

SSAPP7 Digital Patternmaker

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Apparel
Functional area	Product Design and Development
Job role	SSAPP7 Digital Patternmaker
Job role description	Creates and manages digital garment patterns using specialised CAD patternmaking (e.g., CLO 3D, Optitex, Accumark) instead of traditional paper methods. It increases precision, reduces, allows for 3D virtual sampling, and enables faster, sustainable production by simulating fabric behavior before physical cutting. The Digital Patternmaker converts design specifications and manual patterns into digital formats suitable for grading, marker making and production. The role works closely with patternmakers, technical designers, product developers and manufacturing partners to ensure digital patterns accurately represent garment construction, fit and production requirements.
Performance expectations	- Develop digital garment patterns using CAD patternmaking software - Convert manual patterns into digital formats where required - Ensure digital patterns reflect correct garment construction and fit - Collaborate with designers and technical teams during development - Prepare digital patterns for grading and marker making - Maintain digital pattern libraries and version control - Support sample production through accurate pattern documentation - Ensure patterns are compatible with manufacturing and cutting systems
Specialisation	Digital garment pattern engineering using CAD patternmaking technologies.
Application in other TCF sectors	- Digital footwear pattern engineering - Technical textile product pattern development - Uniform and workwear garment development - Outdoor and protective clothing product engineering - Sewn product manufacturing including bags and accessories

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Develop digital garment patterns from technical specifications - Digitise manual patterns for use in CAD systems - Modify digital patterns following fit reviews - Prepare pattern files for grading and marker making - Maintain digital pattern libraries and revision control
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	• Support sample machinists with accurate pattern outputs • Collaborate with product development and technical teams • Ensure compatibility with digital cutting and manufacturing systems
Critical work functions	• Ensuring digital patterns accurately reflect garment design intent • Maintaining precision and consistency in digital pattern files • Supporting efficient digital product development workflows • Preventing pattern errors that affect production processes • Maintaining organised digital pattern archives • Supporting integration with manufacturing technologies

3. Technical skills

CAD patternmaking systems	Use digital patternmaking software such as CLO 3D, Optitex, Accumark or similar.
Digital pattern editing	Modify patterns accurately within CAD environments.
Garment construction knowledge	Understand garment assembly and sewing processes.
Pattern digitising	Convert manual patterns into digital formats.
Fit analysis	Evaluate digital patterns for fit and garment proportions.
Marker preparation awareness	Understand marker making and fabric utilisation principles.
Digital file management	Maintain organised pattern libraries and revision systems.
Integration with PLM systems	Connect pattern files with product lifecycle management systems.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in digital pattern measurements.
Problem solving	Resolve pattern issues during development.
Communication	Explain technical pattern changes to development teams.
Collaboration	Work with designers, developers and sample machinists.
Organisation	Maintain structured digital file management systems.
Time management	Meet product development deadlines.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• 3D garment simulation and digital fit validation • Integration with automated cutting technologies • Cloud-based digital pattern collaboration • Digital twin garment development systems • Advanced digital pattern grading technologies
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST50122 Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent
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Advanced development	MST60122 Advanced Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles or equivalent
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7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Patternmaking Assistant → Digital Patternmaker → Senior Digital Patternmaker → Technical Design Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 5-6
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3 - Patternmaker
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Digital Patternmaker - Apparel



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