

idea corner

Graduate Students and Extension Team-Up

Both graduate students and Extension clothing programs benefit from consolidating their interests and abilities within the Department of Textiles and Clothing at The Ohio State University.

For instance, a survey of clothing assistance for Ohio's physically limited people alerted clothing specialists to program needs and helped give direction to a statewide conference on programming for the physically impaired or individuals working with them. Special groups can benefit from a newsletter such as clothing for pregnant women or a publication on starting a custom sewing business in the home.

Audio-visual aids play an important role in Extension programs. Student projects have produced slide and cassette tape programs on Investment Dressing, Pattern Fabric Relationships, and an honors project on Clothing Recommendations During Weight Loss. These materials are used throughout Ohio in Cooperative Extension Service textiles and clothing programs.

The quality of student work is evident in that many materials are borrowed by other states and, in some instances, purchased by them. Students experience the satisfaction of working on a project that has immediate use and value to others. They earn academic credit, yet provide a unique service to Ohio residents. Also, the experience gained has potential for transfer to many career opportunities. Extension has discovered the value of working with students to the benefit of both groups. As a result, programs are offered that meet the needs of many special audiences.

The cooperative efforts introduce students to Extension as a career, exposing them to Extension's philosophy and its many activities. Recruitment efforts have been an important side effect . . . several former students who participated in the joint program are now employed by Extension.

Also, textiles and clothing undergraduate majors through the Work-Study Program earn while helping clothing specialists prepare teaching aids, construction technique samples, visual displays and materials, and routine activities associated with Extension programs. In addition, students provide a valuable service to Extension.

Joyce Smith
Extension Specialist, Clothing
The Ohio State University—Columbus