



Victoria Harris

Certified in Entrepreneurship

Education

B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences
concentrating in Fashion Merchandising
and Design
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical
State University

Lagniappe:

A Little Something Extra

Before I started my own business, I was mentored by other likeminded professionals in the business industry. Observing how they interact with customers and asking plenty of questions on concepts I did not understanding. I still use these techniques to elevate myself as a business owner and the way I conduct business with my clients. After the completion of each project, I reflect on key elements such as communication and time management.



Fashion Designer/Entrepreneur

Victoria Harris is a young entrepreneur from Charlotte, NC with a passion for fashion. During her time at NCAT, she has curated her own small business, Shop Blvssom LLC, designing custom apparel for her clients and showcasing in local fashion shows

Uniqueness of Career Journey

Fashion Design revolves around the ability to create handcrafted garments from scratch, that is what makes it so unique. With a pair of scissors and a sewing machine, any design is possible! These are items that are one of a kind and cannot be found in retail stores.

Inspiration for Career Choice

My late grandmother, Jasmine, is my main inspiration for my career choice. She was a professional seamstress for over 20 years with JCPenney in New York City. Altering clothing for men and women and even Mr. Penney himself. Her home, in Barbados, still has lovely lace curtains and table cloths that she designed. Every Sunday for church, the queen of fashion always had on her Sunday best, a gorgeous hat to match paired with a colored lipstick. She made the spotlight towards the fashion industry very bright for me and I wanted to follow in her footsteps.

Skills Vital to Success in Career

The top two skills that are vital to being successful in this field, is ongoing creativity and the ability to have patience. Being a Fashion Designer, requires creativity and knowledge of every garment. Creating one-of-a-kind pieces for clients has to be different and unique every time. You must have the ability to give design suggestions based on their wants and needs. Patience is also key because there will be mistakes made along the way. Have you ever had to seam rip a seam by hand? It takes time and a steady hand so you do not make any holes within the fabric.

Best Advice to Someone Considering This Career

The best advice I could give is to practice! Before getting clients, start by making simple projects for yourself and friends. This causes less stress in the beginning stages as you are just having fun and getting a feel for the new adventure. As they say, practice does make perfect. Do not worry about not getting it right the first or fifth time, but focus on the technique and ways you can get better. YouTube is a great resource for beginner videos such as how to apply zippers, what stitches to use for various fabrics and even step by step how to videos.

Recommended Educational Preparation

Apart from going to school, having a mentor that can provide hands-on learning experience is recommended for proper advancement. They will push you to try new project, assist them with clients and show you the ins and outs of running an apparel business. Another great tool I like to use is, Facebook groups. There are many sewing groups that help aspiring and experienced designers with any and everything! Simply post a question or picture on what you are stuck on and many fellow designers will leave a comment to assist you.

How the Field Has Changed Over Time

The fashion industry is consistently changing when it comes down to trends, styles and even color choices. The need for custom garments is sky rocketing as clients want one-of-a-kind items of special occasions. My favorite time of the year is graduation season. This is a time clients' can really get creative to show off their hard work and school spirit!

Projected Changes in the Future

How I see my career field changing in the future is by creating a team that can manufacture my designs in bulk production. One day I will step away from the sewing machine to focus on electronic designs and gain more skills to expand my business. I would love to have more titles to my name and having a team that can handle the day-to-day work.