



JOB INTERVIEW TIPS: DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Should your appearance be a consideration for whether you can perform the duties of a particular job? **NO!**

Will your clothes and appearance be considered in evaluating you for a particular job? **YES!**

Your primary goal in dressing for an interview is to feel good about the way you look while projecting an image that matches the requirements of the position and company.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Suit:
- Preferred dark blue, gray, or muted pin-stripes. Avoid buying a size 40 regular off the rack; get alterations for a tailored fit!
 - Conservative business suit, pantsuit, or dress of natural or woven-blend fabric; skirt length should be to the bottom of the knee at least. Choose a color that complements your skin tone and hair color; beige, black, navy, gray, or brown.
- Shirt:
- Simple style; white or soft colors. Avoid low-cut necklines or very frilly styles.
 - A good quality white button-down or white classic collar is preferred. Be sure it is ironed.
- Shoes:
- Highly polished pumps or medium heels in color that matches your outfit. Save the three-inch heels for another time.
 - Choose highly polished slip-ons or laced dress shoes. Dark colored shoes (brown, cordovan, or black) should be worn with dark pants. Choose socks that match your suit.
- Stockings:
- Wear sheer hosiery – avoid patterns and lace.
- Jewelry:
- Keep simple and minimize. A watch and a wedding ring or class ring are suitable. Some employers will not view a nose ring positively.
- Hair and Makeup:
- Should be neatly groomed.
 - Keep simple and understated.
- Ties and Belts:
- Conservative stripes or paisleys that complement your suit. Silk or good quality blends only. Do not just shop for a deal, shop for a good tie.
 - Invest in a quality belt that matches the rest of your outfit.
- Perfume/Cologne:
- Use perfume/cologne sparingly or not at all. You never know if an employer has allergies.

Interviewing apparel can be an investment, but you do not need to spend hundreds of dollars to achieve a professional look. In addition to discount or low-cost retailers, you can have great success in finding professional dress and accessories at consignment and thrift stores.

WHAT TO AVOID

- Sagging! It's never really been a good look, but particularly unacceptable when presenting yourself to a potential employer.
- Clothing that is too trendy, tight, short, or revealing. *Tip: A professional skirt or dress should cover your thighs when seated.*
- Wearing an abundance of jewelry.
- White socks with dress shoes and pantyhose with open-toed shoes are No-Nos!
- Wrinkled clothing. Investing in an iron is a good idea.
- Bold/large logo printed shirts.
- Heavy fragrances. Go easy on the perfume, aftershave, and cologne. Do not forget deodorant, though!
- Chipped nail polish or dirty fingernails.
- For a more professional look, please cover your tattoos and remove piercings.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Bring copies of your résumé, a padfolio, and a nice pen. Possibly bring a portfolio if you have one. ***Do not bring your backpack.***
- Collect the business cards of the persons you meet during the interview. This will help when you send your thank you notes!

