



# Careers in manufacturing: textiles, clothing and footwear

## Fashion and textile design

**Fashion and textile designers plan, design, develop and document product data for manufacture, and prepare designs and specifications of products for mass, batch or one-off production.**

Fashion and textile design occupations within the textiles, clothing and footwear sector include:

- Fashion designer
- Textile designer
- Leather goods designer.

### Fashion designer

Fashion designers develop new styles and products for clothing, apparel and accessories by creating original designs and sometimes cutting and machining sample garments based on these designs.

Fashion designers may:

- illustrate their concepts by developing storyboard and specification drawings
- use computers to manipulate and develop patterns and modify designs
- research and develop fabrics and accessories for production of garments
- make patterns, or work closely with patternmakers, to draft patterns from sketches or specification drawings
- select fabric, colour and trim and undertake cutting and machining of sample garments

- fit samples and discuss these with management, sales and manufacturing staff, and contribute to costing estimates
- finalise specification sheets with detailed sketches and trim details
- approve final samples before they go into production
- supervise staff
- liaise with production staff during mass production of garments and participate in quality control
- travel overseas and/or constantly monitor the industry to gain information on current fashion trends
- control merchandising and retailing of garments.

### Relevant qualifications:

- Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Certificate IV in Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology

### Textile designer

Textile designers produce designs for printed, woven or knitted textiles. Textile designers work within and alongside industries, such as fashion, automotive, interior design and technical textiles.

Textile designers may:

- design and produce original woven, knitted or printed fabrics
- design fashion fabrics for clothing
- design fabrics for homewares (chairs, carpets, bed linen and tableware)
- design surface patterns for laminates, wallpaper, plastics, tiles, toys and packaging
- use computer-aided design (CAD) systems
- make drawings of initial concepts and work with various yarns and fabrics
- make decisions about colour, structure, surface pattern, weight and yarn composition
- translate designs into marketable fabrics
- inspect pre-production for colour and quality and approve these or instruct changes to be made
- prepare the despatch of design specifications for production-end use
- liaise with clients, sales staff, buyers and production team while working to deadlines
- research and gather information about the target market.

### **Relevant qualifications:**

- Certificate IV in Textile Design and Development
- Diploma of Textile Design and Development
- Advanced Diploma of Textile Design and Development

## **Leather goods designer**

Leather goods designers develop new styles and products for the leather goods production industry. This could include handbags and other luggage items, belts, clothing, saddles and saddlery.

Leather goods designers may:

- illustrate their concepts by developing storyboards and specification drawings
- use computers to manipulate and develop patterns and modify designs
- research new textiles to compliment leather goods production
- select and grade leather, hide or skins
- make patterns, or work closely with patternmakers, to draft patterns from sketches or specification drawings
- fit samples and discuss them with management, sales and manufacturing staff, and contribute to costing estimates
- finalise specification sheets with detailed sketches and trim details
- approve final samples before they go into production
- supervise staff
- liaise with production staff during mass production of leather goods and participate in quality control
- travel overseas and/or constantly monitor the industry to gain information on current product trends
- control merchandising and retailing of leather goods.

### **Relevant qualifications:**

- Certificate IV in Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology

*This information sheet has been produced with assistance from the Australian Government.*

