
MILES MODELS, LLC

How to Start Your Modeling Career

Starting your modeling career, you will find that preparing yourself is the best thing you can do in order to achieve the goals you set out to. It is like anything in life and in any career. If you were to apply for a position in an art gallery, you would have to have knowledge and a love for art, and if you were to apply for a hairdressing position, you would not go to your interview with bad hair. Looking the part is very important, but also having the right attitude will go a long way to ensure you get noticed by the right people.

Starting out, make sure you know your limits and prepare yourself for an audition or interview with an agency. When you go to an agent, it is not going to help your cause by arriving there late with messy hair, no makeup and tatty clothes. Be presentable and natural. You don't have to dress up and overdo the makeup; just have a light, natural look and wear presentable clothes that show off your best assets. Professional modeling agents are very good at what they do and will be able to see your potential even if you think you don't have any. So, if you really want to be a model and don't think you can, the point is to try anyway. You might find that an agency will be able to turn you into one of the best hair models; even if you went in thinking that you could be a catwalk model.

Before you contact an agent to meet them, make sure you have the time to go to all the jobs they might get you, because many of them will be during the day. Most agencies take girls from a young age and you will have to explain that you are at school, college or any other commitments you have. If you really want to make this your career, there are some things that you will have to sacrifice to show that you are dedicated like working over weekends. It will depend on you and your parents if you miss school or go to modeling shoots and fashion shows until late at night. For adults the tough part may be having another job to deal with. If you want to do this career, you should not have another job that will interfere.

The best place to start becoming a model of any kind is to find a reputable agent. Don't look for agents in the phone book or yellow pages, but rather get recommendations from other models or have a look at the agency names in magazines that have been responsible for the cover shoots and fashion pages. This will ensure that you are getting one of the best agents around who has a lot of clients and will also offer you the best representation.

Ex-Model Catherine Faulkner comments on her first days, "I was 14 when I started modeling and I made sure I found the best agent in the city. My mother and I had heard of too many scary stories of models that were led down the garden path when they first started, and I did not want to end up like them."

She maintains that getting one of the top agencies, no matter how difficult it may be to get in, is the key to success. She also urges new model hopefuls to keep trying if they don't get in the first time.

"It may be the season and what agents and companies are looking for at that specific moment. While one year might favor blondes, the next year they could be looking for redheads, so don't give up, and definitely don't compromise by finding an unknown agency that will take you. This could get you into trouble and ruin your reputation."

Modeling Classes

Starting out as a model would be quite a difficult job if you were not trained in the different aspects there are. Every model that joins an agency will have to complete a 3 month or longer course, to teach the various areas regarding modeling. The following are sections of the model training program that Mrs. Faulkner received when she started modeling:

Department

Department is the way you carry yourself and this will teach you how to stand and hold yourself to look your best during fashion shows for **ramp models** and for certain photographic poses. For example, they will teach you how to stand with your legs bent, knees together and toes out to create that gap between the legs that you see in magazines. There are many different ways of standing and holding yourself so that you look thinner and have better posture.

Model Etiquette

In modeling there is a certain etiquette that needs to be maintained when it comes to various **types of modeling**. You will be taught what to do and say when you go to shoots and fashion shows, how to act and behave amongst other things, and how to work with other industry professionals like photographers, makeup artists and hair stylists.

Make-up

You will need to learn how to apply your own makeup for photographs. Sometimes you are not given make-up artists and when you go for your portfolio shots you will have to go ready made up. There are also different ways of applying your makeup for black and white photos and color photos, and ramp work will require heavier stage makeup.

Ramp Work

You are taught mainly how to walk and turn for this section. There are 3 point turns and single turns and the walking and turning will also differ depending on what outfit you are modeling. Your swimwear modeling, street or casual wear modeling and long evening gown modeling will also differ as will the turns, to navigate around the outfits and show them off to their best ability.

Styles of Ramp Work

There are also various styles that can be associated with ramp work and you will be taught how to model to music, without music, and how you walk and turn to various speeds of music.

Modeling Examination

At the end of the course or training program, you will be given a small, informal examination on everything you have learned to see if you can put it into practice and are ready to go out on professional modeling jobs.

Pros and Cons of the Modeling Industry

Models are considered to be glamorous people who lead a glamorous life, but when you look at their careers closely you will see that not everything is about glamour and stardom. Most models are just doing a job like anyone else to pay their bills and make a living.

The negative aspects of modeling include:

- Not getting paid a lot of money at the beginning.
- You may not have work for a few weeks which will also reduce your finances dramatically.
- You will have to diet all the time to remain trim and healthy.
- You must also make sure you exercise which is negative if you hate exercising.
- Most of the work involves long hours, lots of standing, and having to pose for the camera all day.
- It can become boring and tiring depending on the job you are doing and how often you are needed. You can spend all day on a movie set and only shoot your scene for an hour.

The positive side to modeling is that:

- You can be included in fashion and cosmetics.
- You have the chance to meet many interesting people.
- You can become famous and internationally recognized.
- If you work hard, you have the opportunity to earn lots of money.
- You can be the first to wear fabulous designer clothes, shoes, and accessories.
- You can get a personal trainer and dietician to help you keep in shape.
- You get to do something that you love as your career.

Photographer Jobs

Photography is associated with being artistic and creative and is seen by most people to be a great career if you are good at it. While this is true, photography also has some aspects to it that might not be your cup of tea. You will have to weigh these up against each other before deciding to become a fashion photographer for models.

The negative points are:

- Long hours shooting, processing, and editing your work.
- Spending days in uncomfortable working conditions like battling the elements while you try to get the perfect shots.
- Limited creativity when doing portraits, headshots and simple fashion shoots.
- There is quite a lot of stress involved.

The positive side includes:

- Doing something you enjoy.
- Getting opportunities to further your career so you can build up a reputation that will expand your creative boundaries.
- Meeting interesting people.
- Being part of the fashion process, and changing trends.

Modeling Agents

To be at the center of the fashion and modeling world is to be a modeling agent and this part of the industry has many ups and downs along with its power to make or break a career.

The negative sides of being a modeling agent are:

- Lots of stress with planning bookings, and managing models and photographers.
- Competition with other agents and constantly trying to outdo them.
- Dealing with all the problems that arise from any modeling job.
- Huge capital outlay if you are opening your own agency.

The advantages of being a modeling agent are:

- You get to run bookings, manage models and be in charge of large accounts.
- You will earn a good salary that is stable and constant every month, even though you only get paid the commission from the models jobs.
- You have normal office hours unless there is an emergency.

Make-up Artists for Models

Studying to be a makeup artist will allow you to get into various jobs including doing makeup for movies, commercials, stills shoots, and fashion shows where you will be dealing with models. This section of the industry offer various pros and cons.

The cons include:

- Long hours doing and retouching makeup for models.
- Uninteresting natural makeup for many photographic shoots.
- Very fast changes of make-up for some fashion shows.
- Working in uncomfortable conditions some of the time with limited resources like proper lighting.

The pros for modeling make up are:

- Doing fun makeup for some movies and fashion shows.
- Meeting interesting people and getting your name known in the industry.
- Your work will be seen worldwide for many campaigns.
- Good remuneration earned, especially for film and TV work.

Hair Stylists for Models

Doing models hair for fashion shows and shoots is something that people forget and you have probably the most unrecognized job in the fashion world. It is still an exciting career choice that will offer great rewards.

The cons include:

- Very quick changes of hair for fashion shows and events.
- Simple hair for certain shoots that you might find boring.
- Long hours of work where you will be mostly touching up hair all day.

The pros are that:

- You get to work with great people.
- You can get to be in locations, and interesting places instead of in a salon.
- You have the opportunity to do creative styles for certain photos, film and TV.
- You get paid very well for doing something that you love.

In every job you will find the pros and cons and if you are interested in pursuing a career in one of these modeling industry categories you will just have to be aware of the cons that are involved, before making a final decision.

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