

The Socially Responsible and Sustainable Apparel Business Graduate Certificate provides a foundation of knowledge needed to manage design, product development, buying, promotion, sourcing, and production of apparel, textiles, and footwear in ways that are socially responsible and sustainable. The competencies and skills taught in the courses cover human rights, labor standards, and environmental stewardship topics. Students pursuing the certificate have interned with major apparel brands and non-governmental organizations that focus on social responsibility and sustainability. Others are launching new apparel businesses with social responsibility and sustainability central to their missions.



Socially Responsible and Sustainable Apparel Business

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Toward environmental and social responsibility

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE APPAREL BUSINESS

an online graduate certificate



- Develop socially responsible practices that will make a difference in your area of the apparel industry
- Tailor the program to your needs: pursue a track in labor or environment
- Convenient and flexible online format



University of Delaware Department of FASHION & APPAREL STUDIES

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE APPAREL BUSINESS

About the certificate

The Socially Responsible and Sustainable Apparel Business Certificate addresses labor and environmental problems in the global supply chains for the apparel, textile, and footwear industries. The certificate is comprised of nine one-credit courses offered through the Internet, each taken over a five-week period.

Students do not need to take the courses in a specific sequence. They can begin with any of the nine courses. Depending on course availability and when the student begins, the certificate can be completed in two to three major semesters (fall and spring).

Students select a labor or environment track. Seven core courses are taken by all students, and two specialized courses are taken for the selected track. If students wish, they may pursue both tracks by taking all four specialized courses in addition to the seven core courses. Students will earn one University of Delaware graduate credit per course.

The coursework is grounded on principles of the United Nations (UN) Global Compact, a voluntary international initiative bringing together companies, labor and civil society groups, and various UN agencies in support of human rights, labor, and the environment.

The following learning goals have been established for students completing the certificate.

- Evaluate how apparel, textile, and footwear businesses address the “Global Compact” principles for human rights, labor standards, and environmental stewardship and how they can more effectively address them in the future
- Analyze the moral and ethical responsibility of businesses and individuals toward human rights, labor standards, and environmental stewardship
- Recommend various strategies for effecting change in the apparel-related industries

The certificate program is offered by the University of Delaware Department of Fashion & Apparel Studies and was developed by a team of faculty from the University of Delaware, Cornell University, and Colorado State University based on work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Instructors

Dr. Marsha Dickson—Professor and Chairperson, Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies, University of Delaware

Dr. Suzanne Loker—J. Thomas Clark Professor of Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise, Department of Textiles and Apparel, Cornell University

Dr. Molly Eckman—Professor, Department of Design and Merchandising, Colorado State University

Dr. Huantian Cao—Associate Professor, Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies, University of Delaware

Kelly Cobb, MFA—Instructor, Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies, University of Delaware

About the online format

The Socially Responsible and Sustainable Apparel Business Certificate makes use of the latest educational technology. It is hosted by UD Online, recipient of numerous awards in distance learning technology and programs. The online format brings the courses to the student, allowing complete accessibility from anywhere in the world. No special equipment is needed—only a computer and access to the Internet—and students can participate in courses whenever it is convenient for them, whether evenings, weekends, or lunch hours, and regardless of time zone.

Cost

Certificate courses are charged at current University of Delaware graduate tuition rates. Nonresident students who are enrolled for the majority of their credit hours in a given semester through UD Online distance learning may qualify for the nonresident site participant rate by choosing an approved UD Online participating site. Scholarships may be available. Please visit www.udel.edu/fash/graduate/certificate/ or call 302/831-8714 for details.

Application

To be accepted into the program, candidates must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. Interested individuals with backgrounds in a range of disciplines, including apparel and fashion merchandising, can excel in the graduate certificate and are welcome to apply. Applications are accepted throughout the year. For further information on the application process, please visit www.udel.edu/fash/graduate/certificate/.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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