

What Should I Wear?

Dressing for the world outside of college is quite different from the campus scene. You need professional attire for career fairs, networking events and interviews. This is not to say that you need to go out and buy a whole new wardrobe. Go for quality over quantity. One or two well-chosen business suits will serve you all the way to the first day on the job and beyond. No one will fault you for wearing the same sharp outfit each time you interview. If you want some variety and are working with a limited budget, you might consider varying your shirt/blouse/tie/accessories as a simple way to change your look without breaking your bank.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

Personal Hygiene:

- Choose a well-groomed hairstyle. Facial hair should be neatly trimmed or removed.
- Clean and trim your fingernails. Choose natural or light-colored nail polish, if desired.
- Don't wear cologne or perfume. Recruiters may have an allergy!
- Be mindful of body piercings and or tattoos.
- Brush your teeth and carry small mints for fresh breath. But there should be no gum, candy, or other objects in your mouth once you arrive.
- Take a shower the day of your interview.
- Empty your pockets so there are no bulges or noisy coins.

Ask to use the restroom when you arrive at the company for a final check of your appearance -- to make sure your tie is straight, your hair is styled, and that there's nothing stuck in your teeth.

Students

- Choose a conservative dark color two-piece business suit. For business casual, a conservative sports jacket in a dark color is acceptable. If wearing a sports jacket, pressed khakis are appropriate.
- Choose a conservative dark color suit – skirt or pants, or a conservative dress and matching jacket. For business casual, a blazer with a blouse and pants or skirt, or a sweater set with dress pants is acceptable. Skirts and dresses should never be shorter than knee length.
- Wear a white, ivory, or light blue or pastel long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt.
- Wear a white, ivory or pastel colored blouse. Stay away from multi-color, intricate designs. Low-cut tops are not appropriate.
- Wear a conservative tie that coordinates with the color of your suit (or blazer) and shirt.
- Wear nice dress shoes with dark socks (same color as shoes). Your belt should also match your shoes.

- Choose low-to-medium heeled shoes that match the color of your suit. Be sure they're well maintained and comfortable. Sandals and open-toed shoes are not appropriate.
- Wear minimal make-up, with lipstick and nail polish in light colors (if desired).
- Wear minimal jewelry – try not to wear jewelry that dangles or jingles, or oversized pieces that would be distracting to the interviewer.
- Carry a portfolio rather than a backpack or purse. If a purse is necessary, it should be small and hold only the essentials that you need.