

Fashion Design

2025 DIPLOMA PROGRAM CURRICULUM

NEXT START: September 29, 2025

PROGRAM LENGTH: 1 Year (36 Weeks)

Introduction to Fashion Design

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the fashion industry's structure, from concept development to final production. Students will examine the business side of fashion, gaining insight into how consumer demand, purchasing power, and market segmentation—shaped by factors such as demographics, psychographics, and income—impact design decisions. The course also introduces various career paths within the industry and encourages students to begin identifying their unique design strengths and target markets. Additionally, students will study iconic fashion leaders of the 19th and 20th centuries, analyzing their contributions and lasting influence on the industry.

Collaborative Design Workshop

Within the framework of the design process you will learn essential ideation, design, and workplace skills. The complex problems you'll face in the workforce will require you to think critically and creatively, communicate your ideas effectively, and apply your specialized skills in a collaborative environment. Whether you're working on a largescale building development, making a documentary, contributing to an online magazine, or taking a new fashion line to market, the success of the project will rely on your ability to understand the design process and use essential workplace skills.

Design Fundamentals

In this course, students will explore the fundamental elements and principles of design, including balance, line, shape, and color theory. Through hands-on learning, they will apply these concepts to develop original fashion designs and begin creating their final collections. Emphasis will be placed on the full garment development process—from concept and inspiration to draping, patternmaking, cutting, and sewing. Students will also advance their technical skills by working with increasingly complex silhouettes, ultimately producing a final, well-executed garment that reflects their personal design vision.

History of Fashion

The design of fashion is deeply connected to and influenced by cultural, sociological, economic, political, and historical time periods. The first 7 weeks of this course is a broad overview of historical eras from ancient times through the Victorian era. The course focuses on the types of garments worn in a variety of specific time periods and the social and economic reasons that lead to the development of assorted styles. Homework will consist of weekly sketches in your sketchbook profiling the era covered in weekly class. The last 5 weeks will focus on Sustainable Eco Fashion. Students will develop a conceptual design of a garment using unconventional & reclaimed materials.

Fashion Flats

In this course, students will explore the fundamental elements and principles of design, including balance, line, shape, and color theory. Through hands-on learning, they will apply these concepts to develop original fashion designs and begin creating their final collections. Emphasis will be placed on the full garment development process—from concept and inspiration to draping, patternmaking, cutting, and sewing. Students will also advance their technical skills by working with increasingly complex silhouettes, ultimately producing a final, well-executed garment that reflects their personal design vision.

Fashion Awareness

Students will expand their understanding of fashion through fashion history and business practices of the fashion industry. They will immerse themselves in pop culture of the 20th century decade by decade, analyzing and becoming inspired by artistic movements and fashion icons, as well as social and economic developments to better help them identify their own unique aesthetics as designers.

Textiles

This course provides an overview of the textile industry and will cover the identification, properties and use of fibres and fabrics for apparel products. Weaving, dyeing, and printing processes will be explored through course assignments. Performance, care and labelling laws will also be covered.

Garment Construction I

This course introduces the various fashion industry techniques used in professional garment sewing. Students will learn to use an industrial sewing machine and serger while gaining experience with a variety of common seams and construction techniques.

Garment Construction II

Building upon the skills acquired in the previous Garment Construction course, students will be introduced to fashion industry techniques used in professional garment sewing and better develop their skills with more complex methods.

Garment Construction III

This course builds upon the foundational skills acquired in previous Garment Construction courses. In this course, students will focus on building their final collections for the year-end showcase where they will debut 5-8 full looks.

Pattern Drafting I

Students will learn the basic principles of pattern development through patternmaking exercises and assignments. Students will learn to draping patterns using standard measurements and how to manipulate those patterns to achieve a desired design.

Pattern Drafting II

Students will continue to explore pattern drafting skills as a continuation of FD112. Expanding on a repertoire of the basic block set (skirt front/back, Bodice front/back and sleeve,) the shaping and lengthening of pre-existing patterns into pants, shirts and dresses will be approached. Here the focus will be on manipulation of pre-drafted blocks.

Pattern Drafting III

Students will continue to explore pattern drafting skills as a continuation of Pattern Drafting II. Expanding on a repertoire of the previous semester, the shaping and lengthening of preexisting patterns with a focus on dresses and tailoring methods will be approached. Here the focus will be on pattern manipulation on their own individual designs to create their final collections.

Draping I

Students will learn the principles of draping through exercises and assignments and establish solid foundations of draping skills with a focus on body contouring and fitting. In addition to creating final garments. Students will draft patterns and adjust patterns to achieve desired design and fit.

Draping II

Students will continue to develop the principles of draping through exercises and assignments and broaden their foundation draping skills with a focus on body contouring and fitting. Students will design, drape, cut and sew at least two garments for their final collection.

Fashion Illustration I

Students will explore the fundamentals of fashion illustration: basic drawing skills, the Fashion Croquis and manipulating its proportions, demonstrating how garments move on the figure, fabric sketching techniques, and maintaining a sketchbook.

Fashion Illustration II

During Fashion Illustration 2, students will expand and refine their repertoire of rendering the textures needed to communicate different types of fabric and accessories. They will continue to explore different media and sources of inspiration and develop their own unique visual communication styles. Portfolios will be designed with a view to displaying student's work to its best advantage and establishing a brand identity.

Fashion Illustration III

Students will illustrate their own designs to place in their portfolios. Emphasis will be placed on designing for clients and custom work. We will have prompts each class to encourage quick and clear designs. We will be focusing on the importance of seams, correct volume, and proportions. Rendering faces will be continued, and we will build upon the process of digitizing artwork for use in design portfolios.

Business of Fashion

This course introduces students to business practices within the fashion industry. In Business of Design I, students will become familiar with the production cycle from design concept to final sale. Students will learn about the global fashion economy, study consumer behaviour, and analyze market trends to understand the contemporary fashion industry. They will also be introduced to a range of business models in the fashion industry.

Fashion Photography

This course is an introduction to basic photography where students will learn about different camera features as well as concepts of exposure, composition and perspective. Focus will be placed on camera functions and operation as well as understanding how they can use photography to enhance other aspects of their fashion design work.

Line Development

Students will continue to develop their fashion collection through research and storyboards. Students will look deeper into understanding their target customer, technical details and building a strong concept for their line as well as correct and make appropriate changes to work originally completed. Students will present their final collection presentations and receive feedback as to its viability in the current fashion marketplace.