

PACKAGING SCIENCE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR EMPLOYERS

The curriculum prepares individuals for employment within a broad occupational cluster of the packaging industry. Individuals may work in the supplier, service and packaging end user levels of multiple packaging industry segments. These industry segments include but are not limited to food, beverage, cosmetics, consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, electronics, industrial items, and automotives/motorcycles. Packaging design and development parameters taught include product protection, regulatory compliance, customer utility, manufacturing feasibility, economics, marketing needs, sustainability and environmental impact. Students gain a comprehensive core background and achieve areas of specialization through the selection of minors. The list of minors includes, but is not limited to: management, marketing, printing, business, foreign language, and various engineering fields. Students prepare for positions with titles such as packaging engineer, packaging scientist, packaging associate, packaging designer, packaging specialist, and packaging developer.

Degree(s) Awarded

Bachelor of Science. Two Master of Science programs are also offered: a traditional program; a time-compressed Executive Leader program for industry professionals.

Enrollment

Approximately 200 undergraduates, 50 graduate students. Graduating class approximately 45-55 students.

Cooperative Education Component

Two quarters of co-op are required of undergraduates. Additional quarters are encouraged. Students are eligible after their 2nd year and completion of the core packaging classes.

Salary Information (Avg/Range)

Co-op:	\$18.00	\$10.50 - \$27.00
BS/MS:	\$52,000	\$41,000 - \$76,000

Equipment & Facilities

The extensive facilities include a state-of-the-art packaging dynamics lab, modern computer lab, packaging attribute assessment lab, and the American Packaging Corporation Packaging Innovation Center. Students learn to perform packaging evaluations and report results.

Student Skills & Capabilities

- The program emphasizes the application of fundamental concepts, theory, innovation, critical thinking, creative thinking, and communication in practical problem. Studies in packaging science include examining the procedures for developing new, improved packages; testing the physical and chemical properties of materials; and learning structural design by making and testing sample containers in the department's advanced testing facility. Students also learn the industry's legal aspects, as well as economic, energy and environmental considerations in packaging development and production.
- In conjunction with their packaging science education, students complete course sequences in chemistry, physics, mathematics, and liberal arts. Students receive a broad general education as well as expertise in packaging science.
- The Master of Science degree is comprised of 3 components: packaging core courses, thesis research or project, and elective credit. The curriculum is flexible enough to meet the needs of professionals who have been in the field for a number of years, and is suitable for those students who wish to pursue a graduate program immediately upon receiving a BS degree. There is also an Executive Leader Master's program for professionals who have been in the packaging field for at least five years. This program involves extensive online courses and some on campus lab related coursework during the summer.

Packaging Science

Course Sequence BS degree

First and Second Years:

Principles of Packaging
Packaging Materials I & II
Career Seminar
Rigid Containers
Flexible Containers
Engineering Design Graphics
Computer Applications

(Above core of Packaging courses must be completed prior to co-op)

Third and Fourth Years:

Packaging Production Systems
Packaging for Distribution
Packaging for Marketing
Shock and Vibration
Packaging Regulations
Principles of Printing
Technical Communication
Professional Electives [3]
Packaging Management
Packaging Economics
Packaging and the Environment
Packaging Process Control
Medical Products Packaging
Food Preservation and Packaging
Export Packaging

Additional coursework:

College Physics
Inorganic and Organic Chemistry
Polymer Chemistry
Algebra

Calculus
Statistics
Macro and Micro Economics
Effective Speaking

Minor: Students will be able to take minors in a wide variety of areas to enhance their programs.

Employers of Packaging Science Co-op and Graduating Students:

American Packaging Corp., Becton Dickinson, Bath & Body Works, BIC, Boston Scientific, Bristol Myers Squibb, Burger King Corporation, Cadbury Schweppes, Colgate-Palmolive, Corning Life Sciences, Coty Inc, Crayola, Diamond Packaging, EISAI Inc., Eastman Kodak Company, Equity Packaging, Estee Lauder, Elizabeth Arden, Fisher Price, General Electric Co., Gillette, GlaxoSmithKline, Harris RF Communications, Heinz North America, Hammer Packaging, Hasbro, Hub Folding Box Co., IBM, International Paper, Johnson & Johnson, Kellogg Company, Kraft Foods, LiDestri Foods Inc., L'Oreal, Mattel Inc., MeadWestvaco, McCormick & Company, McNeil Consumer Products, Merck, Nice-Pak Products Inc., Nova Chemicals, Ocean Spray Cranberries, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Packaging Corporation of America, Pepsi-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Reckitt Benckiser, Rich Products, Rock-Tenn, Sanofi Pasteur, SC Johnson & Son, Sun Products Corporation, Sealed Air, Syngenta, Teleflex Incorporated, The Clorox Company, The Maco Bag Corporation, Toyota, UCB Pharmaceuticals, Unilever, Wrigley, Wyeth, Xerox

Contact Us:

We appreciate your interest in hiring RIT co-op, graduating students or alumni. We will make every effort to make your recruiting endeavor a success. Call our office and ask to speak with Shauna Newcomb, the program coordinator who works with the Packaging Science program. For your convenience, you can access information and services through our web site at <http://www.rit.edu/recruit>.

Shauna H. Newcomb

Program Coordinator

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