

Dress to Impress

FACT: The way you dress for your interview says a lot about you as a potential employee.

What does your appearance say about you? Low cut shirt girl? Tacky tie guy? Don't be remembered for your fashion faux pas. Your clothes as well as your overall appearance should make a positive statement to others. Here are a few guidelines to follow when dressing for your interview.

Guidelines for Men & Women

Suit: A two piece matched suit in black/navy/dark grey is best. Ensure that it fits properly as well as remove all tags and loose threads. Coordinate your shirt or blouse to compliment your suit. Shirts (and blouses where appropriate) should be pressed and tailored to fit.

Is suit always appropriate attire for an interview?

If you are entering into a job or worksite that does not require a suit, it may still be appropriate to wear one. Wearing a suit to the interview shows respect and that you are serious about the job. If you believe you are entering a company that would frown upon a suit, seek advice from professors or people you know who have been employed in the industry and/or ask the company directly.

Shoes: Choose shoes that match/compliment your suit and are close-toed, low heeled, polished, and scuff-free.

General appearance: You should be freshly showered/bathed, have your hair groomed, and your nails should be neat, clean, and trimmed. Stay away from heavy colognes or perfumes and make certain to hide tattoos and abnormal piercings.

Additional Guidelines for Men

Socks: Wear dark dress socks that go to mid-calf so skin doesn't show when you are seated.

Belt: Belts should match the color of your shoes.

Ties: Tie styles come and go, purchase one made of good quality fabric in a conservative solid color or small pattern. Stay away from loud colors and character ties.

Jewelry: Keep jewelry to a minimum. A watch and wedding or class ring at most. Remove earrings.

Facial Hair: If worn, should be neatly trimmed/groomed.

Additional Guidelines for Women

Skirts: When seated, your skirt should fully cover your thighs. Longer skirts are acceptable as long as they are not billowing. Skirts should have a proper form and compliment your body; however, they should not be so tight as to not allow you to move comfortably.

Shirts: Underneath your suit jacket, wear a tailored blouse or finely knit shell. Do not show cleavage.

Jewelry: Be conservative. Minimize the number of pieces you wear. (e.g. a watch and a necklace)

Makeup: Keep makeup natural and light.

Hosiery: Fads come and go, be certain to remain neutral and wear hosiery that matches your skin tone.

Shoes: Shoes should match /compliment your suit in both color and fabric. Heels should be no taller than 2 ½ inches.

Purse/Bag: If you choose to bring a purse, keep it small and simple, especially if you bring a briefcase/portfolio