

Professional Development Activity

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Topic: Bra Making

The classic bra making project is part of the FT190V Clothing Construction III, intermediate level sewing course being offered this Fall 2017 semester. This project was selected because students wanted to explore constructing lingerie further after learning how to sew underwear in the previous semester.

Besides further developing their skills in handling the sewing machines, manipulating knit fabric/lace/elastics and constructing more difficult garments, the special techniques and methods in bra making will hopefully inspire some to enter into a niche market area. Underlying skills practiced, but less obvious to the student yet inherent when dealing with stretch fabrics are critical thinking in finding solutions to problems and application of math during the entire process.

Professional Development funds were requested for me to take two online courses by bra specialist Beverly Johnson. Additional funds were approved to cover expenses for the pattern, fabric and supplies to make the finished bra samples.

After taking the courses over the summer, I researched the online market and sourced supplies related to bra patterns, fabrics and findings. I also read many blogs about bra making that gave me a comprehensive understanding of the extent of this project. From this, I eliminated problem areas in the process, narrowed down the resources and found the simplest but best way to instruct students on making a classic bra.

In developing curriculum for the program, I test drive potential new courses by including specific projects within a class. If feasible, I then develop it into a full course. Having a variety of Topics courses keep students engaged in the program and builds upon the specialized skills beyond the fundamentals. From this project, my goal is to offer a new Topics course focused entirely on constructing lingerie.