



Dress for the world outside of college is quite different from the campus scene. You need professional attire for career fairs, networking events and interviews. This is not to say that you need to go out and buy a whole new wardrobe. Go for quality over quantity. One or two well-chosen business suits will serve you all the way to the first day on the job and beyond. No one will fault you for wearing the same sharp outfit each time you interview. If you want some variety and are working with a limited budget, you might consider varying your shirt/blouse/tie/accessories as a simple way to change your look without breaking your wallet.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

Personal Hygiene:

- Choose a well-groomed hairstyle. MEN: Facial hair should be neatly trimmed or removed.
- Clean and trim your fingernails. WOMEN: Choose natural or light-colored nail polish, if desired.
- Don't wear cologne or perfume. Recruiters may have an allergy!
- No body piercing or tattoos should be visible. Conservative ear piercing is OK for women.
- Brush your teeth and carry small mints for fresh breath. But there should be no gum, candy, or other objects in your mouth once you arrive.
- Take a shower the day of your interview.
- Empty your pockets so there are no bulges or tinkling coins.

Ask to use the rest room when you arrive at the company for a final check of your appearance -- to make sure your tie is straight, your hair is combed, and that there's nothing stuck in your teeth.

Men

- Choose a conservative dark color two-piece business suit. For business casual, a conservative sports jacket in a dark color is acceptable. If wearing a sports jacket, pressed khakis are appropriate.
- Wear a white, ivory, or light blue long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt.
- Wear a conservative tie that coordinates with the color of your suit (or blazer) and shirt.
- Wear nicely polished dress shoes with dark socks (same color as shoes). Your belt should also match your shoes.
- Carry a portfolio; don't carry a backpack.

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Women

- Choose a conservative dark color suit – skirt or pants, or a conservative dress and matching jacket. For business casual, a blazer with a blouse and pants or skirt, or a sweater set with dress pants is acceptable. Skirts and dresses should never be shorter than knee length.
- Wear a white, ivory or pastel colored blouse. Stay away from multi-color, intricate designs. Low-cut tops are not appropriate.
- Choose low-to-medium heeled shoes that match the color of your suit. Be sure they're well maintained, polished and comfortable. Sandals and open-toed shoes are not appropriate.
- Hosiery should be flawless (no runs – take an extra pair in case you get a snag) and conservative in color (sheer or match your skin tone).
- Wear minimal make-up, with lipstick and nail polish in conservative tones (if desired).
- Wear minimal jewelry – take care not to wear jewelry that dangles or jingles, or oversized pieces that would be distracting to the interviewer.
- Carry a portfolio rather than a purse. If you carry a purse, it should be small and hold only the essentials that you need. Do not carry a backpack.