

Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design(TCD)
Assessment Report 2001-02 & 2002-03

Learning Outcomes:

Undergraduate students who complete the Textiles, Clothing and Design (TCD) major will:

Outcome 1: Demonstrate the ability to use the elements and principles of design in a variety of formats to communicate visually.

Outcome 2: Apply creative problem solving skills in solving a variety of problems in the near environment and articulate those solutions in written, oral, and/or visual formats.

Outcome 3: Produce creative work that exhibits growth and development on the basis of visual expression, composition and technique (unique to design emphasis).

Outcome 4: Apply theoretical principles and analytical skills in assessment of data relative to merchandising (unique to merchandising emphasis).

Outcome 5: Understand flow of textiles and apparel in the merchandising/marketing system from product inception to consumption by individuals and families within domestic and international economies.

Outcome 6: Demonstrate knowledge of the social, psychological and historical aspects of textiles and dress in relation to a variety of cultural perspectives.

Outcome 7: Evaluate textile and apparel products in relation to aesthetic, physical and chemical properties.

Outcome 8: Be prepared to enter a diverse job market.

Outcome 9: Recognize the importance of ethical behavior and good business practices.

Assessment Methods:

A formal plan for assessment of undergraduate student outcomes was revised in 1999. The assessment plan includes:

- surveys of graduates on the third, fifth, tenth and twentieth anniversary of graduation
- surveys of employers,
- portfolio assessment,
- exit interviews with seniors and graduate students
- evaluation of student work entered in exhibitions

Results, Discussion, and Improvements:

- The surveys of graduates indicated a need for more pre-professional experiences. As a result, TXCD 498, Internship was activated. Students earn one credit hour for each 45 hours of the internship. They are required to maintain a daily journal of their experiences and submit the journal to the faculty supervisor on a bi-monthly basis. The students in collaboration with their industry supervisor, plan and execute a special project that includes the application and evaluation of concepts learned in class to “real world” experience.

A portfolio of work from the Internship is submitted upon return to campus. This includes the journal, the paper describing and evaluating their special project, the student’s self-assessment of their performance, the industry supervisor’s assessment of the student’s performance and a collection of other TCD assigned class projects that demonstrate the students’ writing and visual communication skills.

- The faculty used the portfolio to identify strengths and weaknesses in course work and curriculum. For example, the faculty found that the intensity of written communication skills in early course work must be increased to help students transfer knowledge throughout their program of studies. Ultimately, this assessment is of value not only because of the statements that reiterate the TCD mission and its goals, but it provides an opportunity for student evaluation of the program and incorporates their voice and the impact of teaching from the student perspective.
- One unique feature of the TCD assessment plan is students’ submission of creative work to juried competitions to gain exposure as artists. These include in-state as well as national and international student design competitions. TCD students consistently have design work selected for exhibition as well as gaining special recognition and honors for outstanding design work.
- Graduates indicated that increased exposure to technology would be beneficial in their careers. As a result, faculty moved toward technology as an integral component in creating, disseminating and applying knowledge about textile products and their design. An essential aspect of quality teaching is to integrate new and exciting opportunities into a class while maintaining the integrity of the course objectives. Technology such as PhotoShop was added to the TCD color section of the Visual Literacy Program in 2002-2003 and a classroom with Lectra software was installed to prepare students for industry applications.

All students have the opportunity to develop CAD skills throughout their undergraduate and graduate programs. Merchandising students become familiar with electronic spreadsheets as a tool for merchandise management planning, analysis and forecasting. Textile Science and Museum Studies students work with state of the art electronic equipment for performance testing and archival dating. A digital textile printer is the newest acquisition and brings together the design and textile science faculty and students to explore challenges from many perspectives. A range of design and apparel software, electronic weaving looms, knitting machines and industrial machines are available for student use.

- As a result of surveys of students who graduate with a TCD major, product development is being incorporated into the curriculum to enable graduates to successfully seek employment in this highly competitive field.

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