

My Career in Garment Technology



With a *Certificate in Garment Technology 1 & 2*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Sewing machinist
- Fashion design assistant
- Pattern cutter
- Pattern grader
- Seamstress

NB: Although the job titles may vary, some of the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined.

Careers in Garment Technology

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

Career Overview

In this industry you are required to support designers by helping them create new materials, styles, colors and patterns for fashion brands and labels. You may have to create pattern templates based on drawings from a fashion designer. Depending on your role you may be required to scale patterns up or down to create clothes in many different sizes. You can work for yourself and create made-to-measure clothing such as dresses, skirts, trousers and blouses for the customer.

Typical Duties:

- Produce clear and detailed technical sketches.
- Communicate technical and creative ideas to designers.
- Source fabrics and trimmings.
- Make sure samples are made on time.
- Interpret Designers' sketches.
- Making a pattern to form the basis of a garment
- Work closely with the design team to make up sample garments from a pattern.
- Discuss the client's requirements.
- Show the client fabric samples and pattern books
- Give advice on which combination of fabrics and patterns may give the best results.
- Take measurements.
- Adapt an existing pattern, or produce a new pattern for the client
- Work out the cost of the work, taking into account the fabric, trimmings and time needed.
- Tack the fabric pieces together for a fitting.
- Fit the garment and make adjustments to create a perfect fit.

Work Environment

You will usually work 37 to 40-hr weeks in a studio or workshop, or if you work from home, you will be able to choose your own hours based on work load. If in a factory setting you will normally work as a team and factory conditions can be noisy.

Qualifications and Licenses

Basic secondary school qualifications such as English and Mathematics are necessary, along with a relevant Certificate, such as a Certificate in Garment Technology 1 & 2 from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Ability to work well in a team
- ❖ Ability to work efficiently and keep calm under pressure
- ❖ Communication skills and the ability to follow instructions
- ❖ Creative flair and an eye for pattern, detail, shape, proportion and colour
- ❖ Ability to meet tight deadlines
- ❖ Good understanding of garment construction and costing
- ❖ Good negotiation skills for working with customers and suppliers
- ❖ Good concentration levels
- ❖ Able to take accurate measurements and make calculations

References

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/fashiondesignassistant.aspx>

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<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/patterncutter.aspx>

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<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/patterngrader.aspx>

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<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/sewingmachinist.aspx>

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