BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FASHION DESIGN

The B.A. in Fashion Design at St. Thomas University provides students with the comprehensive artistic and technical training needed to succeed as forward-thinking fashion designers. The program cultivates a deep understanding of the fashion system, enabling students to transform creative vision into innovative collections. Through a progressive curriculum and immersive studio practice, students explore the full design process—from conceptual research and sketching to garment construction and digital prototyping.

This degree emphasizes not only aesthetics and design innovation but also market awareness, production dynamics, and responsible fashion practices, preparing graduates to design with intention and impact.

Educational Objectives and Methodology

The program's goal is to develop designers who are creative thinkers, skilled makers, and culturally literate professionals. Key learning outcomes include:

- **Creative Research & Trend Forecasting:** Using cultural, historical, and market research to generate relevant and visionary design concepts.
- **Collection Design:** Planning full fashion collections from concept to final garment, including materials, silhouettes, and construction techniques.
- **Patternmaking & Garment Construction:** Mastery of traditional and digital pattern-cutting, tailoring, and prototype creation.
- **Digital Design Technologies:** Application of CAD tools, 3D modeling, and rendering design, communicate, and present collections.
- **Sustainable & Ethical Practices:** Understanding the environmental and social implications of materials, production, and design decisions.
- **Professional Presentation & Portfolio Development:** Articulating design vision through compelling visual storytelling, public presentations, and industry-standard portfolios.

Methodology: The degree offers a dynamic mix of classroom theory, studio work, and collaborative workshops with ongoing critiques to simulate industry feedback cycles.

Career Opportunities

Graduates will be well-equipped for positions throughout the fashion industry, including:
- Fashion Designer
- Assistant Designer
- Fashion Illustrator or Graphic Designer
- CAD Technician
- Patternmaker or Tailoring Technician
- Product Developer
- Trend Forecaster
- Quality Control or Production Manager
- Fashion Consultant

They may work in design studios, fashion houses, global retailers, or pursue independent creative careers.

Curricular Program

Students must meet the following degree requirements:

A. General Education Requirements (30 CH)
Courses are designed to enhance written and verbal communication, digital literacy, global awareness, and analytical thinking:

- COM 105 - Introduction to Computer Science
- ENG 110 - English Composition III (W)
- ENG 320 - Digital Linguistics and Technical Writing (W)
- ENG 390 - Public Speaking
- LAW 100 - International Law
- One course in English Literature
- One course in Mathematics
- One course in Natural Science

- POL 200 - Global Poverty and International Responsibility (G)
- SOC 300 - Sociology of Media and Communication

B. Core Courses (75 CH)

The heart of the program includes intensive design training, practical studio work, and technical development:

- ARH 210 - History of Fashion and Design I
- ARH 310 - History of Fashion and Design II
- BUS 275 - Fashion Marketing
- BUS 285 - Fashion Brand Management
- BUS 430 - Business Logic and Organization - 2 CH
- COM 200 - Introduction to Graphic Design
- COM 333 - CAD Patternmaking
- COM 415 - 3D Multimedia Design
- FAS 210 - Material Technology - 2 CH
- FAS 235 - Fashion Design I - 6 CH
- FAS 245 - Illustration Techniques I
- FAS 255 - Patternmaking and Prototyping I
- FAS 335 - Fashion Design II - 6 CH
- FAS 345 - Illustration Techniques II
- FAS 350 - Textile Culture and Experimentation - 2 CH
- FAS 355 - Patternmaking and Prototyping II
- FAS 360 - Accessories Design
- FAS 365 - Textile Design - 2 CH
- FAS 435 - Fashion Design III - 6 CH
- FAS 450 - Product Development
- FAS 455 - Patternmaking and Prototyping III
- FAS 460 - Eco Fashion and Innovative Techniques for Fashion
- LAW 340 - Elements of Copyright - 2 CH
- SOC 340 - Psychology and Sociology of Color Applied to Design - 2 CH

C. Elective Courses (12 CH)

Language, art history, and cultural electives to support global perspectives:

- ARH 200 - History of Modern Art *or* History of Art I - 2 CH
- ARH 205 - History of Contemporary Art *or* History of Art II - 2 CH
- FRE 100 - French Language I
- FRE 200 - French Language II
- FRE 300 - French Language III
- ITA 100 - Italian Language I
- ITA 200 - Italian Language II
- ITA 300 - Italian Languages III
- ITA 320 - Contemporary Italian Culture (W)
- ITA 350 - Italian Culture and Eno-gastronomy
- ITA 410 - The Discovery of Italy in British Romantic Literature
- LIT 370 - U.S. Intellectual History, A Survey

D. Capstone Requirement (3 CH)

FAS 495 - Senior Project: A final collection or design portfolio showcasing conceptual rigor, craftsmanship, and creative identity.