

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEXTILES AND APPAREL AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Textiles and Apparel in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The Bachelor of Arts in Textiles and Apparel (TAPP) was developed as an industry-responsive program providing a generalist foundation in the textiles industry, including marketing, design, advertising, product development, sourcing and buying.

Reason for proposed termination. Due to declining student enrollment and faculty retirements, the continuation of the program is not sustainable. At this time, resources must be allocated towards programs with more evidence of growth.

Effect on current students. All students who are actively enrolled at UNI in TAPP have completed all required major coursework, except for three who are completing their internships. It is anticipated that these students will finish their internship requirements by December 2024. Any prior student who has stopped out and wishes to return will receive one-on-one advising and will be provided with a pathway to complete the degree through course substitutions.

The TAPP minor will be revised in the current curricular cycle to focus on product development in order to continue supporting the Interior Design major as well as others.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends.

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
2023	4	14	5
2022	17	26	9
2021	13	30	7
2020	12	37	44
2019	21	41	13

Impact on resources. Due to recent faculty retirements, two to three full time faculty would need to be hired to continue to the program and provide the curriculum. Part-time adjunct faculty with the necessary expertise are extremely difficult to find in the region, especially for a residential, in-person program. With declining student enrollment in the TAPP major, these faculty resources can instead be invested in programs with more evidence of growth.

Impact on workforce. Iowa State University's major in Apparel, Merchandising and Design appears sufficient to meet workforce needs within the state of Iowa.

Alternative programs. While the program is structured significantly differently, Iowa State University offers a major in Apparel, Merchandising and Design.

Effective date of termination. December 2024.