

Look Like A Winner: How to Dress For Your Interview

HECPS



“You never get a second chance
to make a first impression.”

— Author unknown

A simple rule to remember

General Guidelines

- The primary goal of dressing for your interview is to feel good and look professional. If you feel uncomfortable in an outfit - even if it fits and people say you look great - don't wear it
- Quality, cut, and fit communicate a lot; avoid wearing a suit that is clearly too big or too small.
- You should avoid dirty/wrinkled clothes, scuffed shoes, chipped nails, athletic clothing, sneakers, hiking boots, flip-flops, athletic sandals, and any shorts, skirts, or tops that are too short or tight for the office

Business Professional

- Two-piece suit and tie; solid, neutral colors are best
- Skirt length should be to the knee—or close to it, depending on what length works for you
- Solid color or subtle patterned blouse/top/dress shirt
- Minimal jewelry
- Dark shoes with dark socks.
- Closed-toe shoes (1 or 2 inches heel height) are appropriate but should be comfortable to stand and walk in; flats or wedges are okay as well
- Subtle makeup
- Trimmed facial hair
- Avoid colognes, perfumes, body sprays
- Carry a portfolio, professional bag or simple, small purse (no backpacks)

Business Casual

- Wearing a tie is optional
- Sport coats/blazers are appropriate, but not required
- Shirts should be collared (polo or button-down)
- Dress pant options include slacks, khakis, chinos (No leggings!)
- Dresses or skirt/blouse combinations are appropriate (sundresses are not appropriate)
- Shorts are not considered appropriate for interviews
- Good casual shoes, like loafers, flats, wedges, or low heels (sandals may be appropriate considering the climate – but no flip-flops!) or fashion sneakers.
- Subtle makeup
- Avoid colognes, perfumes, body sprays

Smart Casual

- Anything mentioned in Business Casual can still work here
- Jeans—avoid rips or holes; darker washes are generally considered more professional
- Clean, plain T-shirts
- Sandals may be appropriate, but not athletic sneakers or flip-flops!
- Avoid athleisure wear, spaghetti straps or camisoles, or any top that reveals too much bare skin

On-line Video Interview

- Dressing in a button-down top or blouse is appropriate for a video interview. You may want to wear a suit coat over the top to maintain a more professional appearance. However, if the company you're interviewing with is more casual, you may be able to forego the jacket.
- You may still want to wear appropriate slacks or a skirt. Dressing in professional attire on the top and bottom can make you feel more confident and professional, and it can help you focus on the questions being asked.