

SENIOR THESIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP



OVERVIEW

The senior thesis project in the Textiles & Fashion Design (TFD) program in the School of Human Ecology (SoHE) at UW-Madison is the culmination of a student's aesthetic, beliefs, and values as a designer and often serves as the highlight of their portfolio. As many design-related industries require students to submit a portfolio of their work for consideration for employment, a student's portfolio should look as professional as possible. In order to achieve this, students often invest a great deal of time, money and effort into their senior thesis project in order to further develop their professional portfolio.

Designing and producing a collection can be quite expensive, and students are required to develop a significant body of pieces for their senior thesis project in TFD. For those on a tight budget, coming up with enough cash to purchase materials can be particularly difficult financially. Given each student's unique financial situation, this may prevent students from developing a collection that represents their full potential.

The goal of this scholarship program is to provide equitable opportunities for individual students majoring in TFD to apply for funding to help support the development of a senior thesis collection they are proud to display to potential employers as part of their career development.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to apply, students must:

- Be currently enrolled in the Textiles & Fashion Design undergraduate major in the School of Human Ecology
- Be completing their final semester at UW-Madison vs. FIT, since students at FIT are not required to do a senior thesis

- Be in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Not have been awarded a Senior Thesis Professional Development Scholarship previously
- Agree to showcase their collection in the Fall TFD Showcase if graduating in December or at the Design and Fashion Event in April (either on runway or in the reception area gallery)
- Agree to develop an e-portfolio, web site, or other digital display of their collection that may be shared with prospective and current students, employers, alumni and other key stakeholders

APPLICATION

Students may apply for up to \$500 to support the costs of developing their Thesis and may be fully funded, partially funded or denied based on quality of application and available funds. Applications must include the following:

- A thesis proposal outlining what you are planning to make and why you want to do this particular work, including a timeline to completion
- A visual representation of your thesis to help the committee understand what you want to do, including sketches, illustrations, mood boards and statements, finished pieces of previous work, samples, etc. via a PDF of 6-8 images
- A statement about how the scholarship will help advance your career development/professional goals
- A budget of estimated expenses to develop your collection, including all costs associated with fabric, materials, finishes, etc. needed to complete your project
- A list of any additional financial support that you may or will be receiving to help alleviate the costs of supplies, along with specific amounts
- A statement of financial need, if applicable

PROCESS

Complete the **online application** by October 15 for Fall, February 15 for Spring

Money will be directly applied to student's tuition account

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A committee of SoHE staff will review within 2 weeks

Award decisions will be made and communicated to students

Scholarship amounts will be sent to the Bursar's Office