▸ TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

PATTERN MAKER (TEXTILES AND GARMENTS)

ALSO KNOWN AS: TEXTILE PATTERN DESIGNER | GARMENT PATTERN DEVELOPER | FASHION PATTERN MAKER | CLOTHING PATTERN DRAFTER

WEAVE CREATIVITY WITH PRECISION.

Pattern Makers are the unsung heroes of the fashion world. They transform 2D sketches into 3D wearable art, crafting the blueprints that bring designers' visions to life.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a pattern maker (textiles and garments) include:

- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Precision
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Spatial awareness
- ✓ Technical drawing and interpretation

VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a pattern maker (textiles and garments) include:

- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Patience
- ✓ Adaptable
- ✓ Collaborative
- ✓ Perfectionism
- ✓ Realistic – "Do-er"

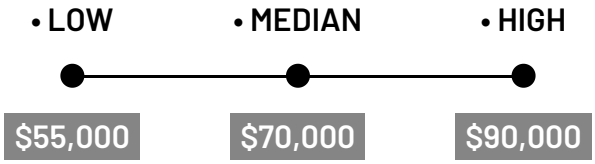
CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Fashion Designer
- Business Manager
- Production Planner
- Jewellery Maker

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Pattern Maker (Textiles and Garments) can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

▸ Textiles, Clothing and Footwear

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Visual Arts
- Visual Arts in Practice

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Design
- Fashion

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JOB OVERVIEW

Pattern Makers play a crucial role in the textile and garment industry, bridging the gap between design concepts and manufacturing reality. They are responsible for creating precise, scalable patterns that serve as templates for mass production of clothing and textile items. Their work is fundamental to ensuring that garments fit well, are producible, and align with the original design intent.

Using a combination of traditional skills and modern technology, Pattern Makers work with a variety of materials and must have an in-depth understanding of fabric properties, construction techniques, and body measurements. They often use computer-aided design (CAD) software to draft and modify patterns, but many still rely on manual pattern-making skills for intricate designs or custom work.

In a typical day, a Pattern Maker might consult with designers to understand their vision, create or modify patterns based on design specifications, produce sample garments for fitting sessions, and make necessary adjustments to ensure proper fit and style. They also play a key role in optimising patterns for cost-effective production, considering factors like fabric usage and manufacturing processes.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In this role, you will:

1. Create and modify patterns based on designer sketches and specifications
2. Develop size gradations for patterns to accommodate different body types
3. Produce and fit sample garments to assess pattern accuracy
4. Use CAD software to digitise and manipulate patterns
5. Collaborate with designers, tailors, and production teams to refine designs

HOW TO BECOME A PATTERN MAKER (TEXTILES AND GARMENTS)

Becoming a Pattern Maker typically requires a combination of education and hands-on experience. While formal qualifications are not always mandatory to start, they can provide a solid foundation and increase job prospects. There are direct entry, vocational education and training and university pathways to become a pattern maker. Here are steps to become a Pattern Maker:

1. Complete a vocational course or diploma in fashion design or pattern making
2. Gain practical experience through internships or entry-level positions in the fashion industry
3. Develop proficiency in pattern-making software and CAD programs
4. Build a portfolio showcasing your pattern-making skills and completed projects
5. Consider specialising in a particular area of fashion (e.g., lingerie, sportswear, or haute couture)

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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Vocational education and training provide a practical pathway to becoming a Pattern Maker. These programs offer hands-on experience and industry-relevant skills. Here are some qualifications that can help you start or advance your career in pattern making:

- Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles (MST20722)
- Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles (MST31022)
- Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology (MST40122)

For those looking to grow into leadership roles or deepen their expertise:

- Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles (MST50122)
- Advanced Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles (MST60122)
- Certificate IV in Small Business Management (BSB40120)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

While not always required, university education can provide a deeper understanding of fashion design principles and advanced pattern-making techniques. A bachelor's degree in Fashion Design or Textile Technology can be beneficial for career advancement and may be preferred by some high-end fashion houses or larger manufacturers.

University programs typically cover a broader range of topics including fashion history, trend forecasting, and business aspects of the fashion industry. They also often provide opportunities for internships and industry connections. Skills gained through these programs include advanced pattern construction, fashion illustration, garment technology, and fashion business management.

Pathways to university education may include:

- Completing a vocational diploma and using it as a credit towards a bachelor's degree
- Directly entering a bachelor's program after high school with a portfolio

Pursuing a postgraduate degree in fashion design or pattern making after gaining industry experience

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