

My Career in Textile Production Design



With a *Certificate in Textile Production Design*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Textile Operative
- Textile Dye Technician
- Textile Designer
- Textile Designer (Digital Print)

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 Textile Production Design

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

Career Overview

To work in the production process that turns raw fibers into yarns and fabrics. Work on the coloring of textiles and apply finishing treatments. Designers conceive and create the fabrics used in fashion and interiors, which are then incorporated into products.

Typical Duties:

- Create fabric designs and patterns for woven, knitted and printed materials.
- Draw ideas by hand or use computer programmes.
- Transfer digital images to the surface of a fabric or soft furnishing product.
- Decide which chemical dye formula would create the right colour.
- Work out the right dyeing method and temperature for the fabric.
- Make up a sample dye and check to make sure it produces the right results.
- Recommend any special finishes or treatments to be applied after the dyeing process
- Prepare fibres, making sure they are combed, cleaned and twisted into yarns called 'slivers'
- Spin fibres, using machines to draw and twist the slivers, and wind them onto bobbins or cones

Typical Duties cont'd:

- Produce fabric, which involves weaving, knitting or looping threads together dyeing and finishing, which includes printing
- Treat fabrics to give a particular appearance or quality, such as stain or crease resistance.

Work Environment

Some textile design can involve the use of machinery or tools that require skill and careful handling, such as certain sharp-edged pattern cutters or screen-printing materials. Most of your time will be spent standing while operating machines in the production area.

You will usually work 37 to 40 hour 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

On the job training by senior staff is usually provided. Basic secondary school qualifications such as English and Mathematics are good additions though not essential, along with a relevant Certificate, such as a Certificate in Textile Product Design from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Ability to work well alone or as part of a team
- ❖ Ability to work efficiently and keep calm under pressure and meet tight deadlines
- ❖ Communication skills and the ability to follow instructions
- ❖ Creative flair and an eye for pattern, detail, shape, proportion and colour
- ❖ Good understanding of garment construction and costing
- ❖ Good concentration levels
- ❖ Good colour vision to match shades
- ❖ Have a commercial understanding for what will sell
- ❖ Good IT skills.
- ❖ Ability to concentrate for long periods on repetitive tasks
- ❖ Methodical approach to work
- ❖ Clear understanding of health and safety

References

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/textileoperative.aspx> Retrieved February 2016

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