

Professional Dress

"Connecting Curriculum and Career"

While professional dress can vary greatly by industry and geographic region, savvy interviewees will seek to understand the acceptable attire for their chosen careers. Those who are not sure about appropriate dress should exercise caution remembering that the interviewer should remember them for their impeccable qualifications, not their wardrobe.

General Guidelines

- Your appearance should be conservative.
- You should feel comfortable and confident in what you are wearing.
- Visit your potential employer, on a non-causal day, to see how the employees dress and dress a little better for the interview.
- When purchasing interview attire, talk to an "experienced" salesperson in a reputable, conservative clothing store.

Topic	General Guidelines for All	Specific Guidelines for Women	Specific Guidelines for Men
Hair	Have an industry-appropriate hairstyle.	Consider pulling your hair back if it is distracting to you or others. Make sure your hair is out of your face, so your expressions are not hidden.	Trim sideburns to an appropriate length for your industry. Determine whether or not facial hair is appropriate for your industry
Blouse/Shirt	Have a simple, understated style. Pressed	Understated colors. A basic shell is appropriate.	White or blue are the most commonly used colors for men. Choose an appropriate collar style.
Dress/Suit	Avoid red, orange, green, or other trendy/bold colors. Never wear a suit you bought last night – buy it early. Make sure it is a tailored fit. Coordinated top and bottom. Purchase wool or wool blends; also, some of the newer microfibers wear well and are durable.	Gray, navy and black are always appropriate. Almost any style is acceptable. No short skirts (no more than two inches above knee when sitting). Pants suits may be appropriate for some industries.	Gray, navy and small pinstripes are always appropriate. Choose either a traditional 2-button, double-breasted, or 3-button suit. Make sure the lapel width is appropriate.
Jewelry	Simple watch with metallic or leather band. (no sports watches)	No more than one ring on each hand. No dangle bracelets. Simple earrings (diamond, gold, silver or pearl stud) that do not move after nodding head.	No more than one ring. No earrings.
Makeup		Minimal/subtle usage Conservative or clear nail polish Fingernails not excessively long	None Clean and clipped/filed fingernails
Hose/Socks	Hose/Socks	Neutral colored hose. No runs (carry an extra pair with you).	Coordinated with your suit and shoes Try over-the-calf dress socks
Shoes	Darker than your suit. Cleaned and polished.	No high heels, as you may be standing or walking a fair amount. Low pumps are preferable.	Wing tips Loafers Lace-up shoes are best.
Briefcase/Attaché Case/Purse	Leather Lightweight Coordinating portfolio case	Purse should be small, simple, and ideally match attaché case, briefcase, and/or shoes. Carry a portfolio or attaché to hold copies of resume, references, etc.	Carry a briefcase, attaché case, or portfolio to hold copies of resume, references, etc.
Belts	Dark colors are preferable	Coordinated with suit/dress	Leather/understated buckle
Scarves/Ties	Silk Coordinating with your outfit	Scarf coordinated with suit/dress	The bottom of your tie should reach your belt buckle
Cologne/Perfume		Either none or very minimal	Either none or very minimal
Miscellaneous	Empty pockets (no dangling noises). No chewing gum, but carry breath mints instead. No visible tattoos or body piercing		

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