

Dress for Success

First impressions are *critical*.

The first thing an employer sees is how you are dressed! Dressing properly will give you a competitive edge and a positive first impression. Should you be judged by what you wear? Perhaps not, but ***that's reality!*** With the job interview, its how you're dressed that sets the tone of the interview.

How should you dress?

Before the interview, take time to find out what the employees wear – then dress to fit in! If you overdress (which is rare but can happen) or under dress (the more likely scenario), the potential employer may feel that you don't care enough about the job



How do you find out the proper dress for a given position?

You can call the Human Resources office where you are interviewing and simply ask. Or, you could visit the company's office to pick up an application or other company information and observe the attire employees are wearing (Make sure you are not there on a "casual day" and misinterpret the dress code).

Do you need to spend a lot of money on clothes for interviewing?

No, but you should have at least two professional sets of attire. You'll need more than that, but depending on your current financial condition, two is enough to get started and you can buy more once you have the job or have more financial resources.

Dress for Success (cont')

Women

- Conservative two-piece business suit (solid dark blue or gray is best) – avoid wearing a dress.
- Conservative long-sleeved blouse (white is best, pastel is next best)
- Clean, polished conservative shoes
- Well-groomed hairstyle
- Clean, trimmed fingernails (no bright colors of polish)
- Minimal cologne or perfume
- Empty pockets--no bulges or tinkling coins and keys
- No visible body piercing (nose rings, eyebrow rings, etc.)
- Conservative nylons at, or near, skin color (and no runs!)
- No purses, small or large; carry a briefcase or portfolio instead
- Minimal use of makeup (it should not be too noticeable)
- No more than one ring on each hand
- One set of small earrings only
- No body odor; clean, fresh breath
- No gum, candy, cigarettes, or other objects in your mouth

Men

- Conservative two-piece business suit (solid dark blue or gray is best)
- Conservative long-sleeved shirt (white is best, light color or stripe is next best)
- Clean, polished, conservative, dark shoes (black lace-ups are best)
- Dark socks (black is best)
- Clean, trimmed fingernails
- Minimal cologne
- Empty pockets--no bulges or tinkling coins and keys
- No gum, candy, cigarettes, or other objects in your mouth
- Light briefcase or portfolio case
- No visible body piercing (nose rings, eyebrow rings, etc.)
- Necktie should have a conservative pattern
- Get a haircut; short hair always fares best in interviews
- No beards (unless you are interviewing for a job as a lumberjack!)
- Mustaches are a possible negative, but if you must, make sure it is neat and trimmed
- No rings other than wedding ring or college ring
- No earrings (if you normally wear one, take it out)