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:

- DHE 160 Design Perspectives 4
- DHE 161 Design Explorations 4
- DHE 170 Introduction to the Textile & Apparel Industry 4
- MTH 111 College Algebra 4
- WR 121 English Composition (WR I) 3
- Bacc Core Science 4
- Bacc Core Science 4
- COMM 111, COMM 114 or COMM 218 3
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