



Identify competency focus areas and core courses for Ethiopian Higher Education Institution Exit Examination

program: -BSc degree in Fashion Design

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1. Introduction

Fashion Design is one of the main fields that can play leading roles in the economic development of a country. The main objectives of fashion design program are to provide broad-based education and training in fashion design; to enable graduates to be creative, adaptable, problem solver in the challenges of the professions in rapidly changing environment that exists in the globe. These changes require the ability to apply existing knowledge in new ways thereby creating new systems and opportunities as well as adapting existing Ethiopian traditional design. Moreover, it aims to initiate, develop and sustain research activities that are critical for the conditioning of advancement of the Ethiopian textile and garment sectors involved in fashion design. Fashion/Garment industry faces a major crunch in terms of well-trained manpower in the area of design with adequate grasp of the technical and cultural matters. This work force should be enabled to implement the decisions taken at higher levels.

The Fashion design program prepares students from diverse backgrounds to be fashion innovators by providing a professional environment in which students learn by working in tandem with top designers.

1.1. Mission and vision of the program

Mission

- ✓ To facilitate an ambience of excellent teaching and learning process, making the students to equip themselves with the most conducive and up to date knowledge.
- ✓ To imbibe a sense of responsibility and service among the student fraternity & to provide for practical application of the acquired knowledge on ethical, social & economic grounds.
- ✓ To provide a platform for sustained Research & Development.
- ✓ To provide knowledge based technological services to the society & to facilitate technology transfer to the industry, thereby contributing to the development of national capabilities.

Vision

To become a nationally & internationally acclaimed teaching, research, service department and to upgrade itself to Institute level.

1.2. Professional Profile

Currently, Ethiopia is in the process of changing its strategic policy from Agriculture led economy to Industry led economy. This shows that industrial development is the key for economic growth of the country. The main idea behind industrial development is to reduce foreign currency by manufacturing consumer products locally and raise people's standard of living and to export finished goods as well.

Therefore, Fashion Design has a great role for this industrial development in Ethiopia. Considering the immediate requirements of the country and the capabilities of the University, students can be graduated in Fashion Design.

This undergraduate profile provides true picture of fashion industry. In addition, the profile gives a full understanding about the careers.

2.Objectives of Exit Examination

Exit examination is not intended only for the sake of graduation fulfilment, rather it changes students mind setup for better academic achievement. In addition to this, the objective is extended to securing industrial jobs, reducing the differences among the same programs at different universities, and setting standards in the evaluation systems. More specifically, exit examination will have the following explicit objectives;

- ✓ To ensure quality education and common getaway for the professional license in Fashion design.
- ✓ To produce skilled and competent manpower to national and international market in Fashion design profession.
- ✓ Assessing students' educational achievement in major areas of Fashion design discipline.
- ✓ Ensuring whether the graduation profile of Fashion design curriculum have achieved at least common standards of knowledge, practical skills and attitudes.
- ✓ Improving trust and confidence in industrial sectors, research and academic institutions.
- ✓ Facilitating the efforts of students to revise the core learning outcomes of the courses which will be covered by the exit examination.
- ✓ Ensuring all graduates from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) satisfy the requirements of the market and employability.
- ✓ Creating competitive spirit among fashion design departments in Ethiopia with the vies to encouraging them to give due attention to the national standards.

2.1. Significance of Exit Examination

Implementing of exit examination has immense significance to measure graduating students' skills, knowledge and attitudes of different competencies the are set for Fashion design program. In addition to competency

identification, exit examination implementation process enables to systematically identify the core courses which will be included for exit examination.

3.Expected Graduates Profile

3.1. Basic Competencies, Abilities, Skills

The graduates of the “B. Sc. Fashion Design” study program shall acquire the following capabilities and skills:

- ✓ Expand and perfect their artistic skills to support and enhance their future design careers.
- ✓ Learn necessary technical skills related to clothing construction.
- ✓ Develop a systematic, critical approach to problem solving at all levels of the design process.
- ✓ Acquire extensive professional information regarding fashion industry.
- ✓ Demonstrate professionalism by meeting deadlines, effectively collaborating in teams, and working with professional designers.
- ✓ View fashion design in a broader socio economic, historical, and environmental context.
- ✓ Successfully articulate design ideas verbally, visually, and digitally.
- ✓ Communication skills and team spirit which enables to work with various professionals.
- ✓ Professional Skills, Proficiencies, and Competencies Necessary
- ✓ Written Communication – letters; memos; reports; presentations
- ✓ Analytical Ability –detail orientation; systemic, management, financial, color, trend, and silhouette analyses
- ✓ Computing Ability – software and hardware technology applications and trends;
- ✓ Photoshop; Illustrator; and Graphics training
- ✓ Artistic Appreciation – creativity, contemporary and historical print and non-print
- ✓ Oral Communication – active learning; active listening; critical thinking; public speaking
- ✓ Social Skills – teamwork; coordination; motivation; negotiation; persuasion

- ✓ Technical Skills - troubleshooting; technology design; manufacturing processes; flat sketching; grading; pattern drafting; draping; and garment construction
- ✓ Systems Skills - judgment and decision making; visioning; systems evaluation; multi- tasking.
- ✓ Materials Knowledge - fabric weaves and finishes, trims, findings
- ✓ Resource Management Skills - management of materials, people, and time.

3.2. Competencies and Learning Outcomes

3.2.1. Competencies

Competencies can be defined as the applied knowledge, skills, and attitude that enable people to successfully perform in professional, educational, and other life contexts. The term competency is more commonly used in relation to professional fields (i.e., Engineering).

In this context, competencies are categorized as what Fashion design graduates should know, the skills they should demonstrate and the attitudes they should possess upon graduation. Table 1 below presents the competencies identified for the exit examination of Fashion design Program.

3.2.2. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcome is a very specific statement that describes exactly what a student will be able to do in some measurable way. There may be more than one measurable outcome defined for a given competency. Generally, the term learning outcome is used more commonly in the context of a program or course of instruction. In this regard, Table 1 below presents the learning outcomes identified for Fashion design Program.

Table 1. Competencies and learning outcomes

All the stated competencies comprise **knowledge, Attitude, and Skill** inseparably

Competencies	Learning outcomes
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Understanding the fashion industry and manufacturing process.	Understand all about how the fashion industry is working on the current time as well clearly understand how the fashion and apparel products are manufactured in the industry
Problem analysis and design of solutions	Identify, formulate, and analyze complex fashion design problems to design their solutions, develop systems and processes that meet specified needs with appropriate consideration for public health, safety, and environmental considerations using principles of science
Project management and decision making	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic management principles and economic decision-making and apply them to manage projects in multi-disciplinary environments.
Product development	Design and develop problem solving products by considering all the design principles

3.2.3. Courses to Be included in the Examination

The courses to be considered for the exit examination have been selected in view of the national harmonized curriculum harmonized with the collaboration of three universities (Bahir Dar University, Wollo University and Wolkite University. Based on this curriculum, **16 (Sixteen) fashion design major course**, have been selected to be considered for the exit examination. The course selection only considered **major courses of fashion design**. And the wight of the courses has been indicated with stars to consider it on the exam preparation process. The list of courses to be considered for the exam is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. List of common Courses for exit examination

S/ N	Course Name	ECTS
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1.	Fashion Illustration (I and II)	9
2.	Design Fundamentals	4
3.	Drawing Fundamentals	5
4.	Fashion Portfolio Development	4
5.	Apparel Surface Ornamentation	3
6.	Graphic Design (I & II)	8
7.	CAD for Pattern Making	4
8.	Pattern Making (I, II, III)	12
9.	Basic Construction Techniques	4
10.	Leather Design / Accessory Design	4
11.	Fashion Forecasting	3
12.	Fashion Marketing & Merchandizing	3
13.	Apparel Costing	3
14.	Apparel quality management	3
15.	Exhibition and display design	3
16.	Fashion style and communication	3
Total		56

Table 3: Course with their theme

S.N O	Theme	Course Name	C. Hour
1	Design Fundamentals	Fashion Illustration (I and II)	5
		Design Fundamentals	2
		Drawing Fundamentals	3
		Fashion Portfolio Development	2

		Apparel Surface Ornamentation	3
2	CAD For fashion	Graphic Design (I & II)	4
		CAD for Pattern Making	2
3	Product Development	Pattern Making (I, II, III)	9
		Basic Construction Techniques	3
		Leather Design / Accessory Design	3
4	Fashion Management and Business	Fashion Forecasting	3
		Fashion Marketing & Merchandizing	3
		Apparel Costing	3
		Apparel Quality Management	4
5	Fashion Communication	Exhibition and Display Design	4
		Fashion Styling and Communication	3
Total			56

4. Conclusions

If implemented effectively, exit examinations can have a vital role in improving academic programs quality and effectiveness. Furthermore, it can create the platform for cooperation among academic programs at different universities to work jointly to improve the program quality. In view of this, this document is produced to assist the setting of the exit examinations for fashion design program, which is being delivered by six government universities. The graduate profiles, competencies, and major learning outcomes of the program have been set and 16 courses have been selected to be considered for the exit examination.