing	3

Historic/Cultural

Previous undergraduate coursework from apparel, history, art history, or museum studies is preferred

Textile Science

TAM 2040	Textile Science	3
CHEM 1202	General Chemistry	3

Selection of Major Professor and Committee

Ph.D. students often enter the program to work with a specific faculty member or a specific research project. However, it is important that students confirm their choice with the faculty member since most faculty limit the number of students they advise. Students who do not already have a faculty member in mind should meet with the Graduate Advisor for guidance. Once a Major Professor is selected, students need to complete the Major Professor form and submit it to the Graduate Coordinator.

A good working relationship with the Major Professor is key to a successful program. The Major Professor approves and directs the student's program of study, assists in identifying a research topic and determines the appropriate time and format of the research proposal meeting as well as the format of the research proposal and dissertation. Students are encouraged to meet as early and as often as is necessary to accomplish these tasks.

Graduate Advisory Committee

The graduate advisory committee includes the Major Professor and a minimum of two other members of the graduate faculty. The faculty members should reflect and support the student's areas of interest. The committee will help develop and approve the program of study. They are formally appointed when the program of study form is submitted to the graduate school, prior to the general examination.

An additional member of the committee will be appointed as a representative of the Graduate School Dean. The full committee, including the Dean's Representative becomes official when the Request for Doctoral General Examination form is filed. The student and their advisor may recommend someone to serve as the Dean's Representative at this time.

If no minor outside of TAM is declared, the committee consists of a minimum of four graduate faculty members that meet the following criteria:

- The Major Professor
- Two members must be from TAM and one of those must be a full member of the graduate faculty
- If the Major Professor is an adjunct or non-tenure-track faculty, then a full-time tenured or tenure-track graduate faculty member must co-chair the committee
- There must be a representative from the minor department if a minor is declared.
- The committee must include two full members of the graduate faculty, one of which must be from TAM
- The Dean's Representative

Changes

Changes to a student's committee must be approved by the Department Head, the Graduate Advisor, and the Major Professor and submitted to the Graduate School.

Continuing Students

Students in the M.S. program who wish to pursue their Ph.D. may continue with the same Major Professor and/or research project if the Major Professor agrees. Or the student may choose to work with a professor of a different major. Students should complete their master's degree before formally entering the doctoral program. A student's master's committee could become the initial committee for the Ph.D. program if members agree to do so and the committee's expertise is appropriate for the planned research.

Doctoral Program of Study

Planning the Program of Study

- The program is developed with the assistance of the Major Professor and the initial graduate advisory committee.
- Courses completed 10 or more years prior to entry into the Ph.D. program cannot be applied to the Ph.D.
- The courses in the program must be listed on the program of study for the Doctoral Degree form and submitted to the TAM Graduate Coordinator
- The form must be typed, and the signatures of the committee members obtained
- Copies are distributed to the advisory committee, to TAM, and a copy retained by student

Changes in the program of study can be made but must be submitted to the TAM Graduate Coordinator. It is critical that students give careful consideration to the courses listed on their program and submit any necessary changes as appropriate.

- The form must be signed by the Major Professor, the Department Head, the TAM Graduate Advisor, the minor professor (if applicable), the chair of the department in which the minor professor resides, and the Graduate Dean.

Selection of a Minor

- A minor is optional but recommended for doctoral students
- The specific content and hours required (generally 12 hours) are determined by the minor department

If a minor is selected, a faculty member from the minor area must be a member of the full advisory committee.

General Examination and Research Proposal

All doctoral students must complete a general examination to continue in the program. In TAM, this examination is considered an accumulation of knowledge across courses rather than a “super final.” It is a personalized examination to be given at a time appropriate for individual students. The exam consists of written and oral components that demonstrate subject matter competence. It is evaluated as pass, fail, or retake.

A student is responsible for current knowledge in all courses listed in the program of study, and the general exam is the test of that knowledge for the doctoral program.

The research proposal may also be presented as part of the general examination or may be presented in a separate meeting.

Questions

The advisory committee determines questions based on the program of study. Occasionally, faculty who taught core courses are invited to submit questions. These faculty members are not considered members of the advisory committee and, as such, do not play an official role in the examination process.

At the discretion of the advisory committee, the representative of the Dean of the Graduate School may also submit written questions to the student. If the Dean’s Representative is asked to submit questions, the questions should be within the scope of the student’s program of study or research. If the Dean’s Representative is not asked to submit questions, they should be given a copy of the student’s questions and answers before the oral examination.

Request for Doctoral General Examination Form

- Before completing the written portion of the examination, students are responsible for obtaining the Request for Doctoral [Degree Audit and Defense](#) form from the Graduate School
- The form must be typed and contain all relevant signatures
- It must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate School at least three 3 weeks prior to the oral examination date
- Upon receipt, the Graduate School assigns the Dean’s Representative
- Student/Advisor recommendation for a Dean’s Representative may be submitted at this time

Written Portion

- 20 hours allowed for an in-person exam and two weeks for a take-home exam
- Students required to take the TOEFL exam for admittance into the Graduate School may be allowed up to a total of 4 additional hours for an in-person exam.
- The exam must be submitted in English within this allotted time limit.
- It is up to the student’s Major Professor and committee members what format the written exam will take and if any part of the exam is open-book or other resources are permitted.

- Written exams will be submitted electronically and checked for plagiarism and use of AI (Artificial Intelligence).
- AI use is strictly prohibited on the written exams.
- After the written exam, the student will be given a copy of the questions and answers.
- Students may be allowed to review, correct, and make additions to improve the quality of responses at the discretion of the Major Professor and graduate advisory committee.

Note: *Students should not plan to take either portion of the exam during summer term without a firm commitment from committee members that they will be available.*

Notification and Arrangements for Oral Defense

Students are responsible for all arrangements for the oral defense meeting, including:

- notification of advisory committee members
- scheduling of the meeting room
- obtaining any audio/visual equipment that is necessary

Oral Portion

- Copies of the written examination are to be submitted to all graduate advisory committee members at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled oral examination
- Students must pass the written portion of the exam before being allowed to take the oral portion of the exam
- At the meeting, committee members may comment on the student's examination, ask for further clarification, or probe specific answers

Pass

- Both the written and oral portions of the General Exam must be passed and are dependent on successful completion and adequate discussion of the written examination
- No grade of pass or fail will be communicated to the student until after the oral exam
- Following the exam, the members of the advisory committee complete the examination forms and the Graduate Coordinator is responsible for submitting them to the Graduate School
- At the time of the General Exam, it is the student's responsibility to make sure the Graduate Coordinator submits the verification of [concentration form](#) so that a student's approved concentration will appear on the official transcript once the degree is awarded
- If the research proposal is included as part of the general examination meeting it is evaluated separately from the oral examination

Fail

- Students are allowed to take each part of the exam twice.

- The committee will explain why the exam was failed and suggest what the student should do to improve his/her chance of passing the examination in the future (e.g., readings, courses, etc.).
- The committee will also determine the time interval between the exams, with an interval of 6 months being strongly recommended
- Failure to complete both the written and oral portions of the exam will result in termination of the student from the Ph.D. program.
- There is no penalty for recording the first failed examination if the student is to be given a second attempt. A second failure would result in dismissal from the program.
- The student is not placed on probation, and no entry is made on the student's academic record in the Office of the Registrar
- A failed exam does not become part of the student's record until the student has exhausted her/his attempts – in most cases, this will be after the second failure

Doctoral Dissertation

The dissertation is based on research that contributes to literature and research in textiles, apparel design, and merchandising. The Ph.D. is granted in recognition of a marked capacity for research and familiarity with its tools, demonstrated through long study, independent and comprehensive scholarship, and competence in a particular field of study. The dissertation will be scanned for AI content and Plagiarism using third-party proprietary software (iThenticate).

Selecting Style

- The committee must approve the style and manual for dissertation writing
- Details concerning the preparation of theses and dissertations at LSU are given in the *Preparing and Submitting your Thesis or Dissertation*, available on-line from the Graduate School
(https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/current_students/theses_and_dissertations/index.php)
- LSU requires the electronic submission of dissertations

Dissertation Proposal

- Students, with the assistance of their Major Professor, must develop a proposal for a research problem in their area of interest.
- The TAM graduate faculty recommends that students take the required two research methods courses prior to completing their dissertation proposal.
- The format for the coversheet of the proposal is illustrated in the Appendix.
- The proposal normally includes:
 - Statement of the problem
 - Justification
 - Objectives, hypotheses, and/or research questions

- Review of literature and theoretical framework,
- Methods and procedure and plan for analysis of data

Proposal Meeting

- Students should schedule with the advisory committee after the Major Professor approves the written proposal
- Allows the graduate advisory committee the opportunity to evaluate the proposed research and related methods and make recommendations for improving and implementing the research
- May be presented at the general examination or at a separate meeting (general examination must be passed before the proposal meeting is held)
- Students should contact each committee member and arrange a time and place for the proposal meeting, and should send all committee members a written *confirmation*
- Must submit the research proposal to all committee members at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled committee meeting

Proposal Presentation

- Students should prepare a professional oral presentation of the proposal to the committee
- Audio/visual aids should be used to clarify and facilitate the presentation if appropriate
- The Major Professor will open the proposal meeting and perform introductions, as appropriate
- Students should begin with a brief description of their academic and professional background and then present the planned research in an orderly manner
- Be prepared to answer questions from committee members regarding any aspect of the proposed research and to clarify particular points
- After the presentation and response to questions and concerns raised by the Major Professor and graduate advisory committee, students will be asked to leave the room while the committee members discuss the proposal

Approval of Dissertation Proposal

- After agreement by the members is reached, the committee may formally approve the dissertation proposal or further work may be requested
- If the proposal is approved, all members of the committee sign two copies of the cover sheet
- One copy is submitted to the Graduate Coordinator, and the Major Professor retains the other
- It is recommended that students retain a copy in their file

Research

Dissertation IRB Approval

- If the proposed research involves human or animal subjects, approval must be obtained from the appropriate committee before the research starts
- Following approval by the LSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or LSU AgCenter's Institutional Review Board (IRB) -if human or animal subjects are part of the research- students may begin the proposed research

Dissertation Research Enrollment

- Ph.D. students should be enrolled in TAM 9000 (Dissertation Research) while carrying out their research
- While enrolled in TAM 9000, students should schedule regular appointments with their Major Professor to monitor the progress of the research and address any problems that may arise

Writing the Dissertation

Guidelines

- The handbook, Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations is available from the Graduate School.
- The guidelines required by the graduate faculty at LSU must be strictly followed.
- The latest edition of the guidelines should be obtained from the Graduate School.
- The TAM Graduate Student Handbook neither summarizes nor supersedes the Graduate School Guidelines.

Journal Style Guidelines

- The Graduate School accepts a journal style for dissertations
- A dissertation in this style consists of at least two discreet journal manuscripts instead of the more traditional single presentation
- The decision of which style to select must be made in consultation with the Major Professor; if the journal style is selected, the Graduate School provisions specified in the Guidelines must be followed
- In addition, the TAM graduate faculty requires an extensive review of literature in the introductory chapter and then a conclusion chapter
- If a manuscript has been accepted for publication, a letter of approval from the publisher must be included as an appendix in the dissertation

Final Examination/Defense

Request for Doctoral Examination

- Obtain a [Request for Final Defense](#) form from the Graduate School

- It is the students' responsibility to obtain the proper forms and to initiate the examination process with the Major Professor prior to the deadline printed in the Graduate Calendar
- Members of the advisory committee, including the Dean's Representative, should be contacted to determine a date and place for the examination
- The forms are then submitted to the Graduate School, through the Department of TAM, not later than a date specified by the Graduate School or at least 3 weeks prior to the date of the examination, whichever comes first (e.g., If the Graduate School deadline is September 20, the request for examination cannot be submitted later than September 20; however, if the exam is scheduled less than three weeks after September 20, the request for examination must be submitted before September 20)
- The Graduate School sets the final date for submitting committee examination reports and approved dissertations; dates are published in the Graduate Calendar each semester
- No extensions will be granted.
- It is important when setting examination dates to allow enough time between the examination and the final date for submitting dissertations to the Graduate School to incorporate corrections and suggestions in the dissertation made by the advisory committee during the examination

Final Examination/Defense

- Students must defend the dissertation, and the research on which it is based, by successfully completing a final oral examination
- Any changes in graduate advisory committee members or examination date must be cleared through the Graduate School before the examination
- A complete draft of the dissertation must be delivered to each member of the advisory committee at least 2 weeks prior to the examination.
- The principal focus of the examination is the dissertation; however, the discussion and questions may extend into subject matter related to major and minor fields, as appropriate
- The procedure for the final examination is similar to that for the proposal meeting
- Students are responsible for scheduling the meeting with their advisory committee, reserving the examination room, and obtaining any audio/visual equipment necessary for a professional oral presentation of their research
- In addition to the formal presentation, students should be prepared to discuss in detail the methods and results of their research, the relationship to prior published research in the field, and the potential contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline
- After a defense, the advisory committee will need to turn in both the [Graduate Defense Results Form](#) and the [Dissertation Approval Form](#) to the Graduate Coordinator to submit to the Graduate School directly.

Students should demonstrate a mastery of research techniques, competence in conducting original, independent, comprehensive research, and skill in formulating conclusions that enlarge

upon or modify accepted ideas.

Following the examination/defense the student makes revisions if changes are required. These changes should be submitted and approved by the Major Professor, or the Major Professor and other committee members as requested by the committee.

The Last Semester

- During registration for the final semester of work, students should obtain the Application for Degree from the Graduate School
- The date for submitting the application to the Graduate School is listed in the Graduate Calendar
- When students do not meet the deadline dates for the final examination and completion of the dissertation, new forms must be filled in the semester of graduation
- Following the examination, the Major Professor and advisory committee members sign the examination forms indicating whether the student has passed or failed (P/F)
- Approval sheets for the examination and dissertation are signed (original signatures) by the Major Professor and committee members
- It is imperative that the date and signatures on the forms are the same as those listed on the examination request forms.
- It is advisable to submit the dissertation to the Graduate School in advance of the final date listed in the Graduate School calendar to allow time for the correction of any items not meeting the Graduate School requirements.

Note: Students cannot return examination forms to the Graduate School. Forms should be given to the TAM Graduate Coordinator, who will copy the forms for our files and deliver them to the Graduate School. The approval sheets stay in our office in the student's file until they are required for the final submission of the dissertation.

Final Copies

The Graduate School's requirements for final copies of theses and dissertations are included in the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*. ***Please note that the Graduate School requires electronic submission of these documents.*** To date, the following are required by the Graduate School, but it is the student's responsibility to check to be sure the requirements have not changed. Make sure to scan for AI content and plagiarism check

- Dissertation Approval form with correctly typed name, title, and major field and with all signatures (original signatures)
- Survey of Earned Doctorate form
- Declaration of Co-Authorship

TAM does not require hard copies, but individual faculty members may require a hard copy.

Publications and Presentations

No research is complete until its results are made available to other researchers. To this end, students are strongly encouraged to publish and present the findings of their research through appropriate channels. When the dissertation is complete, students (with the aid of the Major Professor) should immediately begin development of a manuscript or manuscripts for submission to a scientific journal in the field. Although publications usually are based on dissertation results, other research projects stemming from class assignments, or independent study may serve as bases for publication. The TAM Guidelines for Authorship (see Appendix) should be followed.

Research presentations at state, regional, or national meetings of professional organizations are another method for dissemination of results. Students should consult with the Major Professor regarding submission of papers for presentation.

Authorship

A full discussion of research publication philosophy, procedures, and authorship between the Major Professor and the graduate student should occur early in the study. The major advisor should ensure that students understand TAM's philosophy on publication and authorship (see Appendix). The student and Major Professor must complete the Student Acknowledgment of Guidelines for Authorship. The original must be submitted to the TAM office, and copies must be retained by both the Major Professor and the student. Various disciplines may follow different publication and authorship conventions, which should be clarified and agreed upon before beginning research. Avenues of communication between students and Major Professors should remain open to address changes that may occur as work progresses. The process should be flexible to evaluate unique situations based on specific conditions and individual merit. The communication process should allow for renegotiation of authorship if substantial changes in contribution to the research occur. **In all instances, graduate students must be allowed to first authorize publications based on their research.**

Appendix

Contains additional information relevant to the graduate programs in TAM

Policy Statement on Student Work and Class Projects by TAM

September 4, 2015

Students who author or create assignments and projects in TAM classes will retain authorship/ownership of their assignments and projects. If materials for said projects are provided through the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising or grants to the University, the student must credit the funding source(s) for these materials. Faculty members teaching the course in which these projects are created may not automatically claim credit for student work produced in their courses. It is acceptable for TAM faculty to acknowledge their role in supporting student work as a "sponsor." TAM faculty and staff have the right to photograph student work prior to returning it to the student and retain a digital copy of assignments, and these materials may be used for the purpose of the promotion of the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design at Louisiana State University. If granting agencies wish to obtain photographs of student design work, they must receive written consent from the students before publishing any images of student work.

The TAM Graduate Student Handbook's appendix, "TAM Guidelines for Authorship," provides further clarification on authorship.

TAM Guidelines for Authorship

Note: These guidelines are intended to apply to all forms of scholarly work, including but not limited to, student projects, class projects, unfinished projects, designs, data, theses, dissertations, or any type of collaborative effort.

Career advancement in academia and scientific disciplines is highly correlated with the quality and quantity of publications produced. TAM strongly encourages M.S. and Ph.D. students to publish meaningful papers early and often in their careers. The publication process requires input and approval from the Major Professor for all research conducted under their supervision, and the Department of TAM should be credited on all publications associated with the thesis or dissertation.

1. Authorship assigns credit for major contributions and designates responsibility and accountability for the results of the work.
2. Joint authorship/publication credit is reserved for the individuals who have made substantial professional/scientific contributions to the work reported.
3. The name of the principal contributor should appear first, with subsequent names listed in order of decreasing contributions.
4. Minor professional contributions and extensive clerical or nonprofessional assistance may be acknowledged in footnotes.
5. The principal (first) author of manuscripts generated by graduate theses/dissertations is assigned to the individual who writes the article. Students should always be included as an author even if they did not participate in preparing the manuscript for publication. The student must be informed prior to the preparation of any manuscript based on their work.
6. Because student research is greatly influenced by the Major Professor's scholarship and experience, the student should include the Major Professor as a joint author of the publication.
7. If the thesis/dissertation or other research project concept is student generated, the research conducted independently, and the faculty member does not participate in preparing the manuscript and is not interested in joint authorship, the student may be the sole author of the publication of results. However, the faculty member, department, and university must be credited.
8. Graduate students have the right to be given the first opportunity to draft the manuscript. Students are usually allowed up to six (6) months or more from the date of graduation to submit to joint authors a draft of a manuscript as first author.
9. If students decline to write the first draft of the article or do not meet the agreed upon deadline, the Major Professor is granted the right to proceed as first author. Students must be given co-authorship. The student must be informed prior to the preparation of any

manuscript based on their work. This policy should be reviewed with students prior to graduation and their written agreement obtained.

10. All joint authors should consent writing to the final draft of the manuscript according to their contribution.
11. Agreement acknowledging contribution to the research through sole or joint authorship, order of authors' names, and acknowledgments through the use of footnotes should be obtained in writing from all potential authors prior to preparation of a manuscript for publication. This should be completed after data collection and analysis have been finalized and should be the first step in the group planning process for manuscript preparation.
12. Disputes over authorship will be resolved by the TAM Graduate Faculty. An aggrieved party may appeal to first, the TAM Department Head or second, the Graduate Advisor, who are authorized to mediate disputes and render judgments concerning authorship. This appeals process does not preclude students' rights to appeal and seek redress under existing University policies, particularly PS-48.
13. Responsibility for payment of page charges and preparation of figures and other camera-ready materials should be determined by the authors before manuscripts are submitted.
14. Students working with faculty members on research projects should be aware that various research products such as data, original laboratory notebooks, photographs, and analyses are the property of LSU, the Department of TAM, the AgCenter, or other funding agency. Students are entitled to copies of such materials, at the student's expense.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILES, APPAREL DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING
STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORSHIP

I have read and understand the Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising Guidelines for Authorship and have discussed them with my Major Professor.

DATE: _____

Student _____

Major Professor _____

List of Graduate School Forms and Applications

LSU Graduate School:

Student Forms: https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/students/grad_student_forms.php

Faculty/Staff Forms: https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/graduate-faculty/faculty_staff_forms.php Students do not have access to these forms.

(Aug. 2026 – Always use forms directly from the Grad School web site because the forms may change.)

Enrolled Student Forms

These forms may be completed online and printed out. Obtain appropriate signatures and return to the Graduate School by the posted deadlines.

General Forms

- Request for Dual Degree
- Request for Change of Department
- Request for Change of Degree Program
- Request for Course Pass/Fail
- Request to Change Defense Date
- Request for Degree Candidate Deletion
- Louisiana Residency Appeal Form
- Graduate Defense Results (Faculty/Staff only)
- Masters Course Revalidation (Faculty/Staff only)
- Request for Degree Candidate Deletion (Faculty/Staff only)
- Academic Renewal Form (Faculty/Staff only)
- Request for Prior Learning Assessment Credits (Faculty/Staff only)
- No Clear Path to Degree Completion - Initiation of Status (Faculty/Staff only)
- No Clear Path to Degree Completion - Documentation of Program Efforts (Faculty/Staff only)
- Degree Audit Change Form

Master's Degree Forms

- Application for Degree: Master's Degree
- Course Revalidation
- Request for the Accelerated Master's Program
- Request for Graduate Credit for LSU Seniors
- Request for Transfer Credit
- Verification of Graduate Concentration
- Request for Master's Defense and Degree Audit

Doctoral Degree Forms

- Application for Degree: Doctoral Degree
- Request for Final Defense
- Survey of Earned Doctorates
- Declaration of Co-Authorship
- Verification of Graduate Concentration
- Request for Doctoral General Defense and Degree Audit

List of TAM Forms and Applications
Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising:

<https://lsu.edu/agriculture/tam/>

Always use forms directly from Mrs. Woolard or the TAM web site because the forms may change. (*List as of 8/19/2016. We will be updating the web site throughout the year and adding more forms.)

TAM Forms

- *TAM Selection of a Major Professor
- TAM Guidelines for Authorship
- TAM Authorship Agreement
- TAM Proposal Page
- TAM Graduate Student Assessment
- TAM Graduate Assistant Job Description
- *TAM Graduate Assistantship Evaluation Form
- *TAM Graduate Scholarship Application
- Harvey Lewis Graduate Student Travel Fund Application
- *M.S. Program of Study Form
- Ph.D. Program of Study Form

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILES, APPAREL DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING

Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

of

(Student Name)

(Title)

Required Changes:

Approved by:

Committee Chair

Committee Members

Date Approved _____

Graduate Student Policies Checklist

All GRADUATE Students

Semester evaluation by Major Professor. The online Graduate Evaluation Form will be sent to all graduate students at the end of each semester. **

- ☐ **Year one (M.S. and Ph.D.)**
- ☐ **Year two (M.S. and Ph.D.)**
- ☐ **Year three (Ph.D.)**

Requirements:

MS

- ☐ Department-level academic course plan (approved 1st semester)
- ☐ Form Advisory Committee (within 1st year)
- ☐ Written/Oral Proposal (Proposal Cover Page*) (approved within 1st year)
- ☐ Written proposal and/or oral presentation to advisory committee
- ☐ Annual Committee meeting
 - ☐ Year 1
 - ☐ Year 2

Semester of Graduation

- ☐ Application for Master's Degree (refer to graduate school deadlines)
- ☐ Request for master's Final Examination (refer to graduate school deadlines)

Defense

- ☐ Graduate student will email (**3 weeks** prior to exam) to fill out graduate forms
- ☐ Major Professor (Chair) will bring the following forms to defense
 - ☐ Exam results forms* (after exam Chair will give forms to Erica Woolard) (2 signed forms)
 - ☐ Doctoral/Master Approval Sheets*, if corrections are needed Major Professor (chair) will keep forms (2 signed forms) (Chair will give forms to Erica Woolard)
 - ☐ Assessment Forms*(after exam Chair will give forms to Erica Woolard) (each committee member fills out a form)

PhD

- ☐ Department -level academic course plan (approved by the 1st semester)
- ☐ Form Advisory Committee (within 1st year)
- ☐ Written/Oral Proposal (Proposal Cover Page*) (approved within 1st year)
- ☐ Written proposal and/or oral presentation to advisory committee (within 1st year)
- ☐ Annual Committee meeting
 - ☐ Year 1
 - ☐ Year 2
 - ☐ Year 3

General Exam

- ☐ Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Examination* (**3 weeks** prior to general exam)
- ☐ Schedule General Examination in the semester following completion of course work.
- ☐ Graduate Student email Erica Woolard (**3 weeks** prior to exam) to fill out General exam forms
 - ☐ Major Professor (Chair) will bring the following forms to General Exam
 - ☐ Exam results forms* (after exam Chair will give signed forms to Erica Woolard) (2 signed forms)

Semester of Graduation

- ☐ Application for Doctoral Degree* (refer to graduate school deadline)
- ☐ Request for Doctoral Final Examination* (refer to graduate school deadline)

Defense

- ☐ Graduate Student will contact Erica Woolard (**3 weeks** prior to exam) to fill out graduate forms
 - ☐ Major Professor (Chair) will bring the following forms to defense
 - ☐ Exam results forms* (after exam Chair will give forms to Erica Woolard)
 - ☐ Doctoral/Masters Approval Sheets*, if corrections are needed Major Professor (chair) will keep forms (2 signed forms) (Chair will give signed forms to Erica Woolard)
- Assessment Forms*(after exam Chair will give forms to Erica Woolard) (each committee member fills out a form)

Expected time to completion with funding/assistantship:

***MS 1 ½ to 2-year completion, with potential of additional semester of support, pending completion of milestones and recommendation of committee.**

***PhD 3 to 3 ½-year completion, with potential of additional semester of support, pending completion of milestones and recommendation of committee.**

**** All forms must be returned to Graduate Administrative Coordinator (Erica Woolard, 125 Human Ecology Building)**

Graduate Student Signature

Date

TAM Graduate Student Assessment

Department of Textiles, Apparel Design, & Merchandising

Total Score: _____/20

Student Name: _____ Defense Date: _____

MS/PhD
(circle)

Concentration (circle one)

Textile Sciences
Apparel Design
Merchandising

Please write in the blank the number (1-4) that corresponds to the student's ability for each Learning Outcome

Learning Outcome 1 (demonstrate knowledge of existing literature)

_____ Knowledge of existing literature and subject area

- "4" excellent understanding and ability to explain the existing literature and subject area
- "3" good understanding and can discuss the existing literature and subject area
- "2" limited understanding without the ability to explain the existing literature and subject matter
- "1" does not exhibit basic knowledge of existing literature and subject area.

Learning Outcome 2 (demonstrate ability to apply existing knowledge to research problems)

_____ Analysis and synthesis of current research with application of knowledge to the research problem "4" excellent ability to apply current research knowledge to the research problem with minimal supervision of the faculty advisor "3" adequate ability to apply current research knowledge to the research problem under the guidance of the faculty advisor

- "2" limited ability to apply current research knowledge to the research problem requiring a high level of support from the faculty advisor
- "1" does not demonstrate the ability to apply current research knowledge to the research problem without maximum support from the faculty advisor

Learning Outcome 3 (demonstrate ability to select and apply appropriate research skills)

_____ Demonstration of understanding and application of methodology and evaluation of results

- "4" excellent understanding of the use of appropriate methodology and can clearly evaluate and explain the results of the research
- "3" an adequate understanding of the use of appropriate methodology and can adequately evaluate and explain the results of the research
- "2" limited understanding of the use of appropriate methodology and has a limited ability to clearly evaluate and explain the results of the research
- "1" unable to understand the use of appropriate methodology and cannot clearly evaluate and explain the results of the research

Learning Outcome 4 (demonstrate ability to communicate research efforts and findings)

_____ Oral communication skills

- "4" very clearly presents the research through thoughtful and organized visuals with excellent grammar and speech
- "3" adequately presents the research with minimal problems with the visuals, grammar, and speech
- "2" has several problems with the visuals, grammar, and speech
- "1" has serious deficiencies with the visuals, grammar, and speech

_____ Written communication skills

- "4" clearly written document with no major problems with grammar and style and demonstrates a very clear understanding of the literature, subject area and research problem
- "3" adequately written document with only minor problems with grammar and style and demonstrates a clear understanding of the literature, subject area and research problem
- "2" document with unclear writing demonstrating a problem with understanding of the literature, subject area and research problem and/or major problems with grammar and style
- "1" very poorly written document and almost no demonstration of understanding of the literature, subject area and research problem

Chair/Committee member signature _____

Date: _____



2026-2027

Graduate Student Acknowledgment Form

I, _____, (printed name) do hereby acknowledge by signing and dating this form that I have received a copy of the 2026-2027 Graduate Student Handbook for the Louisiana State University Department of Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merchandising. I have reviewed the handbook and I understand that I will be expected to abide by the contents of this document as it pertains to my graduate degree.

Graduate Student Signature

Date

Advisor/Director Signature

Date