AMM 2500 — Fashion Retail Buying Reflection

      I intend to apply my studies to start my own apparel business someday; therefore, my performance in this course has demonstrated my dedication to learning about the various sectors of the apparel industry as much as possible. At the beginning of the class, I set a personal goal to learn the main learning objectives; yet, I conclude this course proudly knowing more than what I set out to do. I've learned the organizational structures and the strategic roles of the buying department that construct a fashion retail business. I have identified the factors that influence profitability, and I've learned how to increase profits by managing them strategically and accordingly. I've also learned how to gauge the performance of a retail business based on inventory performance and how to develop a financial budget that meets or exceeds sales goals by comprehensive planning.

      I enjoyed solving math problems for various retail concepts such as markdowns, markups, cost, and retail prices. I then made sure to review my results so that I better understand the association of each figure. Even though I had no assumption of the retail process, this course has allowed me to analyze these components from a business's point-of-view. It has taught me the significance of each duty a retail business must closely manage to generate profits and keep the organization in operation. This course also helped to bridge the gaps with what I've learned in many other classes, such as intro to retail, apparel production, and agribusiness accounting. I now have a better distinction between the different sectors in the apparel industry and a better understanding of how each department performs and works together to reach the same end goals.

      Many of the course concepts were not very challenging for me to learn; however, the change to virtual instruction did bring its own set of challenges that made it difficult to keep up

with material from all of my courses this semester. With my rigorous school schedule, I had to create a routine for myself and set multiple reminders to stay on top of due dates. Specifically, with this course, it took me a while to adapt to virtual instruction because I was more familiar and confident doing math problems traditionally by hand. During the middle of the semester is when I made the transition from doing notes and homework by hand to completing them in Microsoft Excel. This decision drastically improved my workflow in the course as I spent less time setting up each problem and more time solving problems.

With others in my home working remotely, I also invested in creating a comfortable workspace in my room to minimize distractions and ensure I was as comfortable as possible to work on the computer for several hours almost every day. Having to buy essential items such as a desktop computer, desk, and office chair was another challenge I faced due to the costly investment, yet, it was worth it considering my type of workload each semester. On a positive note, I did cut my hour and a half commute to campus, so it did allow me to save on gas and experience less burnout. Overall, this course has demonstrated my determination and ability to adapt to change to overcome challenges and reach the goals I set for myself. I was able to learn more than I had initially anticipated. I leave the course with a confident understanding of each course learning objective and how to use excel to solve problems. I'm excited to apply what I have learned in this course in the real world.