

# DRESS FOR INTERVIEW SUCCESS

In the interview, you're trying to communicate that you are the right candidate for the job—and your appearance plays a role in helping you achieve that goal.

What's considered "appropriate" dress in the workplace varies from company to company, but when it comes to dressing for the interview, most experts agree that conservative attire is always a wise choice. In the interview, you're trying to demonstrate to the employer that you are the right candidate, and your appearance plays a role in that.

Whether you like it or not, you will be judged—at least in part—by your appearance.

Will the right attire get you the job? Probably not. But you don't want it to count against you, so take care in your appearance and put your best foot forward.

## Professional Attire for Men

### Suit:

Wear a dark or gray suit (solid or very subtle pinstripes).

### Shirt:

Dress shirts should be solid, preferably white. Be sure your shirt and suit are clean and pressed.

### Tie:

Choose muted colors in solid, stripes, or small patterns.

### Shoes and socks:

Leather, lace-up, or slip-on business shoes in a dark color should be worn with dark colored socks that are mid-calf in height. (You don't want to show a patch of skin between your socks and pants when you sit down.) Make sure your shoes are polished and the heels aren't run down.

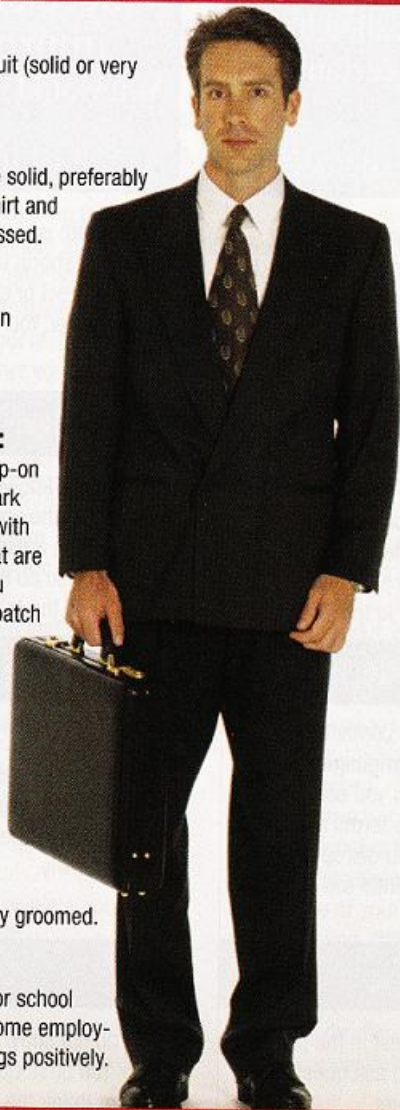
### Hair and facial

#### hair:

All hair should be neatly groomed.

### Jewelry:

A watch and wedding or school ring are appropriate. Some employers will not view earrings positively.



## Professional Attire for Women

### Suit:

Wear a suit in a dark color (black, navy, gray). Your skirt should be at least knee-length so that it doesn't expose your thighs when you sit.

### Shirt:

Choose a white, ivory, or pastel-colored blouse.

### Cosmetics:

Be conservative and understated with makeup. Avoid extra long nails or attention-drawing colors of polish.

### Shoes and hosiery:

Wear closed-toe pumps with medium or low heels in dark color. Shoes should be polished. Heels shouldn't be worn looking. Wear sheer hosiery.

### Jewelry:

Keep jewelry simple and to a minimum. A watch, a single ring, and small earrings are a good choice.



## Tips for Everyone

### Practice good grooming:

Shower, brush your teeth, get regular haircuts, and make sure your nails are clean and trimmed. If you smoke, take care that you (and your clothing) don't smell of smoke.

### Check the details:

Look for loose buttons. Remove tags. Use a lint brush if necessary.

### Lose the backpack:

Leave the backpack in your room. Carry a portfolio containing copies of your resume, a pen, and a notepad. Women may carry a small purse.

### Use cologne/perfume sparingly or not at all:

Too much can be annoying, and your interviewer could be allergic. 