



Johnston Memorial Library, ACE, 2nd Floor

804-524-5211

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Guidelines for Men

Interview Attire **"Dress for Success"**



"In an interview your attire plays a supporting role."

What your Clothes say about You!

In an interview your attire plays a supporting role.

Your conduct, your interpersonal skills and your ability to articulate intelligent and well thought out responses to questions are the most important elements.

Appropriate attire supports your image as a person who takes the interview process seriously and understands the nature of the industry in which you are trying to become employed.

Be aware that in some industries, customer contact and image presented to the customer is critical. In such industries, your attire will be judged more critically.

Your attire should be noticed as being appropriate and well-fitting, but it should not take center stage. If you are primarily remembered for your interview attire, this is probably because you made an error in judgment!

Dressing nicely and appropriately is a compliment to the person you meet, so if in doubt, err on the side of dressing better than you might need to.

Even if you are aware that employees of an organization dress casually on the job, dress up for the interview unless you are specifically told otherwise by the employer.

Never confuse an interview or business function with a social event. Don't dress for a party or a date.

Suit:

A two-piece matched suit is always the best and safest choice.

Conservative colors/fabric:

Navy and dark gray — are safe.

Other color trends may come and go, avoid the extremes.

Solids or very subtle weave patterns or plaids are safest.

Specifics for Men

Suit: A two-piece suit is always the best and safest choice. Don't combine a suit jacket with pants that don't match.

Conservative colors/fabric: Navy and dark gray are safe and is the most conservative for men. Black for men is considered severe or overly formal, although it is common. Other trends may come and go, avoid the extremes. Choose a solid or very subtle weave pattern. Wool or wool blends are the only acceptable fabrics for a conservative men's suit

Cost/quality: You are not expected to be able to afford the same clothing as a corporate CEO. Do invest in quality that will look appropriate during your first two or three years on the job. One good quality suit is sufficient for a job search if that is all your budget allows. You can vary your shirt and tie.

Ties: The styles come and go. Select good quality silk ties. Avoid fashion extremes, like character ties, in interviews. Notice what men wear at career fairs, at information sessions, and in industry.

Shirts: Long-sleeve shirts, even in summer. Choose white or light blue solid, or conservative stripes.

Socks: Dark sock, mid-calf length so no skin is visible when you sit down.

Shoes: Leather, lace-up or slip on business shoes, preferably black or cordovan. Invest in a good pair even if you don't wear them daily on the job, you'll need them for other occasions and you should expect to get lots of years out of good shoes.

Belt: Black or cordovan leather, to match your shoes.

Facial hair: If worn, should be well-groomed.

Jewelry: Wear a conservative watch. Remove earrings!

Fragrance: The safest advice is not to wear any fragrance for an interview.

Details: Everything should be clean and well pressed. Suits typically have tacking stitches to hold vents-on the jacket back and sleeves-in place before the garment is purchased. Cut them off if your retailer/tailor doesn't. And that tag stitched on the outside of your sleeve is not meant to stay there like a Tommy Hilfiger label-cut it off! Carefully inspect clothes for dangling threads, etc.

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Details:

Everything should be clean and well pressed.

Carefully inspect clothes for tags, tangling or dangling threads, and tacking stitches from new clothes, etc.

No missing buttons and not lint on clothing.

Grooming tips for everyone:

Hair: Should be clean and neat.

Shoes: Should be in polished condition. Make sure heels are not worn.

Details: No missing buttons, and no lint.

Hands: Clean fingernails.

Fit: Clothes should be clean, neatly pressed and fit properly.

Smell: Perfume or cologne should be used sparingly or not at all. No odors in clothes.

Don't smell like smoke.

Backpacks: Leave it at home for an on-site interview. For an on-campus interview, you can leave it in the waiting room or area.