The pre-professional Merchandising Management program typically takes one year to complete. After completing the pre-professional program requirements, students may apply to the professional Merchandising Management program. Students will not be permitted to take professional Merchandising Management coursework without acceptance into the professional Merchandising Management program. If admitted into the professional Merchandising Management program, it will take students three additional years to complete the professional program regardless of transfer credit standing.

Admission into the professional Merchandising Management program is subject to a competitive application process. If accepted to the professional program a laptop will be required, please see the College of Business Advising website for specifications. To apply and be considered for admission, all pre-professional merchandising management students must meet the following requirements:

- Be declared as a Pre-Merchandising Management major.
- Have a minimum OSU cumulative GPA of 2.5. Note: The average GPA of those who were accepted in the 2014 cohort was 3.23.
- Have completed and received a C- or better in all courses below.
- Have completed at least 40 credits of course work at OSU by the end of the spring 2016 term.

The deadline for application materials to the professional program is May 1, 2016.

Pre-professional core courses that must be completed by the end of the Spring 2016 term with a C- or better:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHE 160</td>
<td>Design Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHE 161</td>
<td>Design Explorations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHE 170</td>
<td>Introduction to the Textile &amp; Apparel Industry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTH 111</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR 121</td>
<td>English Composition (WR I)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacc Core Science</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 111, COMM 114 or COMM 218</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment Information
Students with Merchandising Management degrees pursue careers in management, merchandising, inventory control, sales promotion, public relations, or human resources. This field offers a wide variety of career opportunities with retailers, manufacturers, marketing research firms and product information services. In a global, diverse, and fast paced, competitive environment, merchandisers are involved in market analysis, product planning, sourcing, procurement, pricing, distribution and visual presentation of apparel and textile products to satisfy consumer needs.

Skills Needed for Career Field
Communication            Judgment & Decision Making
Complex Problem Solving   Knowledge of Sales Market
Cost–Benefit Analysis     Negotiation
Customer Service          Time Management

Possible Careers
Area Sales Manager        Product Developer
Buyer/Merchandiser        Product Quality Assurance Analyst
Fashion Editor            Retail Management Trainee
Fashion Events Coordinator Sales Representative
Human Resources Specialist Sourcing Coordinator
Market Research Director  Store Manager
Market Trend Analyst       Visual Merchandiser
Merchandise Planner/Distributor

Where Graduates Are Working
Adidas                     Macy’s
Buckle                     Nike
Columbia Sportswear        Nordstrom
Eddie Bauer                The North Face
Fred Meyer                 Norm Thompson Outfitters
Free People                Old Navy
Jantzen/Perry Ellis        Paige Denim
Kohl’s                     Ralph Lauren
Lucky Brand Jeans          Target

Additional Resources
O*Net http://www.onetonline.org/find/quick?s=merchandising+management