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Fashion Institute of Technology

The Fashion Institute of Technology (F.I.T.®) is where creativity gets down to business. A selective State University college of art and design, business and technology, FIT offers more than 40 programs of study leading to the Associate in Applied Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, and Master of Professional Studies degrees. FIT provides students with an unmatched combination of specialized curricula, an in-depth liberal arts education, affordable tuition, and an extraordinary location in the center of New York City, world capital of the arts, business, and media.

FIT and New York City

New York City is FIT's extended campus—a laboratory for learning and living—and its unparalleled cultural and commercial resources immeasurably enrich the college's programs and enhance each student's opportunity for personal and professional growth. The faculty is made up of New York City's professionals, who infuse a hands-on teaching approach with real-world expertise. Frequent visits by students to the city's numerous corporate headquarters, design studios, galleries, libraries, museums, retail establishments, and showrooms complement regular on-campus visits by fashion and other business leaders, who come to serve as guest critics, and to discuss the current trends and technological advancements emerging in the marketplace.

Teaching and Learning

FIT FACULTY

FIT's approach to teaching blends theory and practice, with a faculty drawn from academia, the arts, and business. Together, they offer a curriculum rich in insight gained from their continuing professional activity, combined with the traditional educational values of the liberal arts. Student-instructor interaction is encouraged, with a maximum class size of 25, and courses are structured to foster participation, independent thinking, and self-expression.

LIBERAL ARTS

FIT's approach to teaching and learning is founded on the belief that successful students need to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. Liberal arts courses are designed to broaden students' understanding of the humanities and to develop their knowledge of the natural and social sciences, in order to prepare them to succeed in a culturally diverse world. A required liberal arts curriculum comprises 40 percent of every program of study at the college.

The School of Liberal Arts' offerings include focused curricula—such as the Asia concentration—which allow students to gain specialized knowledge of a particular area, and a Bachelor of Science program in Visual Art Management. The school also administers the Presidential Scholars Program, FIT's honors program. Available to academically exceptional students in all disciplines, the Presidential Scholars Program offers challenging liberal arts courses, projects, colloquia, and extracurricular activities designed to broaden horizons and stimulate discourse.

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCILS

Each of FIT's degree programs is supported by an advisory group of professionals, drawn largely from the college's highly placed alumni. Group members consult with faculty to review and recommend curriculum revisions and innovations. They arrange for student field trips to professional workspaces, participate in student recruitment, and help students identify career possibilities. Advisory groups also plan seminars on technical subjects and the latest advancements in their fields, and work to maintain close ties between industry and the college.

IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

FIT makes extensive use of New York City's resources through industry-sponsored competitions, field trips, and sponsored projects—all of which bridge the gap between classroom and workplace. Students have designed window displays at Bed, Bath, and Beyond's Fifth Avenue location; had advertising campaigns implemented by state tourism agencies; been awarded financial recognition from companies such as Aeropostale, Johnson & Johnson, and Macy's; and had their designs implemented by firms such as Lancôme.

INTERNSHIPS AND CAREER PLACEMENT

Internships and job placement are an essential part of the FIT experience. The college's extensive internship program provides students with vital experience in a vast array of New York City businesses during their college years. Sponsor organizations have included American Eagle, Bloomingdale's, Calvin Klein, Estée Lauder, Fairchild Publications, MTV, and Saatchi & Saatchi. More than one-third of FIT internships lead to job offers by the sponsoring companies. FIT's Career Services Office, which maintains a placement rate of approximately 90 percent, offers lifetime services to all alumni, along with a full complement of career-building workshops and resources.

Campus and Facilities

FIT's campus occupies an entire block in the Chelsea area of Manhattan, a neighborhood filled with galleries, shops, cafes, restaurants, and theaters. The college's facilities provide students with the opportunity to learn in a stimulating environment, and be part of a vibrant, active community. The campus comprises numerous computer labs, athletic facilities, the Gladys Marcus Library, and the renowned Museum at FIT, which houses one of the world's most important collections of costumes and textiles. FIT's classroom and laboratory equipment reflects the most advanced educational and technical practices, enabling students to work on challenging projects in a realistic setting. A full-service dining facility and Barnes & Noble college bookstore are located on campus. The college maintains three residence halls on West 27th Street, and one on nearby West 31st Street.

FRED P. POMERANTZ ART AND DESIGN CENTER

The Pomerantz Center houses display and exhibit design rooms; drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture studios; a graphics laboratory; a model-making workshop; and the 280-seat Katie Murphy Amphitheatre.

Graphics Lab Print FX

Room D529, 212 217.3288

A professionally staffed graphics laboratory, Graphics Lab Print FX has high-resolution, large-format printers to accommodate banners, CAD prints, displays, fine art prints, overlays, photography, posters, presentation graphics, and textile proofs. The lab is also equipped with laminating, scanning, slide duplication, and wire-binding capabilities.

MARVIN FELDMAN CENTER AND THE BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS CENTER

The Marvin Feldman and Business and Liberal Arts centers house academic and specialized classrooms, cutting and sewing labs, design studios, a multimedia foreign languages lab, a professional screen print facility, technical labs, a toy design workshop, television studios, weaving labs, and the 775-seat Morris W. and Fannie B. Haft Auditorium. Specialized facilities include the Annette Green/Fragrance Foundation Studio, a professionally equipped fragrance development lab; and a fabrics and findings lab, which replicates the resources and techniques used by working fashion designers. Also located in these buildings are the academic and administrative offices for the School of Art and Design, the Jay and Patty Baker School of Business and Technology, and the School of Liberal Arts.

Peter G. Scotese Computer-Aided Design and Communications Center

Room C220, 212 217.7484

The facilities in this center allow art and design students to explore technology and its integration in the creation and design of advertising, animation, fashion, interiors, packaging, photography, textiles, and toys. Business and technology students use these labs for the study of marker-making, patternmaking, textile development, and more. Labs are also available for specialized coursework undertaken by students in specific programs.

Students have access to Mac and PC labs with specialized peripheral equipment, and software applications such as Adobe Creative Suite (consisting of Acrobat, GoLive, Illustrator, InDesign, and Photoshop). Internet access and web applications are supported by Macromedia Director, Macromedia Studio MX (consisting of Cold Fusion, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash, and Freehand), and Shockwave Studio. Proprietary software from such industry leaders as Gerber (Accumark) and Lectra (Modaris, Primavision, and U4ia) is used by Fabric Styling, Fashion Design, Menswear, and Textile/Surface Design students, in addition to Colour Matters, Karat Designer CAD, and NedGraphics Fashion Studio. 3D Studio Max, AutoCAD, Final Cut Pro, Form Z, Softimage, Vellum 3D, and others are used by students in Computer Animation and Interactive Media, Interior Design, and Toy Design. Open labs are available to support instruction on these systems and programs.

The Scotese Center is also available, through the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, to working professionals, for computer training and industry-specific workshops.

THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT FIT

The Conference Center at FIT is home to the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and the School of Graduate Studies' Center for Executive Education, and features conference and training rooms for industry seminars and workshops. The center also houses the John E. Reeves Great Hall, a nearly 6,400-square-foot venue for exhibitions, fashion shows, lectures, trade shows, and other large events.

SHIRLEY GOODMAN RESOURCE CENTER

The Shirley Goodman Resource Center, on Seventh Avenue, houses the Gladys Marcus Library, The Museum at FIT, and the School of Graduate Studies.

Gladys Marcus Library

212 217.5590

www.fitnyc.edu/library

Located on the fourth, fifth, and sixth floors of the Shirley Goodman Resource Center, the Gladys Marcus Library provides a collection of more than 300,000 print, non-print, and digital resources. The newspaper and periodical collection includes over 500 current subscriptions, with a specialization in international design and trade publications, and the Digital Library contains over 90 searchable databases hosted by FIT, the New York State Library, and SUNYConnect. Most of these databases are available remotely, via log-in, and available 24 hours a day. The library also offers specialized resources supporting the college's educational offerings, such as clipping files, fashion and trend forecasting services, runway show DVDs, and sketch collections.

The library's fourth floor contains the library instruction classroom, reference services, and Special Collections. The fifth floor serves as the principal book collection of the library, and also houses the George Levinson Multimedia Room, for viewing and listening to audiovisual materials. The sixth floor holds designer and fashion files, forecasting services, "look books," microfilm, and the newspaper and periodical collection. Mac and PC computer workstations, printers, scanners, and self-service copiers are located throughout the library.

Special Collections houses rare books and materials, including all titles in the library's collection that predate 1860, and selected titles dating from 1860 to the present, singled out for their aesthetic qualities, fragile condition, rarity, or value. Special Collections covers such subjects as architecture, art, decoration and ornament, dressmaking, fashion, interior decoration, regional costume, tailoring, textile design, the textile industry, and textile science. It also includes archives, original fashion sketches, photographs, portfolios of plates, and scrapbooks containing biographical material on designers and companies. Special Collections are available by appointment only.

Some highlights of Special Collections include:

- corporate and personal archives, including B.H. Wragge, Inc., David Dubinsky, *Esquire*, and an FIT historical collection;
- *Fashion for America!*, which includes reproductions of 4,500 original fashion sketches, representing more than 50 designers and houses;
- periodicals such as *Gazette du Bon Ton* (1912-25), *Harper's Bazaar* (1867-1939), *Les Idées Nouvelles de la Mode* (1922-32), and *Vogue* (1916-39);
- sketches by/from Bergdorf Goodman, Berley Studio, Cardinal Fashion Studios, Davidow, Lady Duff-Gordon (known as Lucile, c.1908-19), the Frances Neady Fashion Illustrations Collection, Sophie Gimbel, Bill and Hazel Haire, Joseph Love, Inc., Muriel King (c.1932-45, including costumes designed for Katharine Hepburn, Ginger Rogers, and Margaret Sullavan), Harriet Meserole, Max Meyer, Frederick Milton, Florence Schatken, and Whittingham and Humphreys (1888-1914);
- W.P.A. scrapbooks of picture sources.

The Museum at FIT

212 217.5800

www.fitnyc.edu/museum

The Museum at FIT, New York City's only museum of fashion, has one of the world's largest and most important collections of clothing, textiles, and accessories, which it conserves for study and exhibition. Founded in 1967 to support the educational programs of the college, the museum is dedicated to the collection, conservation, documentation, exhibition, and interpretation of fashion. A fully equipped conservation laboratory assures specialized care and preservation of museum holdings, as well as innovative methods of presentation. A photography studio provides documentation of the collection and maintains selective archives of fashion photography.

The museum's permanent collection encompasses some 50,000 garments and accessories, dating from the 18th century to the present, with particular strength in contemporary women's fashion. Major designers such as Adrian, Balenciaga, Chanel, Dior, Halston, and Charles James are represented. The collection also includes 30,000 textiles, dating from the fifth century to the present, as well as 300,000 indexed textile swatches and 1,300 sample books. The collections are used in hundreds of classes and tours every year, and are regularly visited by designers and scholars. One of the museum's three galleries, the Fashion and Textile History Gallery, is the only venue in the United States to offer a permanent (rotating) display of 250 years of fashion, drawn from the museum's permanent collections.

The museum is renowned for its exhibitions, which are free to the public and attract tens of thousands of visitors annually. Recent exhibitions of distinction include:

- *Dutch at the Edge of Design: Fashion and Textiles from The Netherlands*, showcasing the work of prominent contemporary Dutch artists and designers;
- *London Fashion*, which received the first Richard Martin Award for Excellence in the Exhibition of Costume from the Costume Society of America;
- *Love & War: The Weaponized Woman*, examining the influence of armor, lingerie, and military uniforms on women's fashion;
- *Ralph Rucci: The Art of Weightlessness*, celebrating the work of renowned couturier and FIT alumnus Ralph Rucci;
- *She's Like a Rainbow: Colors in Fashion*, exploring the history, psychology, science, and symbolism of color in fashion.

The museum's Gallery FIT is dedicated to student and faculty exhibitions.

The Museum at FIT also organizes an annual fashion symposium, as well as lectures and gallery tours.

School of Graduate Studies

212 217.5714

www.fitnyc.edu/gradstudies

FIT offers six graduate programs. The Master of Arts degree programs are Art Market: Principles and Practices; Exhibition Design; Fashion and Textile Studies: History, Theory, Museum Practice; and Illustration. The Master of Professional Studies degree programs are Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing and Management, and Global Fashion Management. The School of Graduate Studies also administers the Center for Executive Education, which offers advanced management seminars and programs for senior executives in manufacturing, marketing, and retailing. The administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, laboratories, study collections, and research room for the graduate programs are housed on the third, fourth, and sixth floors of the Goodman Center.

DAVID DUBINSKY STUDENT CENTER

Throughout the eight-story Dubinsky Center are arts and crafts studios, a comprehensive health center, a counseling center, a dance studio, a design/research lighting lab (with more than 400 commercially available lighting fixtures), a game room, lounges, an outdoor sitting area, the Style Shop (the student-run boutique on the first floor), student government and club offices, a student radio station, two gyms, and a weight room. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the full range of services and activities offered by Student Life, located on the seventh floor. Also in the center are the Counseling Center, Disability Support Services/FIT-ABLE, Educational Opportunity Programs, Financial Aid, International Student Advisors, and Internship Center offices; a 17,000-square-foot street-level student cafeteria, featuring a variety of food stations and a wide range of menu options; and an 8,000-square-foot Barnes & Noble at FIT bookstore.

Alumni of FIT

FIT graduates continue to be active participants in the college's educational objectives in a variety of ways, including taking part in alumni advisory groups and the FIT Alumni Association. Every FIT alumnus is welcome to become a member of the Alumni Association, which works closely with the college and The Educational Foundation for the Fashion Industries to stimulate interest among professional leaders, assist with curriculum development, and contribute annually to the library, scholarship, and student housing funds.

Distinguished FIT alumni include:

- Leslie Blodgett, president and CEO, Bare Escentuals Beauty, Inc.;
- Fran Boller, apparel director, Nike's Jordan Division;
- Tony Chi, president and CEO, Tony Chi & Associates;
- Francisco Costa, creative director, Calvin Klein Collection for Women, Calvin Klein, Inc.;
- William Frake, motion picture animator and three-time Emmy award winner;
- Nina Garcia, fashion director, *ELLE* magazine;
- Joy Herfel, president, Polo Ralph Lauren Brands;
- Norma Kamali, president and fashion designer, Norma Kamali;
- Calvin Klein, founder, Calvin Klein, Inc.;
- Nanette Lepore, fashion designer, Nanette Lepore;
- Chris Casson Madden, founder and CEO, Chris Madden, Inc.;
- Raymond Matts, vice president of product development, The Estée Lauder Companies;
- Edward Menicheschi, vice president and publisher, *Vanity Fair* magazine;
- Juliet Polcsa, costume designer for film and television (*The Sopranos*);
- James Rothwell, vice president and creative director, McCann Erickson;
- Suzanne Tick, textile designer, Suzanne Tick, Inc.;
- Billy Tucci, founder and writer/illustrator, Crusade Fine Arts, Ltd.;
- Robert Verdi, host, Style Network's *Fashion Police*;
- Dave Voss, vice president of design, boys entertainment, and new business, Mattel, Inc.

History and Mission

As FIT defines its future educational goals, it continues to reflect its original mission. The college was founded in 1944 to prepare men and women for work in the fashion industry as it grew in size and scope. FIT now offers its students 43 degree programs not only in fashion and its related fields, but also in other creative professions that have made New York City their focal point. Students who come to the college to study these specialized programs are goal-oriented, setting their sights high in their chosen fields of study. Today, there are more than 10,000 U.S. and international students enrolled in FIT's diverse curricula, attending classes day and evening, all year round, online and at locations on campus, in New York City, throughout the country, and around the world.

FIT is unique in its history and educational offerings. Just seven years after its founding, FIT became one of the first community colleges empowered under the program of the State University of New York to grant the Associate in Applied Science degree. As the curricula expanded beyond fashion and its more broadly defined industries to include business, communications, and design, the college's degree offerings also expanded. In 1975, an amendment to the education law of New York State was approved permitting the college to confer Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Four years later, another amendment was approved authorizing the granting of master's degrees, and the first master's programs were introduced in 1985.

FIT is a public institution, receiving its principal financial support from the State and City of New York. The college is governed by its own Board of Trustees, all of whom are active professionals who are committed to the development of talent. Local sponsorship comes from the New York City Department of Education in cooperation with The Educational Foundation for the Fashion Industries. FIT is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (www.msche.org), the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (<http://nasad.arts-accredit.org>), and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (www.accredit-id.org).

FIT MISSION

The Fashion Institute of Technology prepares students for professional excellence in design, fashion, and business by providing a premier educational experience that fosters creativity, career focus, and a global perspective.

To fulfill its mission, FIT:

- develops students' aesthetic, intellectual, analytical, and technological abilities through programs that integrate theory and practice;
- offers students a rigorous and innovative curriculum taught by a faculty with outstanding academic and industry experience;
- is committed to a broad-based education in the liberal arts;
- exposes students to their chosen professions through internships, guest lectures, industry-sponsored projects, and other opportunities for experiential learning;
- promotes student growth and self-development through student support services, programs, and activities;
- provides students with a multifaceted educational experience incorporating the vast resources of New York City;
- is an urban institution of the State University of New York, providing an education of exceptional quality and affordability.

FIT is committed to prohibiting discrimination in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws (including but not limited to race, national origin, gender, age, and disability) and to providing equal opportunity in educational programs.