

# What should I even wear??

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT DRESS CODE IN DIFFERENT PROFESSIONAL SITUATIONS.

## WHAT'S THIS FOR?

### CONTEXT IS KEY WHEN MAKING APPAREL DECISIONS

- Career Fair or General Networking event:**  
 These events are to meet and impress people; potentially your next employer! Consider how your outfit plays into how you're being perceived in a group setting. How do you walk the line between fitting into the Industry trends vs standing out?
- Job Interview:**  
 Think about the company culture but also the role you're interviewing for. Even within a large company, different positions call for different conventions. Despite what the company's expectations are, it's important you wear something that makes you comfortable and confident, but also a step-up from that office's regular day-to-day wear.
- New Job:**  
 While you may have made it past the hiring process, how you dress in a role affects how your colleagues perceive you. While your work attire may be more flexible, make sure you know what the minimum expectation is and *exceed* it until you're comfortable.
- Personal:**  
 I think you can handle this one.

## DO THE RESEARCH!

In the digital age, there's almost no excuse for not doing a little bit of online reconnaissance. Learning a little bit about the company in advance--in terms of company values, recent news, as well as dress code--is necessary to be able to effectively engage with them.

Things to check:

- Company website
- Social Media: Not only Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram, but also LinkedIn and Glassdoor
- Information sessions/Webinars

Outside of content on the web, consider gaining an Insider perspective on the company through an informational interview with an employee. However, for the sake of the employee you connect with, make sure your questions aren't JUST about dress code.

## WHAT NOW?

**GET THE GEAR:** Whether the right outfit is already in your closet or you've got to go shopping, you have the information to make an informed decision. Focus on things that make you feel **confident/comfortable** and things that are **versatile** (especially if you're building your wardrobe for a job). In general, if you don't have much information, falling between business casual and professional clothing is typically appropriate.

## WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE

### BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL



#### CLOTHES SHOULD BE:

- SOLID, DARK OR NEUTRAL COLORS
- LIGHT COLORS CAN BE WORN UNDERNEATH
- NO STRIPES OR BRIGHT PRINTS/COLORS

#### SHOES SHOULD BE:

- CLOSED-TOE HEEL OR DRESS SHOES

### BUSINESS CASUAL

#### BUSINESS CASUAL COLORS & STYLES

- NICE PANTS/SLACKS
- DRESSES
- NO JEANS, SHORTS, SUNDRESSES OR ATHLETIC WEAR

#### JACKETS & SHOES



#### SKIRTS & DRESSES

should be knee length when standing and thighs covered while seated

Blazers & cardigans with flats, boots, closed-toe shoes, or comfortable shoes for walking in

