



# Fashion and Interior Design Industry Sector

The Fashion and Interior Design industry sector is a multibillion-dollar enterprise offering a wide variety of careers. Highly sophisticated, it involves market research, brand licensing and intellectual property rights, design, materials engineering, product manufacturing, marketing, and distribution. According to the California Fashion Association, a particularly high demand exists for preproduction jobs involving computerized pattern making and product data management for larger companies. Contributing to the growth in the fashion industry's gross sales is a global focus on the Los Angeles lifestyle involving, for example, apparel, textiles, home furnishings, and furniture; the growing use of international sourcing; and the development of new technologies. And in the interior design industry, employment has been projected to grow by 12 percent through 2012 as demand rises for the interior design of private homes, offices, restaurants, facilities that care for the elderly, and a variety of retail establishments.

This industry sector includes two interrelated pathways—(1) Fashion Design, Manufacturing, and Merchandising; and (2) Interior Design, Furnishings, and Maintenance. Each pathway consists of a coherent sequence of courses that begins with a foundation course, continues through one or more concentration courses, and concludes with a capstone course. Secondary-level instruction in high schools and regional occupational centers and programs is articulated with postsecondary educational programs in private training schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

## Fashion and Interior Design Industry Sector Pathways:

- *Fashion Design, Manufacturing, and Merchandising*
- *Interior Design, Furnishings, and Maintenance*

### Entry Level Careers

*(with high school diploma)*

Sales Associates  
Assistant Store Manager  
Showroom Assistant  
Cutter  
Design Assistant  
Sales Representative  
Trade Intern  
Set Decorator  
Floral Designers  
Merchandise Displayers  
Window Trimmers  
Pattern Designer  
Fashion Coordinator

### Technical Level Careers

*(with AA or AS degree or certificate)*

Fashion Illustrator  
Visual Merchandiser  
Fashion Buyer  
Stylist  
CAD Specialist  
Facility and Space Planner  
Assistant Designer  
Costume Designer  
Textile Designer  
Drapery/Upholstery Estimator

### Professional Level Careers

*(with BS or BA degree)*

Fashion Designer  
Fashion Journalist  
Fashion Forecaster  
Fashion Merchandise Manager  
Interior Designer  
Ergonomic Consultant  
Preservationist  
Lighting Specialist



## Fashion Design, Manufacturing, and Merchandising Pathway

Sample CTE Courses\*

Education Level and Related Occupations\*\*

Introductory	Concentration	Capstone	High School Diploma	Certification and/or AA Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Home Economics Careers &amp; Technology Comprehensive Core I</li> <li>▪ Home Economics Careers &amp; Technology Comprehensive Core II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fashion, Textiles, and Apparel</li> <li>▪ Apparel Design and Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Careers in Fashion Design, Manufacturing, and Merchandising</li> <li>▪ Fashion Merchandising</li> <li>▪ Apparel Manufacturing and Production</li> <li>▪ Fashion History and Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sales Associate</li> <li>▪ Assistant Store Manager</li> <li>▪ Customer Service Provider</li> <li>▪ Showroom Assistant</li> <li>▪ Cutter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fashion Illustrator</li> <li>▪ Visual Merchandiser</li> <li>▪ Fashion Buyer</li> <li>▪ Stylist</li> <li>▪ Sales Representative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fashion Designer</li> <li>▪ Fashion Journalist</li> <li>▪ Fashion Forecaster</li> <li>▪ Fashion Merchandise Manager</li> <li>▪ Operational Manager</li> </ul>

## Interior Design, Furnishings, and Maintenance Pathway

Sample CTE Courses\*

Education Level and Related Occupations\*\*

Introductory	Concentration	Capstone	High School Diploma	Certification and/or AA Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Home Economics Careers &amp; Technology Comprehensive Core I</li> <li>▪ Home Economics Careers &amp; Technology Comprehensive Core II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental Design</li> <li>▪ Housing and Interior Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Careers in Interior Design, Furnishings, and Maintenance</li> <li>▪ Interior Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retail Sales Associate</li> <li>▪ Design Assistant</li> <li>▪ Sales Representative</li> <li>▪ Trade Intern (various occupations)</li> <li>▪ Set Decorator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Visual Merchandiser</li> <li>▪ CAD Specialist</li> <li>▪ Facility and Space Planner</li> <li>▪ Assistant Designer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interior Designer</li> <li>▪ Ergonomic Consultant</li> <li>▪ Preservationist</li> <li>▪ Lighting Specialist+</li> <li>▪ Certified Kitchen or Bath Specialist+</li> </ul>

\*Sample CTE Courses are from the Career Technical Education Framework for California Public Schools (California Department of Education: 2007, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/>)

\*\*Visit ASSIST ([www2.assist.org/browseAreas.do](http://www2.assist.org/browseAreas.do)) for community college and UC/CSU information and California Career Zone ([www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org)) for occupation information.

+This occupation requires certification or licensure.

Related Career Technical Student Organization: FBLA (<http://www.cafbla.org>), DECA (<http://www.cadeca.org>), and SkillsUSA (<http://www.skillsusaca.com>)

Additional Industry Sector information available through the Los Angeles Mission College Tech Prep Distribution Points Project (<http://www.lamission.edu/techprep/projects.aspx>).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN

# FASHION AND INTERIOR DESIGN INDUSTRY SECTOR

## 10 TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAREER FOR YOU

*How does a person know what career to work toward?  
There is no perfect answer, but the following 10 tips will  
get you off to a good start.*

- 1 Get to know yourself** – Complete more than one self-assessment test.
- 2 Identify your strengths and weaknesses** – What do you do well and what do you not do well?
- 3 Develop an inventory of careers** – Write down some careers that might interest you.
- 4 Research different careers** – Talk to others and use the Internet.
- 5 Write the pros and cons** – List positives and negatives about the careers that interest you.
- 6 Network** – Discuss your ideas with others.
- 7 Talk with people who work in your area of interest** – Family and friends are great resources.
- 8 Find a mentor** – Find someone with whom you can discuss your career selection.
- 9 Experiment** – Take a related class or part-time job.
- 10 Don't give up** – "If there is a will, there is a way."



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This material is made pursuant to agreement number CN088139 A.2 of the California Tech Prep Distribution Point Grant. Funds were administered by the Secondary, Postsecondary, Adult Leadership Division of the California Department of Education in collaboration with the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

Activity that is the subject of this document was supported in whole or part by the U.S. Department of Education. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education should be inferred.

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Who will be the new internationally famous designer? Could it be you? Someone will be creating unique fashion statements and styles that appeal to millions of fashion-conscious shoppers.

The Fashion and Interior Design Industry Sector is a multibillion-dollar enterprise offering a wide variety of careers. Don't think just in terms of the creative art portion of the industry: manufacturing, marketing, and distribution are related areas necessary for a designer to be successful. A particularly high demand exists for preproduction jobs involving computerized pattern-making and product data management.

Employment in the fashion industry is expected to grow at a high pace. Interior designers will also be in demand to accommodate a growing population's need for residential and commercial space. Technology is a significant and growing component in the design industry too. Self-motivation and confidence as well as creativity are traits that lead to success in this sector.

Web sites  
for further information:

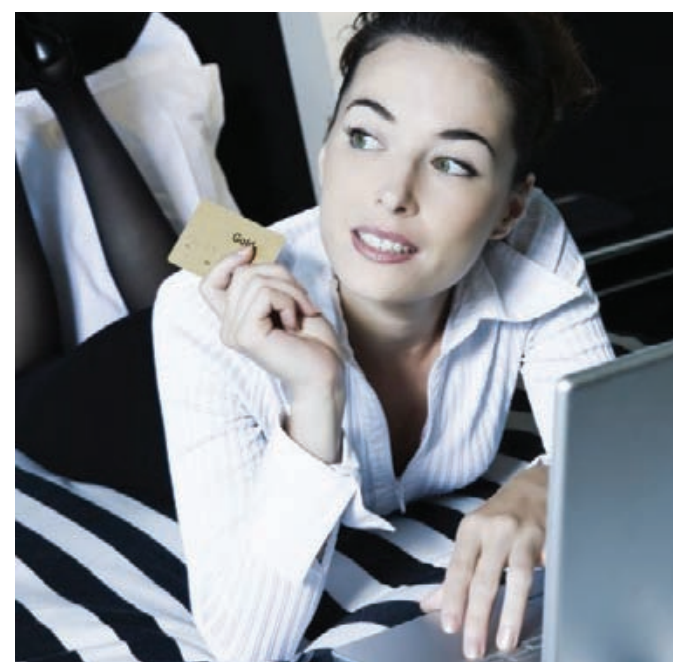
[www.californiacareers.info](http://www.californiacareers.info)

[www.whodouwant2be.com](http://www.whodouwant2be.com)

[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)

[www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs\\_and\\_Training/](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/)

## Career Pathways

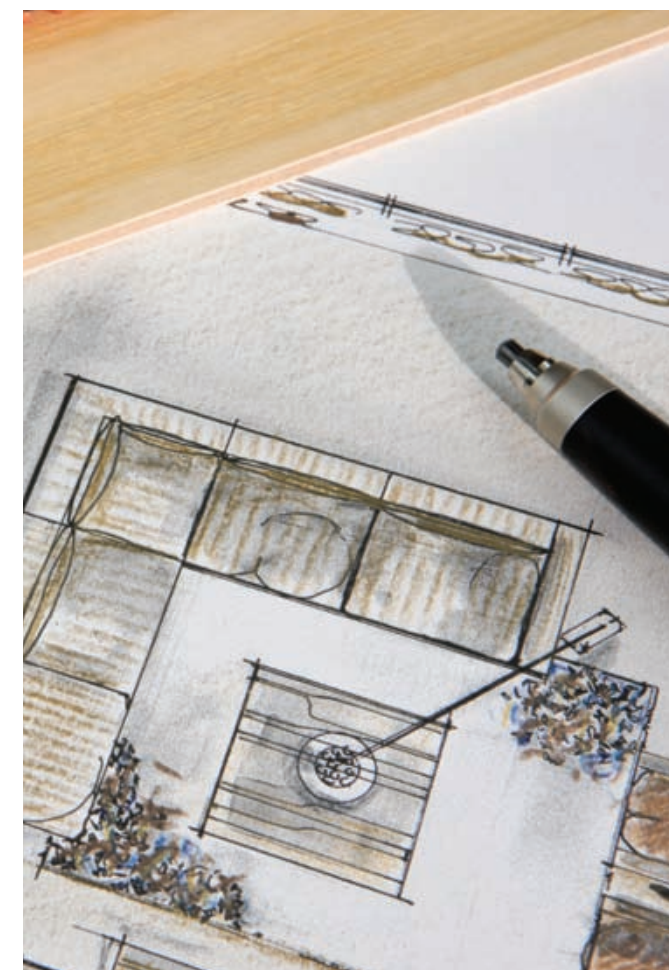


### Fashion Design, Manufacturing, and Merchandising Pathway

The Fashion Design, Manufacturing, and Merchandising Pathway can lead to careers from clothing designer to professional shopper. Few careers offer the opportunities, creativity, and versatility of the fashion world. From small entrepreneur to large manufacturer, rewarding jobs in fashion exist in most communities. Students in this pathway will gain in-depth knowledge of the fashion industry, including fashion history, textiles and textile production, apparel merchandising, and garment construction.

#### CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- Fashion Designer
- Pattern Maker
- Fashion Illustrator/Photographer
- Visual Merchandiser
- Fashion Buyer
- Sales Associate
- Fashion Advisor
- Seamstress/Alteration
- Showroom Assistant
- Stylist

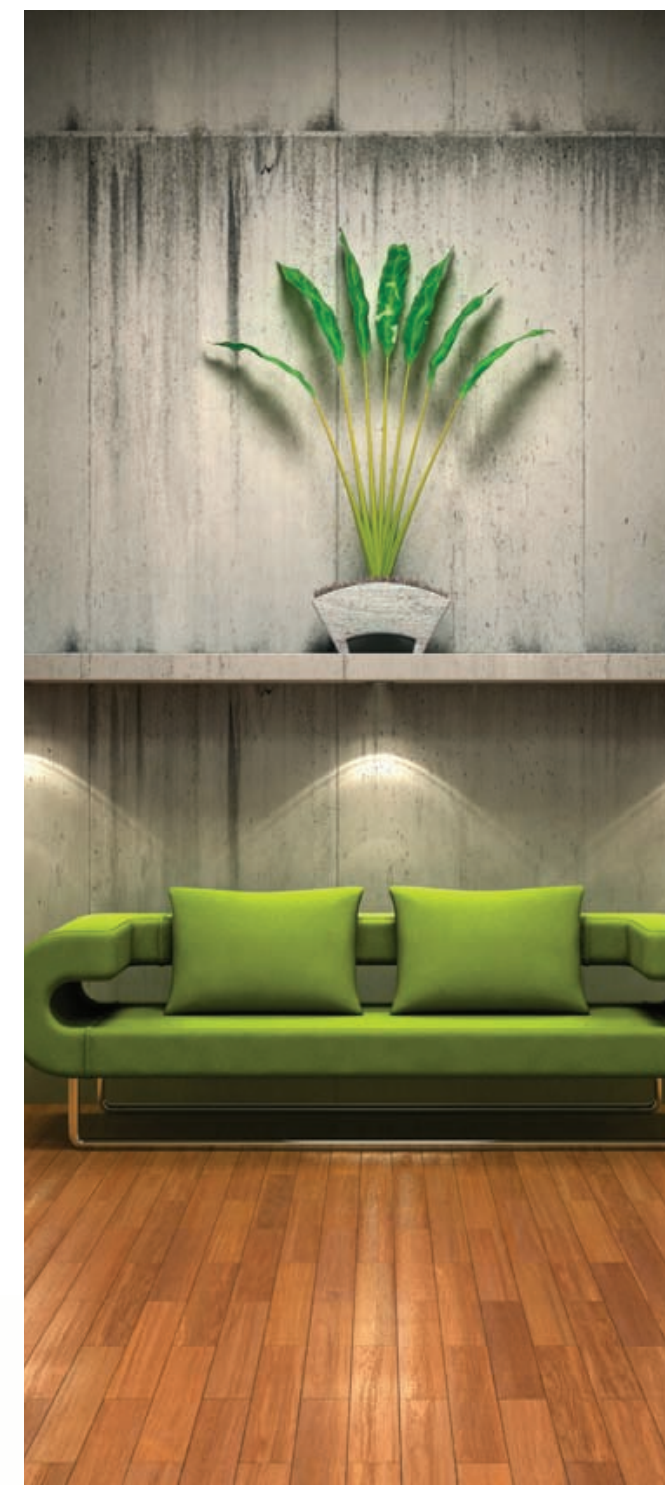


### Interior Design, Furnishings, and Maintenance Pathway

From corporate America to individual homeowners, professionals are in demand to help create or enhance living and working environments. Students' preparation for careers in this rapidly-growing field includes learning the elements of design and decorating, furniture designs from historical periods, space planning, and computer-assisted design.

#### CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- Interior Designer
- Visual Merchandiser
- Design Assistant
- Set Decorator
- Preservationist
- Facility and Space Planner
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) Specialist
- Photo Stylist
- Ergonomic Consultant
- Kitchen, Bath, Window, Lighting, Wall or Floor Covering Specialist





# FASHION AND INTERIOR DESIGN

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The information below is just a small sample of the many great employment related resources available on the State of California website [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov). We encourage you to visit the website and explore the available information.

Occupation Title	Employment Levels in 2006	Projected Employment level 2016	Projected Job Growth	Percent of Job Growth	2008 Hourly <sup>1</sup> Mean Wage	2008 <sup>2</sup> Weekly Mean Wage	2008 <sup>3</sup> Monthly Mean Wage	2008 Annual Mean Wage
Advertising Sales Agents	21,000	25,300	4,300	20.5%	\$27.70	\$1,108.00	\$4,653.60	\$55,843.20
Art Directors	16,000	18,300	2,300	14.4%	\$49.62	\$1,984.80	\$8,336.16	\$100,033.92
Commercial & Industrial Designers	5,900	6,600	700	11.9%	\$36.46	\$1,458.40	\$6,125.28	\$73,503.36
Craft Artists	N/A				\$18.67	\$746.80	\$3,136.56	\$37,638.72
Customer Service Representatives	201,200	256,800	55,600	27.6%	\$17.26	\$690.40	\$2,899.68	\$34,796.16
Cutters & Trimmers	6,200	6,100	-100	-1.6%	\$10.71	\$428.40	\$1,799.28	\$21,591.36
Fabric & Apparel Patternmakers	2,300	2,000	-300	-13.0%	\$23.55	\$942.00	\$3,956.40	\$47,476.80
Fashion Designers	4,600	5,300	700	15.2%	\$36.64	\$1,465.60	\$6,155.52	\$73,866.24
Fashion Editors	14,100	15,600	1,500	10.6%	\$28.04	\$1,121.60	\$4,710.72	\$56,528.64
Graphic Designers	36,700	41,800	5,100	13.9%	\$25.99	\$1,039.60	\$4,366.32	\$52,395.84
Interior Designers	6,900	8,200	1,300	18.8%	\$28.55	\$1,142.00	\$4,796.40	\$57,556.80
Jewelers & Precious Stone Workers	5,700	5,800	100	1.8%	\$12.67		\$2,128.56	\$25,542.72
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	11,300	13,500	2,200	19.5%	\$14.43	\$577.20	\$2,424.24	\$29,090.88
Models	N/A				\$13.04	\$521.60	\$2,190.72	\$26,288.64
Painting, Coating & Decorating Workers	2,300	2,400	100	4.4%	\$11.91	\$476.40	\$2,000.88	\$24,010.56
Photographers	13,800	15,900	2,100	15.2%	\$22.69	\$907.60	\$3,811.92	\$45,743.04
Retail Sales Supervisors	188,900	210,600	21,700	11.5%	\$19.74	\$789.60	\$3,316.32	\$39,795.84
Retail Salespersons	494,500	603,800	109,300	22.1%	\$12.43	\$497.20	\$2,088.24	\$25,058.88
Set & Exhibit Designers	2,300	2,700	400	17.4%	\$30.34	\$1,213.60	\$5,097.12	\$61,165.44
Tailors, Dressmakers, & Custom Sewers	6,400	7,100	700	10.9%	\$13.51	\$540.40	\$2,269.68	\$27,236.16
Textile & Apparel Workers	1,800	1,500	-300	-16.7%	\$11.12	\$444.80	\$1,868.16	\$22,417.92
Wholesale & Retail Buyers	21,300	22,000	700	3.3%	\$26.59	\$1,063.60	\$4,467.12	\$53,605.44

These selected occupations with information on job growth, percent growth and earning potentials are based on information found at [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

<sup>1</sup> **Mean:** Midpoint between highest & lowest

<sup>2</sup> **Weekly:** Based on 40 hours

<sup>3</sup> **Monthly:** Based on 168 hours





# TIPS FOR JOB SEEKERS

*How can you improve your chances of getting a job? Applying for a job is the easy part, but getting it can be more of a challenge. Following these five tips can help you reach your goal:*

## 1 The Job

- Determine your interests: talk to others and consider your hobbies and talents
- Search “career assessments” on the Internet

## 2 The Resume

- Should be easy to read: not too long, too wordy or too cluttered
- Make it powerful
- Show you can cooperate, you can learn, and you can do

## 3 The Application

- Make it neat, complete and accurate
- Include recommendations from teachers, employers, coaches, friends, etc.

## 4 The Interview

- Show enthusiasm: it separates the winners from the losers
- Dress appropriately/similar to those on the job

## 5 The Follow-up

- Send a thank you note
- Call to see if a decision has been made
- If not, ask, “Am I still a candidate?”
- If you are, ask, “Is it okay if I call back in a couple of days?”



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This material is made pursuant to agreement number 07-0170a of the CTE Community Collaborative Supplemental grant. Funds were administered by the Governor's CTE Initiative SB70/SB 1133 through the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

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