

Dress for Success

“55% of a person’s opinion of others is determined by physical appearance.”

Make your first impression count! When attending an event or interview, plan your outfit based on meeting type and company. Showing up reflecting the expectations of your audience lets them know you’ve done your research and you value their time.



Three levels of Dress

Business Professional:

Business Professional is the most formal level of business dress. Suits or blazers with matching or complimentary pants, dress or skirt generally in black, gray or navy solid color. Wear complimentary, light color or white button-up collared shirt. Consider a tie based on the audience. Further consider your shoes, socks, and hosiery; dark matching colors work best.

Smart Business Casual:

Smart business Casual is a hybrid of business professional and smart casual to create a put-together look. It may include a jacket but not a tie, accessorized jewelry, tailored sweaters/vests, skirts, pants, dresses, less formal shoes. No jeans generally.

Business Casual:

Business casual is the most relaxed of the three levels of professional attire. The word “casual” indicates a more relaxed look although it is still thoughtfully planned out avoiding athletic wear, shorts, miniskirts, sweatshirts, T-shirts, sneakers, or open toe sandals. This could include khakis/cotton pants, nice polo shirts, cardigans, or dresses; it could also include dark wash denim with a blazer, button-down shirt or blouse.

Once the level of dress is determined, keep in mind the following suggestions for general grooming tips:

- Clean – Make sure all clothes, accessories, and shoes are clean and wrinkle free.
- Hair – Keep it clean, styled and neatly groomed. Pull long hair away from face.
- Hands/Nails – Well-groomed hands and nails are an important part of your professional image. Nail polish shades should be soft and maintained.
- Fragrance – Avoid too much or too fragrant cologne or perfume.
- Body – Shower, brush your teeth. If you chew mints or gum before the interview, make sure to dispose prior to your meeting.

[Dressing for the MBA Interview](#)

[Business Casual vs. Smart Casual: What's the Difference?](#)