
A Day in the Life of a Fashion Designer

At a glance, the life of a **fashion designer** may seem glamorous. After all, he or she is surrounded by beauty all the time. From the development of the sketches to the models wearing the garments on the runway, fashion design is an exciting job, but it can also be demanding as well.

The one thing that is true about the **field of fashion design** is that most designers must pay their dues to be successful. This may mean waking up very early in the morning. Some designers begin their day as early as 4 a.m., and the day may not end at 5:00 p.m. as many jobs do, but most designers are so passionate about fashion that this is hardly perceived as a negative aspect of the job.

Fashion designers may be called to perform many different duties depending upon for whom they are working. Being a fashion designer is not just sitting around sketching ideas all day, but it is at least part of the job. The designer will spend time creating and visualizing an idea. Some designers still sketch these ideas by hand while others use a **computer design program** to assist them.

Inspiration needs to come from somewhere; many designers will research market and **fashion trends** to make sure their collections are timely. This includes analyzing the latest trends in fabrics, colors, and shapes. The designer also needs to know what is out there to prevent inadvertently copycatting pieces by other designers.

Another part of the daily job of a fashion designer may include visiting manufacturers to pick out the best fabrics for the collection. This may include searching through countless bolts of fabric to find the perfect color and texture. Once the fabrics are found and purchased, the designer will need to cut and sew prototypes.

Fashion designers who work for **larger firms** are often required to work with others in the office, so **communication skills are essential**. This can include employees in sales, marketing, and manufacturing professionals who will want to know the



production costs of pieces of the collection. The designer will also have to work with buyers and forecasters when developing new fashions.

Specification sheets may be another daily chore for a fashion designer. These help simplify the manufacturing of the piece and ensures that the finished pieces are executed correctly. A basic specification sheet may include a front and back sketch, a description, sample size, photo shoot size, fabric swatches (and information about the fiber content), lining and trimming information, the delivery date, size range, and style number of a piece.

Some designers will be required to go on location to fit the models with pieces from a collection. The fashion designer has to have all the tools that help make the garments perfect. Some items may need to be steamed to remove wrinkles, additional fitting may be required, and all the outfits and accessories need to be organized. It would be a good idea to bring along a seamstress for those last minute alterations.

A few fashion designers will be lucky enough to travel to meet with others in the field. This could include meetings with fabric manufacturers and attending trade shows and runway shows to see the latest trends and collections.

Each day, a fashion designer may need to put many of his or her skills into play including **design knowledge, creativity, fabric and textile understanding, artistic ability, and communication skills**. The job may often be challenging, but **a day in the life of a fashion designer** is rarely boring.

Source: <http://www.design-training.com/fashion-design/a/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-fashion-designer.html>

Vocabulary

garments (noun)

articles of clothing

demanding (adjective)

difficult

may be called to (expression)

required to; expected to

sketches (noun)

quick or unfinished drawings

trends (noun)

directions of change; popular with young people

fabrics (noun)

materials used to make clothes

on location (prepositional phrase)

out of the office and into the field

seamstress (noun)

a person who sews clothes

Questions

Question 1

Why may the life of a fashion designer seem glamorous to those on the outside?

Question 2

How do you know fashion designers don't work regular hours? Give two reasons.

Question 3

What do fashion designers use to help them make sketches?

Question 4

What three trends do fashion designers analyze?

Question 5

Why do fashion designers visit manufacturers?

Question 6

Who do fashion designers communicate with? Name 5.

Question 7

What nine elements need to be on a basic specification sheet?

Question 8

Why should fashion designers take tools along when they go on location?

Answers

Answer 1

He or she is surrounded by beauty all the time.

Answer 2

1. Some designers begin their day as early as 4 a.m.
2. The day may not end at 5 p.m., as many jobs do.

Answer 3

They use a computer design program.

Answer 4

1. fabrics
2. colours
3. shapes

Answer 5

They visit manufacturers to pick out the best fabrics for the collection.

Answer 6

1. sales employees
2. marketing employees
3. manufacturing professionals
4. buyers
5. forecasters

Answer 7

1. a front and back sketch
2. a description
3. sample size
4. photo shoot size
5. fabric swatches/fiber content
6. lining and trimming information
7. delivery date

- 8. size range;
- 9. style number

Answer 8

They are needed for making the garment perfect.