

RHEA ECKENROD

Designer & Textile Researcher

INFO

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SKILLS

Fabrication	Industrial sewing (single-needle, overlock, coverstitch), hand sewing & finishing, pattern drafting, garment construction (woven & knit), fabric bonding & heat-sealing, laser cutting, 3D printing, textile testing & evaluation
Software	Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Rhino, AutoCAD, CLO3D, Fusion 360, Blender, Microsoft Office
Design	Biomaterials innovation, sustainable textiles, prototype testing & documentation, Technical flats & CAD, tech packs & spec sheets, pattern/motif development, color analysis, 3D garment visualization (CLO3D), concept development & storytelling
Soft	Creative adaptability, resourcefulness, attention to detail, collaboration, lab safety & organization, leadership & mentoring, time management, technical communication & presentation

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin — August 2021 - May 2025

BSA Textiles & Apparel — Focus in Design

- Minor in Architectural Studies
- BDP Certificate in Design Strategies
- Dean's List, 6 semesters

WORK EXPERIENCE

Seamstress

For the Cubs — August 2025 - Present

- Lead sewing operations for the company, producing high-quality textile products through industrial and hand-sewing techniques.
- Maintain and troubleshoot sewing equipment, ensuring functional and efficient production environments.
- Translate design concepts into finished softgoods, adjusting patterns and construction methods for the longevity and performance of the product.
- Manage materials and workflow in the sewing workspace to meet production deadlines.

Lead Researcher

UT Sustainable Fashion Materials Lab — August 2024 - August 2025

- Directed day-to-day lab operations; maintained safety standards, managed inventory, and ensured functional research environments.
- Trained and supervised student researchers in biomaterials prototyping and experimental textile design.
- Developed and tested novel material processes (biodegradable sequins, kombucha leather) with an emphasis on manufacturable and functional textile innovation.
- Conceptualized new experimental frameworks and proposed research directions that expanded the scope of projects.

Studio Production Assistant

DASHE — April 2024 - September 2025

- Assisted in the design, prototyping, and fabrication of garments, including industrial sewing, pattern development, and finishing techniques.
- Coordinated production timelines and backstage logistics for fashion shows, ensuring technical accuracy and craftsmanship in final products.
- Supported brand storytelling and product development by creating print visuals, technical drawings, and marketing decks aligned with collection themes.

CAD Teaching Assistant

The University of Texas — August 2024 - May 2025

- Instructed students in technical CAD applications (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign) with a focus on precision for manufacturable design outputs.
- Guided students in developing technical flats, tech packs, and pattern visualizations to meet professional industry standards.

Digital Collections and Archiving Intern

Dolph Briscoe Center for American History — September 2023 - July 2024

- Independently designed and managed the entire organizational system for UT's Commemoration Initiative, maintaining the timeline and overseeing every stage of the process from start to finish.

SHOWS/EXHIBITONS

DASHE F/W 2025 "Metanoia"

December 2024

- Managed backstage coordination, styling, and model prep for the runway show.

Particles of Color Exhibition — September 2023 - Ongoing

- Lead researcher in the development of biodegradable sequins; co-organized a museum exhibition highlighting design, sustainability, and material innovation.