Jill Dumain attended the University of California at Davis and majored in Textiles and Clothing. The studies at Davis included textile science, marketing and production courses. Upon graduation, she began working in the Fabric Laboratory at Patagonia testing and analyzing the technical fabrics in the line. Two years later, she moved into Fabric Development to work on the development of Patagonia's natural fiber fabrics.

This is the position that led into the environmental emphasis of her job especially the organic cotton project which she has continued to lead since 1994. From 1997-2003, she held the position Director of Fabric Development overseeing all material development for the company. She was promoted to Director of Environmental Analysis in 2003 and helped lead the development of the Common Threads Garment Recycling Program and The Footprint Chronicles website.

Jill was elected as Chair of the Board of the Organic Exchange in September 2006 and continues this post. Throughout her tenure at Patagonia, she has traveled extensively through Asia, Europe and the United States visiting fabric manufacturers and interfacing with other companies committed to environmental responsibility.