

Dress to Impress

Sometimes the most nerve-wracking part of interviewing for a position or attending a career-related event is deciding what to wear. Check out the guide below to determine what attire is most appropriate for your next professional situation. Professional attire trends vary by industry and the occasion, so determine first what the expectation and norm is for that culture. Remember, wear what makes you feel most comfortable – when you feel good, you’ll come across as more confident!

All pictures are from Amazon.com. Please note that these are just sample items – we encourage you to find the best brand(s) for your budget and style.

Business Casual

Business casual is often the dress code required in an office environment. Most on-campus networking events, employer information sessions, and career shuttles expect business casual attire, for example.

- Brighter colors and more patterns are acceptable with business casual attire.
- Avoid “statement pieces” – you want to be remembered for your personality and your skills, not a “lime green” shirt!
- Make sure your clothing is clean and fits well. Learn more about attire [do’s and don’ts](#).



Choose a button-up shirt, nice blouse, or a cardigan. Cotton or polyester materials with no logos are great.



Khaki pants, chinos, dress pants, or skirts/dresses that are at least finger-tip length. Denim jeans and workout pants are NOT appropriate.



Flats, small heels, or other closed-toe shoes work well. Avoid flip flops and slippers.



Accessories can add color and personality, but don’t overdo it (leave your cat tie at home!). A tie is optional, though many opt to wear one.

Business Professional

Business professional attire is appropriate for most career fairs, interviews, and professional business environments. Whereas with business casual many people mix and match pieces, for business professional, many individuals opt to wear a suit with a matching jacket, pants/skirt, and button-up shirt.

- Colors should be more neutral, often including black, navy, gray, or brown.
- Avoid flashy accessories like wide ties with bold prints or extremely high heels.
- Tip: Bring a padfolio or briefcase. This will give you a place to take notes and store business cards and/or resumes.



Solid colors and simple patterns (like stripes) are great choices.

Select a button-up shirt and a suit jacket.



Bottoms should match the jacket in color and pattern.

Skirts or dresses should be knee-length or longer.

Dress pants/skirts in neutral colors are most common.



“Dress shoes” are most appropriate.

Shoes should match the pant/skirt.

Flats, small heels, or other closed-toe shoes work well.



Choose a solid or a simple pattern tie.

Socks or stockings should blend with bottoms.

Accessories should match clothing and be understated.