



Job Situation

Design studio in textiles plant. Computer workstation. Teamwork and alone. Reporting to Head Designer. Regular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$3,800

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

Duties

Collaborate with design team. Consult with clients. Research market trends. Prepare sketches or illustrations. Prepare specifications for design. Produce design, or supervise production.

Prospects

Management positions. Self employment.

Job Title

Graphic Design Technician

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

5241

Job Description

Graphics technicians working in textiles have an opportunity, rare in industrial design, to display their creative talents. Fabrics used in clothing and furniture are noticed and admired by almost everyone that uses them. You could see your design walking down the street!

Industrial design is an intensely collaborative process, involving meetings where half the people at the table are illustrating their points with pen sketches and moments when six people cluster around a computer screen to watch an idea take shape. Sometimes the client may have very specific requirements, and sometimes the designers have free rein. You must always be looking up and keeping your goals in mind. You work hard to come up with an idea and you need to work just as hard to bring it to life.

In the case of textiles, scale is important. If the design is for a dressmaking fabric, the scale must suit the size of a human body. If the material is for furniture or draperies, the scale can be larger, but the design more subdued in colour and content. Market research people help with these decisions, but experienced designers know their market very well too. You often do your own market research just walking through the trendy part of town to see what everything and everyone looks like.

Producing the final design is careful work. A computer saves many hours of work that used to be done by hand, like rendering the same design in ranges of different colours. You learn new techniques from experimentation and from fellow workers. Upgrading courses to learn new software programs are a regular part of your work life. A designer who keeps ahead of the pack in computer technique and has a good understanding of the industrial process will be employable in related fields of design and can aspire to management positions.