



The Textile and Apparel Programs Accreditation Commission (TAPAC) assures that accredited baccalaureate programs in textile, apparel, and related areas provide the highest quality educational experiences to prepare students for professional careers in the industry. Established standards, based on research, best practices, and qualitative indicators of performance, enable program effectiveness and efficiency to meet desired student learning outcomes. TAPAC accreditation standards are applicable to all baccalaureate textile, apparel, and related area programs, regardless of program size, scope, or specialization. The rigorous self-evaluation and independent, objective peer appraisal of programs emphasize quality assurance and commitment to continuous quality enhancement.

### **Mission, Purpose & Vision**

The **Mission of TAPAC** is to provide quality assessment and quality enhancement of collegiate programs in textiles and apparel and related areas. The **Purpose of TAPAC** is to serve as the accrediting body for collegiate programs in textiles and apparel and related areas. The Commission establishes standards for the recognition of programs. It reviews program characteristics and performance against these established standards. The **Vision of TAPAC** is to ensure outstanding college education that advances excellence in the textile and apparel profession.

### **Accreditation**

- **Ensures Academic Quality.** TAPAC standards have been developed to ensure academic quality of baccalaureate degree programs. Standards underscore the importance of high quality teaching, research and creative scholarship, service, and outreach, to support students as they advance academically, professionally, and personally.
- **Provides Accountability.** TAPAC standards include educational outcomes that serve as evaluative measures for programs seeking accreditation. These standards also can be used for assessing, planning, and enhancing existing programs desiring accreditation.
- **Encourages Continued Improvement.** TAPAC accredited programs further benefit from continual reflective self-assessment, as well as program improvements suggested through the accreditation process. Annual updates encourage continued improvement and enhancement of student success.

### **Advantages of Accreditation**

- **Enhances Program Prominence.** TAPAC accreditation provides a competitive advantage for programs seeking to recruit outstanding students and distinguished faculty. Accreditation further assists in program growth and enhancement, provides program's recognition among their stakeholders both on and off campus, and assures employers that graduates possess skills and knowledge that meet or exceed nationally accepted standards of quality.
- **Encourages Continuous Planning and Improvement.** The TAPAC accreditation process provides opportunities for development of cutting edge programs, which prepares students to be leaders in the global textile and apparel industries. Through continuous program improvement, TAPAC accredited programs are encouraged to identify and accommodate changes through restructuring of curricular offerings to meet the needs of industry and academia.
- **Ensures Engagement with Industry and Academic Partners.** Through TAPAC accreditation, programs are provided opportunities to communicate the importance of the textile and apparel discipline to institutional leadership and other stakeholders. TAPAC supports open dialogue regarding the value and needs of textile and apparel programs, as well as fostering of partnerships and collaborations with both industry partners and other academic programs.