



Explore



Engage



Experience



Embark



Elevate

Dress for Success

Why it Matters

Employers want students who communicate well, work effectively in teams, and are genuinely enthusiastic. During an interview, your attire plays a supporting role to these qualities, but that role is an important one. Your appearance is the first impression you make on an employer. Appropriate attire shows that you take the interview process seriously. It also demonstrates respect to the people you meet.

Although many employers have a relaxed or business casual dress code, interviews still require a traditional, professional, conservative approach. Your primary goal in dressing for an interview is to feel good about the way you look while projecting a professional image to the potential employer. Remember, you don't get a second chance to make a good first impression.

Interview Attire Checklist

- ___ Solid color, conservative suit – black, navy or charcoal gray
- ___ Skirt suit or pantsuit; skirt length should be at least to the knee
- ___ White, long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt
- ___ White or light-colored blouse – avoid low-cut necklines and busy patterns
- ___ Conservative silk tie, coordinated with suit
- ___ Dark socks – black, dark gray or dark blue
- ___ Polished leather dress shoes – black or brown
- ___ Conservative shoes – moderate heel, closed toe, coordinated with suit
- ___ Belt – black or brown, to match your shoes
- ___ Minimal or no jewelry – no earrings or facial piercings
- ___ Neat, professional hairstyle and clean-shaven or neatly trimmed facial hair
- ___ Light aftershave and/or cologne and neatly trimmed nails
- ___ Light make-up and perfume and Manicured nails with light polish
- ___ Portfolio with a pen, paper and extra copies of your resume
- ___ Neutral hosiery – no runs, bring an extra pair just in case
- ___ Small purse, coordinated to match shoes and suit

What **Not** to Bring to the Interview

- Cell phone – even if it is set on vibrate, the interviewer can still hear it
- iPod /other electronics
- Gum
- Coffee, soda or water bottle
- Visible tattoos

Interview Attire Tips

- Try on your clothes at least a week before the interview to be sure you have appropriate interview attire, and everything fits correctly. Clothes should not be too tight or too loose.
- Get your clothes ready the night before. This will save you time and worry on the day of your interview.
- Iron your clothes and make sure everything is wrinkle-free.
- Polish your shoes. Shoes should not be scuffed or worn out.
- Bring a breath mint and use it before you enter the building.
- Smile!