Textiles Department

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In Textiles you experiment with new materials, technologies and techniques to design and create innovative fabric and fine art. Faculty work closely with both graduate and undergraduate students to help you develop a personal vision and an understanding of larger artistic, social and cultural contexts.

- Learn more about Textiles at RISD
- Department Location and Contacts

Programs

BFA.TEXT.120 - BFA in Textiles

2025 - 2026 | Curriculum | 4-year program

In the first year of the program you learn various methods of print design, silkscreen, weaving, knitting and dyeing before choosing to focus on either fine arts work or industry-related projects. Juniors then concentrate on more advanced techniques by focusing on an area or areas of personal interest, developing individual concepts and broadening perspectives by taking courses in other disciplines.

In addition to producing a final degree project, seniors pursue internships designed to strengthen connections to the professional world.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the BFA program are prepared to:

- engage in the design process by framing a premise and iterating material responses as an idea evolves
- understand the purpose and context of a finished work and how these may inform decisions made in the process of creating it
- articulate inspirations, explain interpretations and defend solutions in one's own creative process
- demonstrate strong visual and material competency—including in color, pattern, texture, structure and materiality—in regards to the creation of two- and three-dimensional work
- demonstrate excellence in craftsmanship by creating wovens, knits and surface works that are well considered, deftly made and fully resolved
- explain the current field in the context of art, architecture, design and technology
- demonstrate broad historical and theoretical awareness of the textile field and its larger disciplinary, cultural and economic contexts
- recognize environmental/sustainability and social concerns related to textile processes and manufacturing

Requirements

First year

FALL		WINTERSESSION		SPRING	
Foundation Curriculum	**15**	studio elective	**3**	Foundation Curriculum	**12**

Sophomore

FALL		WINTERSESSION		SPRING	
TEXT 4801 - Fibers and Dyeing	3	*optional*		TEXT 4802 - Woven Textiles (SEI)	3
TEXT 4810 - Surface Design and CAD in Textiles	3			TEXT 4803 - Fabric Silkscreen	3
TEXT 4817 - Machine Knitting	3			TEXT 4819 - From an Idea to Meaning	3
Liberal Arts	6			Liberal Arts	6
total credits	**15**			**total credits**	**15**

Junior

FALL		WINTERSESSION		SPRING	
major elective	3	*optional*		major electives	6
open elective	3			open elective	3
non-major studio elective	3			non-major studio elective	3
Liberal Arts	6			Liberal Arts	3
total credits	**15**			**total credits**	**15**

Senior

FALL		WINTERSESSION		SPRING	
major electives (see note)	6	*optional*		TEXT 4898 - Textiles Degree Project	9
open elective	3			Liberal Arts	6
non-major studio elective	3				
Liberal Arts	3				
total credits	**15**			**total credits**	**15**

notes:

- **LIBERAL ARTS - 39 TOTAL CREDITS, 30 TAKEN AFTER THE FIRST YEAR** including HPSS S301. See Liberal Arts Division for specific requirements.
- **MAJOR ELECTIVES - 15 CREDITS** in Textiles taken during Junior and Senior year. In the Fall of Senior year, students are required to take at least 3 credits from *TEXT 4830 - Apparel Fabrics*, *TEXT 4840 - Interior Fabrics*, *TEXT 4828 - Fine Arts Textiles* or an equivalent approved by the department.
    - Textile major elective studio courses are listed below and should be chosen through consultation with the student's faculty advisor:
        - TEXT 4804 - Weaving II
        - TEXT 4805 - Changing Fabric Surface
        - TEXT 4820 - Woven Structure for Pattern
        - TEXT 4806 - Dobby Weaving and Design
        - TEXT 4832 - Knitted Fabrics
        - TEXT 4807 - Design for Printed Textiles
        - TEXT 4704 - Digital Embroidery
        - TEXT 4808 - Design for Digitally Printed Fabrics
        - TEXT 4813 - Jacquard Design

        - TEXT 4821 - Jacquard for Pattern
        - TEXT 4842 - Industrial Knitting
        - TEXT 4830 - Apparel Fabrics
        - TEXT 4840 - Interior Fabrics
        - TEXT 4828 - Fine Arts Textiles
- **NON-MAJOR ELECTIVES - 12 CREDITS** from studio subjects outside of Textiles; 3 credits must be in drawing, painting or color studio elective.
- **OPEN ELECTIVES - 9 CREDITS** may be a combination of studio courses, including Textiles

MFA.TEXT.2YR - MFA in Textiles (2-year program)

2025 - 2026 | Curriculum | 2-year program

The two-year MFA in Textiles focuses on the woven, knit and print design of fabrics used for apparel and interior design applications. Geared towards those with a background in textiles and academic and/or professional experience in visual studies, the curriculum helps you broaden and sharpen your skills, hone your artistic identity and become well versed in the technical and creative potential of the medium. The program also emphasizes studies in drawing and color—along with participation in graduate seminars—as a means of building analytical and critical thinking skills.

The first year enriches your creative background and helps you expand your skills, including the use of digital technology in design. The second year allows for more individual exploration of weaving, knitting or surface design, with the final semester culminating in a thesis project that entails both studio work and writing.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the MFA program are prepared to:

- implement the design process through the framing of content and context.
- articulate the purpose and context for a finished work and how these may inform decisions in the process of creating it.
- recognize the potential of textile materials, techniques and processes to articulate ambitious ideas.
- display analytical and critical thinking/reasoning skills to support the development of one's work, as well as the work of others, and in order to engage in rigorous discourse related to historical and contemporary issues that influence the art and design fields.
- exhibit strong visual and material competency, including an understanding of color, pattern, structure and materiality as they relate to the creation of two- and three-dimensional work.
- demonstrate excellence in craftsmanship by creating wovens, knits and other material forms that are well considered, made and resolved.
- demonstrate confidence and proficiency in the field, with emphasis on advanced equipment and processes.
- become acquainted with scales of manufacturing and distribution.
- recognize environmental/sustainability and social concerns related to textile processes and manufacturing.
- articulate their role as designers in the field while demonstrating broad historical and theoretical awareness of textiles and its larger cultural and economic contexts, along with how it intersects with other disciplines.
- explain the current field in the context of art, architecture, design and technology.
- identify where the work will sit in the world.

Requirements

First year

FALL		WINTERSESSION		SPRING	
TEXT 480G - Graduate Studio I	3 *or* 6	studio *or* seminar elective	3	TEXT 481G - Graduate Studio II	3 *or* 6
TEXT 484G - Textiles Seminar I	6			TEXT 485G - Textiles Seminar II	3
LAEL 1656 - Narratives of Global Textiles	3			studio *or* seminar elective	0 *or* 3
studio elective	0 *or* 3				
total credits	**15**	**total credits**	**3**	**total credits**	**15**

Second year

FALL		WINTERSESSION		SPRING	
TEXT 482G - Graduate Studio III	3 *or* 6	studio *or* seminar elective*	3	TEXT 483G - Thesis Project	9
TEXT 484G - Textiles Seminar I	6			TEXT 498G - Thesis Writing	3
studio *or* seminar elective	0 *or* 3			studio *or* seminar elective	3 *or* 0
total credits	**15**	**total credits**	**3**	**total credits**	**15**

notes:

- During the course of the program, students are required to take three studio electives, one of which must be a drawing or painting studio elective. Students must seek departmental advice when choosing credit options in variable credit courses.
- *Those students who do not have professional experience by their second Wintersession should spend this Wintersession on an internship.

Courses

IDISC 2709 - QUEER PEOPLE/PLACES/THINGS: AN ARTIST LED EXHIBITION PROJECT

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Spring	Undergraduate

This is a project based course connected to artist Liz Collins' upcoming mid-career retrospective exhibition at the RISD Museum, opening July 2025, and is designed to engage students in the creation and curation of a gallery space within the show. Liz Collins: Motherlode is a multifaceted show spanning 30+ years of Collins' career in fashion, textile design, performance, installation and visual art, and will include a gallery devoted to this project and intended to be a queer social space. The space will be transformed through Liz Collins' design elements such as wallpaper, furniture, rugs, and will hold a robust curation of queer art and artists from the RISD museum collection and from the RISD community, with exact parameters to be determined by the class in collaboration with museum staff.

The class is open to students in all departments. Students with a special interest in one or more of the following are best suited for this course: curation, interior architecture, immersive installation, artistic collaboration, queer studies. Students will work directly with Collins each week and with curators and staff from the museum to develop a clear vision and plan for this gallery.

Students wishing to be considered for this class must email apoterac@risd.edu with the following:

Email Subject: Queer People/Places/Things

1) Statement of interest

2) Relevant experience

Elective

Student Eligibility
You require instructor permission to register in this course. Please contact the instructor for permission to register.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

LAEL 1082 - NARRATIVES OF GLOBAL TEXTILES: IDENTITY AND LABOR IN PROCESS

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall, Spring	Undergraduate

This course explores the entangled histories of modern textiles in the Americas, highlighting the many hands and voices that can be seen and heard in their creation, exchange, assemblage, and use. Examined as an infinite web of relationships via the lens of Martinican philosopher douard Glissant, the textile histories covered will spiral through the 18th to 21st centuries and will touch on Native North American regalia incorporating trade cloth and glass beads; New England industrially printed cottons; patchwork quilts made by the African-American matriarchs of Gee's Bend, Alabama; indigenous Mayan traje of Guatemala; Chilean underground protest arpilleras; and Haitian beaded and sequined vodou flags, among many others. Colonialism and empire lie at the heart of textile histories during this era. Care will be taken to underscore the inextricable relationship between 19th-century textile production and enslaved laborers and knowledge keepers. At the same time we will cultivate an understanding of the self-determination, embodied engagement, and political activism that textiles have continuously afforded dispossessed communities. These narratives will unfold from objects selected from the collections of the RISD Museum that will be made available for consideration and study at close range with curators. The firsthand experiences will be guided and enriched by guest lectures and workshops by visiting scholars and artists whose work centers on the particular histories examined, as well as field trips to the Tomaquag Indigenous Museum and Slater Mill Historic Site. Through active engagement with tangible objects and exposure to a plurality of voices, students in the course not only will gain an embodied understanding of textile histories of the Americas, but also will find space for moving through and beyond colonial inheritances.

Majors can be pre-registered by the department.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate Students only.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	3	Lecture

LAEL 1656 - NARRATIVES OF GLOBAL TEXTILES: RELATIONSHIPS TO RAW MATERIAL

Offering Department(s)
Liberal Arts, Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Interdisciplinary by their very nature, textile traditions share a global history. Around the world textiles have found place in cultures as signifiers of social identity, from the utilitarian to the sacred, as objects of ritual meaning and as objects of great tangible wealth. The evolution of textile motifs, designs, materials and technology from around the globe will be explored in classroom lecture and utilizing the RISD Museum of Art. We will examine such topics as: the function of textiles in the survival of traditional cultures, the impact of historic trade routes and ensuing colonialism, industrialization and its subsequent effect on traditional techniques of textile manufacture. Thoughtful and scholarly consideration will be given to recent incidents of cultural appropriation in the global textile and fashion industry. Term projects utilizing the material culture approach will afford students the opportunity to gain valuable research skills and explore in-depth specific textile techniques.

Majors can be pre-registered by the department.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate Students only.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
3

Instructional Method
Lecture

TEXT 2523 / FD 2523 - TEXTILES TRANSFORMING INTO FURNITURE

Offering Department(s)
Textiles , Furniture Design

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This research course focuses on the experimentation with soft materials utilizing techniques of textile construction to create functional furniture with structural integrity. This course will rely on teamwork between Furniture Design and Textile students to take advantage of each other's expertise in furniture making and textile construction. In the beginning of the course students will be introduced to examples of contemporary furniture design, which use soft materials in unconventional ways to create unexpected forms and experiences. Reading will be assigned that covers these contemporary examples in detail. Parallel to this students will be exposed to weaving and knitting techniques, but should also consider other techniques such as crocheting, knotting, basket weaving etc. Students are encouraged to alter these techniques according to their needs to discover unique design solutions. Additionally, students will be introduced to unconventional materials not necessarily associated with furniture to generate innovative results. Substructures constructed out of solid materials can be used to provide rigidity as well as glue/resin to reinforce soft materials. Since this course focuses on material research, students are expected to engage in sustained in-depth inquiry, which should be documented in a meaningful way throughout the entire process.

Preference is given to Textiles and Furniture Design Students.

Elective

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT W470 - THE WOVEN RUG

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

Rugs and floor-coverings from different counties and cultures, both historical and contemporary, will be shown as examples of how material and design are developed within a cultural and functional context. This will serve as a foundation for students to develop their own vision and sources of inspiration. Each student will design and execute a woven rug intended for a specific use and/or space. Students will learn to set up the loom and will experiment with a variety of rugmaking techniques for both flat and pile surfaces. Exploration with a wide range of materials, from wool to reeds to plastics, are encouraged to find new solutions for each project. Special yarn dyeing techniques will be taught as a way to expand the range of color effects.

Elective

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	10	Studio

TEXT W471 - INTRODUCTION TO FABRIC SILKSCREEN

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

Starting with making their own screens, students in this introductory course will learn various stencil making and printing of repeats using water based dyes and pigments. In addition to considering the screen a tool merely to reproduce an existing design from paper, students are encouraged to think of it as a flexible means for creating totally new designs through experimentation at the print table.

Elective

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	10	Studio

TEXT W475 - FROM AN IDEA TO MEANING

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

Through drawing and painting we will investigate different subject matter in the development of a personal vision and point of view to create meaningful and moving work. We will work from live models, still-lifes and objects, and explore the use of icons, symbols and images through experimentation with a wide range of media and processes including charcoal, pen and ink, acrylics, objects and collage. Beyond this, the main goal of the course is the development of a working process to strengthen conceptual and expressive abilities. This approach will allow students to communicate concerns with originality and creativity in ways that can later be applied to work in any discipline and medium.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	10	Studio

TEXT W497 - DEGREE PROJECT AND THESIS PREPARATION

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

Students work independently to develop ideas, materials and processes in preparation for the spring semester degree and thesis projects. The work is self initiated and self directed. Students meet as a group on a weekly basis.

Enrollment is limited to Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA, MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	6	10	Studio

TEXT W704 - DIGITAL EMBROIDERY

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Wintersession

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Digital embroidery transforms hand-crafted couture into a work of fine art. Just like a tattoo where an image is created with needles and color, so embroidered fabric or paper is needle-stitched with colored threads. A basic knowledge of Adobe Photoshop is helpful, but we will also cover the fundamentals of creating a preparatory design file in Adobe Illustrator. This vector design file will then be artistically translated into a Pulse embroidery file that can be saved and sewn out as as a multiple or repeat pattern. The resulting personalized textile can be applied to fabrics for apparel or interior applications as well as fine art. A series of small assignments will build up a repertoire of techniques and culminate in a final project that summarizes the student's ability and artistic innovation. This course will explore top of the line Tajima Pulse software with the goal of creating personalized images that will be sewn out on a 15-needle Tajima commercial embroidery machine.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
10

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT W808 - DESIGN FOR DIGITALLY PRINTED FABRICS

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Wintersession

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This intensive course moves from concept to design development and then onto digitally printed fabrics. Students start by creating presentation boards for color, pattern, and application in order to establish direction in their work. With Adobe Photoshop serving as the primary tool, the traditional techniques of drawing, painting, and collage are integrated with new design technology. Class instruction will lead students through the Adobe software in the development of design for extensive experimentation on the Textiles' Mimaki fabric printer. Students will be encouraged to go beyond the boundaries of traditional textile design to meet the possibilities of this exciting technology. Estimated Materials Cost: $50.00

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
10

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 480G - GRADUATE STUDIO I

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Graduate

This course, a major component in the student's curriculum, is tailored to individual needs. It includes workshops and tutorials intended to strengthen technical skills and design vocabulary in the areas of weaving, knitting and surface design. Additionally, students pursue individual projects under graduate instructors. This semester's emphasis is on enlarging and solidifying the student's background and defining the direction for the work.

This course is a requirement for first-year Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
GR Textiles Programs of Study

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
6

Weekly Contact Hours
10

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 481G - GRADUATE STUDIO II

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Graduate

This course, a major component in the student's can entail two types of activity: 1. Participation in sophomore, junior or senior level courses to strengthen technical skills and design vocabulary; Including Design for Printed Textiles and Fabric Silkscreen and 2. Individual projects undergraduate advisors to clarify personal concepts and format of the work. This semester's emphasis is on enlarging and solidifying the student's background and defining direction for the work.

This course is a requirement for Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
9

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 482G - GRADUATE STUDIO III

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Graduate

In this second-year course, the emphasis is on clarifying student's specific area of interest, format of the work, its context, and personal concepts. Students will begin to develop a writing style and practice that parallels the richly developed language of their visual work, laying the foundation for their graduate written thesis.

This course is a requirement for second-year Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
GR Textiles Programs of Study

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
6

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 483G - THESIS PROJECT

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Graduate

This project represents the culmination of a student's study in the Graduate Program. The design projects can encompass various textile fields in the areas of interior or apparel textiles. A specific architectural context, an area of apparel design, an investigation of a particular technique, or a visual design sensibility and language can provide a framework for the project. The work, executed using any established textile techniques or technique that a student has developed, should manifest advanced original concepts, high quality of execution, and a strong commitment to the field. Written documentation and analysis of the sources of the work, how it relates to the textiles tradition or larger field of art and design, and of the development of the project should accompany the studio work.

Estimated Cost of Materials: varies depending on student projects.

This course is a requirement for Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
9

Max. Credits:
9

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 484G - TEXTILE SEMINAR I

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Graduate

This course focuses on issues in the professional textile field, such as the effect of production parameters and end use on design decisions. While helping students become more familiar with the wide ranging market, from the most innovative to the traditional, this course aims at providing an awareness of how one's own work fits into this context. Lecturers include professionals from the field, who advise on the studio work required in this class.

This course is a requirement for second-year Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
GR Textiles Programs of Study

Min. Credits:
6

Max. Credits:
6

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 485G - TEXTILE SEMINAR II

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Graduate

This course continues from Textile Seminar I and focuses on issues in the professional textile field, such as the effect of production parameters and end use on design decisions. While helping students become more familiar with the wide ranging textile market, from traditional work to the most highly innovative, this course aims to provide an awareness of how one's personal expression fits in to this context. Lecturers include professionals from the field, who advise on the studio work required in this class.

This course is a requirement for Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
3

Instructional Method
Seminar

TEXT 498G - THESIS WRITING

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Graduate

This written portion of the Thesis Project helps students to analyze their working process and its results, as well as inform future work. While the length and style of the written thesis may vary, the paper should contain: an identification of the project goals and an analysis of the sources of inspiration; the context in which the work fits into the textile area and larger field of art and design; a description of the working process, techniques, and materials used and their connection to application and end use; and finally, an evaluation of the project. Accompanying the paper will be visual documentation of the project.

This course is a requirement for Graduate Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | MFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 2750 - MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIO: MATERIALS TO MEANING

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

The goal of this multidisciplinary and experimental studio course is to investigate the quotidian complexities of subject and object engagement through material exploration. This studio is for students from any major interested in further understanding their process. Weekly prompts of material examination and assigned readings will be provided to students, summoning deeper questions as to how and why the choices within their process are made, contending with and/or enacting within and beyond the tactile space. As a class, our time will focus on forms, methods, tensions and the unique properties of mediums, materials, and objects. We will work with painting, textiles, drawing, assemblage and invite any mixed media forms of art-making that students wish to work in. This course will harness students' skills and develop an understanding and awareness to the connections between the materials and the poetic gestures within their process that are required to conjure meaning throughout their artistic journey.

Elective

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4702 - TEXTILES TAKES SHAPE: REUSE AND RE-APPROPRIATION

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

This intensive studio elective allows students to explore a number of foundational approaches to building form through textile-based methodologies. The class follows Jenn Hewitt's mantra I look at everything as an experiment, so there are no mistakes, just different paths to explore. In this, we will be arm-knitting, mending, cardboard weaving, needle felting and learning several basic embroidery stitches. We move quickly from one process to the next, exploring ways each pertain to surface design and building sculptural form. Students will be introduced to issues within the intersection of Craft, Textiles and Sculpture through lectures, readings, videos and a visit to the RISD Museum's Costume Collection. We will look at such artists as Shinique Smith, Josh Faught, Do-Ho Suh, Wendy Red Star, Jeffrey Gibson and Tanya Aguiniga (to name a few). Students in the course do not need a background in textiles or sculpture, but should be open and ready to experiment, discuss and explore individually and as a group. The final week of Wintersession will bring together the threads of the previous weeks' exploration and experimentation while also providing the space for additional solo exploration into such things latch-hooking, assemblage and/or additional forms of repair.

Elective

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	10	Studio

TEXT 4704 - DIGITAL EMBROIDERY

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall, Spring	Undergraduate

Digital embroidery transforms hand-crafted couture into a work of fine art. Just like a tattoo where an image is created with needles and color, so embroidered fabric or paper is needle-stitched with colored threads. A basic knowledge of Adobe Photoshop is helpful, but we will also cover the fundamentals of creating a preparatory design file in Adobe Illustrator. This vector design file will then be artistically translated into a Pulse embroidery file that can be saved and sewn out as as a multiple or repeat pattern. The resulting personalized textile can be applied to fabrics for apparel or interior applications as well as fine art. A series of small assignments will build up a repertoire of techniques and culminate in a final project that summarizes the student's ability and artistic innovation. This course will explore top of the line Tajima Pulse software with the goal of creating personalized images that will be sewn out on a 15-needle Tajima commercial embroidery machine.

Elective

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4801 - FIBERS AND DYEING

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This course introduces the student to a wide variety of materials and processes involved in the production of both hand and industrially produced textiles. Topics include fiber properties and identification, spinning and yarn construction, natural and synthetic dyeing, traditional textile constructions and new technologies. Both historical and contemporary examples are studied, ranging from textiles in design to fine arts textiles. Class time is divided between lecture and lab work. Lectures are supplemented with readings, workshops and museum visits. Students conduct research on a class related topic of their choice and give presentations about their subject. Each student also prepares spinning and dyeing samples to be presented in an individual archive.

This course is a requirement for Sophomore Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
Sophomore Textiles Students only.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4802 - WOVEN TEXTILES

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This hands-on studio is an introduction to the fundamental language of weaving —the warp and the weft—and the implications of weave structures as they relate to image, pattern, materiality, language, spaces and the body. This course will introduce students to equipment, weave structures, and materials in conversation with multiple weaving practices and histories across time and space. The range of equipment used will encourage students to explore the cultural narratives, socio-economic motivations and the histories of peoples and places embedded in the act of weaving. A variety of techniques including hand-manipulated tapestry and loom controlled patterns are taught and explored as a vehicle for the translation of ideas in this medium. The emphasis is on invention and developing a personal approach.

Readings, lectures and discussions will address the textile industry's complicity in slavery and the environmental crisis as well as how past and present weavers, artists and designers embed stories, histories, and legacies of knowledge-making into their woven textiles.

Majors are pre-registered for this course by the department. This course is a requirement for Sophomore Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4803 - FABRIC SILKSCREEN

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring, Wintersession

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Starting with making their own screens, students learn various stencil making and printing of repeats using water based dyes and pigments. The focus is on an imaginative stencial (usually the repeating unit) and its application in creating continuous surfaces. Instead of considering the screen a tool merely to reproduce an existing design from paper, students are encouraged to think of it as a flexible means for creating totally new designs through experimentation at the print table. Engineered designs combining repetition and singular images is also explored.

Majors are pre-registered for this course by the department. This course is a requirement for Sophomore Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4804 - WEAVING II

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Students develop their chosen themes through drawing and executing a series of woven samples. The samples explore structures and materials relevant to the chosen subject matter. Students weave fine arts oriented or design projects which evolve from the investigation.

Prerequisite: TEXT 4802 - WEAVING I

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing TEXT 4802 - WEAVING I.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4805 - CHANGING FABRIC SURFACE

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Students work on a specific theme of their choosing and derive designs and concepts from this theme for work in fabric silkscreen. After completing assignments that focus on specific techniques and design problems, students plan and execute a more defined and larger project relying on the experience incorporated during the first part of the course. Fabric construction and dyeing techniques can be integrated into the work.

Prerequisite: TEXT 4803 - FABRIC SILKSCREEN

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing TEXT 4803 - FABRIC SILKSCREEN.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4806 - DOBBY WEAVING AND DESIGN

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This course is an investigation of the technical, formal and material potential of multi-harness weave structures on 24-harness dobby looms. Through extensive sampling on the looms, students expand their skills in areas of pattern development, woven structure, color, material and fabric finishing while further developing their design concepts and their visual and material vocabularies. During the second half of the semester, stipulations derived from the intended end use of the fabric as well as production methods become a strong part of the design considerations in the development of fabric collection for an intended application. Exercises in drafting, both by hand and on computer, as a means of understanding woven structure in a three-dimensional way, will be an important part of the course.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing TEXT 4804 - WEAVING II.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4807 - DESIGN FOR PRINTED TEXTILES

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This course emphasizes the design process - how to come up with an idea and how to develop it into a finished design - as well as technical skills. Using tools, techniques, and materials from professional studios, students work on paper exploring and analyzing layouts, color, and other design elements within repeated patterns. As students develop their individual styles, they are exposed to design requirements stemming from production methods and the intended end use. Successful work from this course becomes part of students' portfolios.

Elective

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4808 - DESIGN FOR DIGITALLY PRINTED FABRICS

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Wintersession

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This intensive course moves from concept to design development and then onto digitally printed fabrics. Students start by creating presentation boards for color, pattern, and application in order to establish direction in their work. With Adobe Photoshop serving as the primary tool, the traditional techniques of drawing, painting, and collage are integrated with new design technology. Class instruction will lead students through the Adobe software in the development of design for extensive experimentation on the Textiles' Mimaki fabric printer. Students will be encouraged to go beyond the boundaries of traditional textile design to meet the possibilities of this exciting technology.

Estimated Cost of Materials: $50.00

Elective

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
10

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4810 - SURFACE DESIGN + CAD IN TEXTILES

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Surface Design + CAD in Textiles is an introduction to designing printed textile surfaces, with an emphasis on the integration of hand-made artwork and the meaningful usage of computer design tools. Students will begin with rigorous conceptual development and research before moving on to artwork development, utilizing drawing, painting, or collage to create a rich library of pattern source material. Through the usage of Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Ned Graphics, students will learn to develop repeating patterns and engineered designs for printed textiles from original artwork. Emphasis will be placed on retaining the 'hand' while exploring properties of layout, scale, color and concept in the context of designing collections. Students will learn about the history and mechanics of repeat pattern design and how repetition, scale, color, texture, and variety can affect the success of a repeating print. Students will be encouraged to work thoughtfully within the constraint of the repeat.

The course schedule will center around the creation of a final project, a small collection of digital prints, with each assignment throughout the semester designed to help students work toward their collection development. The final project will culminate in mill-ready print files of original print designs, mock ups or application sketches, a collection of fabric swatches, as well as an understanding of what it means to develop a “collection” from start to finish. Projects in this course will produce a variety of work aimed at specific areas of the textile industry, namely interiors, fashion, and fine art.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4813 - JACQUARD DESIGN

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall	Undergraduate

This course investigates pattern in the context of jacquard weaving. Students develop their ideas on paper and execute their designs on the computer, which are used for drafting the structures as well. At least one design from each student is woven on the electronic jacquard loom. Students explore their patterns through color and material experimentation at the loom. During the course, each student develops a small portfolio of jacquard designs. Slides and samples of historical and modern application of the technique are also studied.

Prerequisite: TEXT 4806 - DOBBY WEAVING, TEXT 4826 - CAD IN TEXTILES

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing all of the following course(s): TEXT 4806 - DOBBY WEAVING, TEXT 4826 - CAD IN TEXTILES.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4816 - INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE KNITTING

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Wintersession	Undergraduate

Students in this introductory course will learn the basic techniques of machine knitting and explore the possibilities of structural effects, color, pattern, and material quality within those techniques. They will also learn about finishing methods--such as felting, dyeing, and simple printing--that can be used on knitted fabric. Students will create a knitted fabric or finished piece for an end use, be it apparel, furnishings, or art pieces.

Elective

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4817 - MACHINE KNITTING

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall, Spring	Undergraduate

While learning about the technical possibilities of the manually operated knitting machine, students explore color, pattern, materials and structure. Finishing techniques, such as felting and dyeing are introduced. Through weekly assignments, students develop a sample library that serves as a resource for subsequent work. A final project involves planning and sampling for a final garment of the students own design, that is then executed at the end of the course. Consideration of the garment form, its proportion to the body, and the coherence of these elements are integrated into the course.

This course is a requirement for Sophomore Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Texti

Student Eligibility
Sophomore Textiles Students only.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4819 - FROM AN IDEA TO MEANING

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Through drawing and painting we will investigate different subject matter in the development of a personal vision and point of view to create meaningful and moving work. We will work from live models, still-lifes and objects, and explore the use of icons, symbols and images through experimentation with a wide range of media and processes including charcoal, pen and ink, acrylics, objects and collage. Beyond this, the main goal of the course is the development of a working process to strengthen conceptual and expressive abilities. This approach will allow students to communicate concerns with originality and creativity in ways that can later be applied to work in any discipline and medium.

Majors are pre-registered for this course by the department. This course is a requirement for Sophomore Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4820 - WOVEN STRUCTURE FOR PATTERN

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This elective course is intended for those whose main interest is pattern but who also want to acquire skills to apply this to woven structures. Using both handlooms and dobby looms, students will explore structural possibilities for building patterns in weaving. Material quality, color, and potential end use will be part of the criteria for analyzing work. Exercises in drafting -- both by hand and on the computer -- as a means of understanding woven structures in a three-dimensional way and generating new structures for patterns will be a strong part of this course.

Prerequisite: TEXT 4802 - WEAVING I

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing TEXT 4802 - WEAVING I.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4821 - JACQUARD FOR PATTERN

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This is an elective course for students who want to continue studying woven pattern. Using the NedGraphics software for pattern and Point Carre jacquard software for drafting woven structures, students will develop patterns through experimentation with material and color. The intended end use of the fabric will be a consideration throughout in the design decisions.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing all of the following course(s): TEXT 4820 - WOVEN STRUCTURE FOR PATTERN, TEXT 4826 - CAD IN TEXTILES.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4826 - CAD IN TEXTILES

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

Through demonstrations and practice in the department's computer lab, students learn to use NedGraphics software. Assignments help students to incorporate the tools and functions available in this professional software into their own ideas. By the end of the course students will have gained a readiness to integrate computer-aided methods into their design processes in other appropriate courses.

This course is a requirement for Sophomore Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
Sophomore Textiles Students only.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4828 - FINE ARTS TEXTILES

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

In this senior level course emphasis is placed on the development and definition of individual direction. Students' work can range from installations to two-dimensional pieces and can employ any techniques and materials, from weaving, printing, knitting, or any improvised construction techniques.

Estimated Cost of Materials: Varies based on use of advanced equipment. Additional fees may incur.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Senior Textiles Students only.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
6

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4830 - APPAREL FABRICS

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This senior level course is offered to those students interested in designing and making apparel fabrics and accessories. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of techniques including silkscreen and digital printing, weaving, knitting, sewing, and invented techniques, along with designing on paper for industrial and hand production. While students will initially develop their ideas through samples and drawings, they gain a thorough understanding of the relationship between fabric and the human form, and will eventually bring their work to final form as prototypes or finished designs on paper. Researching the field will generate topics for discussion in class.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Senior Textiles Students only.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
6

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4832 - KNITTED FABRICS

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall, Spring

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This course approaches the development of machine knit fabrics and forms as one process, where aspects of form are developed along-side fabric patterns and structures. Students learn advanced construction techniques and knit structure drafting and shaping, in order to further develop their design processes and ideas for knits. Emphasis is placed on experimentation, careful consideration of materials, and research. Ideas about color, pattern, texture, drape, concept and working large scale are explored. Fully-fashioned garments are the primary three-dimensional forms to which students apply their ideas. Throughout the semester, students bring their experience of garment building and shaping, their range of knitting skills and techniques, and their ability to express ideas in knitting to a higher level of resolution. Hand knitting, embellishment, dyeing, printing, finishing, felting and other processes are encouraged and can be integrated into the fabric design and construction.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing all of the following course(s): TEXT 4817 - MACHINE KNITTING, TEXT 4826 - CAD IN TEXTILES.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4834 - COMPUTING FABRICS

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

The course continues an established collaborative project between RISD and MIT, focused on the history of and recent advances in textile design and technology. Its goal is to introduce students from each institution to knowledge outside their primary field, and clarify the connections between them. RISD students participating in the class will bring their specific knowledge of woven and knitted fabrics and design fundamentals into group discussions and learn new skills in programming, physical computing and design of advanced fabrics. Participants will have opportunities to contribute to ongoing collaboration between the departments.

The course trajectory will progress along two lines of inquiry: computation and fabrics. Providing a perspective on the rich heritage of fibers and fabrics on the one hand and the emergence of digital logic, electronic systems, and the role of software on the other. We will explore and develop appreciation for the design and engineering degrees of freedom in fiber and fabric materials as well as in circuits and software. The course is a first of its kind, setting the stage for the future of fabrics as computational environments, new products and new business models.

Elective

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
3

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4840 - INTERIOR FABRICS

Offering Department(s)
Textiles

Terms Typically Offered
Fall

Academic Level
Undergraduate

This senior level course is offered to those interested in pursuing work for an interior end use, such as furnishing fabric, wall covering, or carpeting to be produced by hand or industrially. At the start, students select an architectural space as a framework. Through analysis and sampling, they will arrive at their own design solutions, which will be showcased as a collection at the end of the class. Researching the design field will generate topics for discussion in class. Techniques include surface pattern, printing, weaving and knitting, along with invented techniques.

Estimated Cost of Materials: Varies based on use of advanced equipment; additional fees may incur.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Senior Textiles Students only.

Min. Credits:
3

Max. Credits:
6

Weekly Contact Hours
5

Instructional Method
Studio

TEXT 4842 - INDUSTRIAL KNITTING

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall, Spring, Wintersession	Undergraduate

This advanced knitting course investigates the design and creation of knit fabrics using specialized software and a computerized, industrial knitting machine. Students deepen their understanding of a wide range of knit constructions, learn new structures, and experience a different method of creating knit fabric and forms through weekly sampling work and then a final project that is a collection of fabrics for interior or apparel applications, or art pieces. The intended end use will guide students' pattern and material studies. Students are introduced to the knitting industry and exciting examples of contemporary and historical knitting and encouraged to forge new paths in the medium.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Student has completed or is in process of completing all of the following course(s): TEXT 4826 - CAD IN TEXTILES, TEXT 4832 - KNITTED FABRICS.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4844 - FIBER FUTURES: SUSTAINABILITY

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Spring	Undergraduate

In this course you will learn about the material properties and design possibilities of fiber. We will explore how sustainable design practices are integral to the eventual end use of textiles, be it as yardage, fully fashioned garments, interior applications, structural use, or sculptural material. Via case studies from regional and international sustainable designers, we will investigate fibers. As a guidepost for our syllabus we will learn about the 17 sustainability goals articulated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. With our focus on the textile industry, this course will introduce the theory and practice of circular design, regenerative agriculture, TEK, biomaterials, and manufacturing processes with reduced environmental impacts. Lectures and readings will be enlivened with in-class experimentation, guest speakers, weekly design assignments, and a materials journal. Over the semester we will investigate opportunities and solutions for creating art with a more positive legacy for our planet.

Elective

Student Eligibility
Junior, Senior, or Graduate Students only.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	3	5	Studio

TEXT 4896 - TEXTILES SENIOR STUDIO

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall	Undergraduate

This is a required senior-level studio taken in the semester prior to the Degree Project. Emphasis is placed on the development and definition of individual projects within the chosen context—Fine Art or Design—with a rigorous focus on concept development. Students' work may range from installations to two-dimensional pieces and fabric collections, utilizing various techniques and materials, including weaving, printing, knitting, or other improvised construction methods.

Estimated Cost of Materials: varies by individual project.

Majors are pre-registered for this course by the department. Enrollment is limited to Senior Textiles Students.

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	6	5	Studio

TEXT 4898 - TEXTILE DEGREE PROJECT

Offering Department(s)	Terms Typically Offered	Academic Level
Textiles	Fall, Spring, Wintersession	Undergraduate

The student's project, designed in consultation with the faculty, can be in one of the textile areas or in combination with other disciplines at the school. The project, which will be evaluated by the faculty and visiting critics at the end of the semester, can entail a collection of designs or fine arts work representing the current conclusive state of student's work or an investigation of a new area. The level of concepts, skills, and commitment constitute a major part of the criteria in the evaluation of the work. Mid-year graduates should seek department permission to fulfill 9 credits in Fall and Wintersession.

Estimated Cost of Materials: Varies based on use of advanced equipment; additional fees may incur.

Majors are pre-registered for this course by the department. This course is a requirement for Senior Textiles Students.

Major Requirement | BFA Textiles

Student Eligibility
You require department permission to register in this course.

Min. Credits:	Max. Credits:	Weekly Contact Hours	Instructional Method
3	9	5	Studio