

Fashion Designers

SOC: 27-1022 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$80,690

Median Salary

25,700

Employment

+2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Artistic ability, Communication skills, Computer skills, Creativity, Decision-making skills, Detail oriented

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Fashion Designers create clothing, accessories, and footwear **by combining artistic vision with practical design and production techniques**. They develop new styles, select fabrics, and oversee the production of collections. Their work is critical in fashion houses, retail, media, and apparel manufacturing.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy creativity, trend analysis, and bringing artistic ideas to life in wearable designs.

What Do Fashion Designers Do?

Fashion designers conceptualize, design, and produce garments and accessories.

Common responsibilities include:

- Researching fashion trends and consumer preferences
- Sketching designs and creating prototypes
- Selecting fabrics, colors, and materials
- Overseeing production and quality of clothing and accessories
- Collaborating with manufacturers, merchandisers, and marketing teams
- Adjusting designs based on feedback or market demands
- Preparing technical specifications and design documentation

Key Areas of Fashion Design

Designers may specialize in specific areas:

- Apparel Design: Creating clothing for men, women, or children
- Accessory and Footwear Design: Developing shoes, bags, and jewelry
- Textile Design: Designing patterns and materials
- Fashion Illustration and Prototyping: Bringing designs to life visually and physically
- Trend Analysis and Merchandising: Aligning collections with market preferences

Skills and Abilities Needed

Fashion designers combine creativity with technical and business skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and experience:

- Bachelor's Degree: Fashion design, apparel design, or related fields
- Internships or Apprenticeships: Hands-on experience in design studios or fashion houses
- Portfolio Development: Showcasing design skills and projects
- Continuing Education: Keeping up with fashion trends, materials, and design software

Where Do Fashion Designers Work?

They are employed across industries that create, market, and sell apparel and accessories:

- Fashion Houses and Design Studios
- Retail and E-commerce Companies
- Media and Entertainment Industry
- Textile and Apparel Manufacturing Companies
- Freelance or Consulting Work

Work environments may include studios, offices, manufacturing facilities, or showrooms.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires creativity, attention to detail, and adaptability. Designers must balance artistic vision with practicality, deadlines, client expectations, and market trends.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy fashion, design, and creative expression
- Have strong visualization and artistic skills
- Are detail-oriented and innovative
- Can work under deadlines and adapt to trends
- Want a career that blends creativity with business and production

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in art, design, and textiles
- Practice sketching, sewing, and pattern making
- Explore internships or part-time work in fashion studios
- Build a strong portfolio of designs
- Stay informed on fashion trends, fabrics, and technology

Fashion designers turn ideas into wearable art, creating clothing and accessories that reflect style, culture, and innovation.

Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/arts-and-design/fashion-designers.htm>