

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

The Basics - Your First Wardrobe

Remember an interview is a formal situation, so it's important to be aware of the details of your appearance. It's best to keep the color of your clothing muted and understated. The focus should be on YOU -- not on your clothes. The idea here is to avoid anything that could distract the interviewer. A clean and neat professional appearance is an important step in making a good first impression.

Occupational Wardrobe

The basic interview outfit is always a suit. There are differences in the occupational wardrobes but if you are not sure use the conservative wardrobe. Here are the general descriptions of the dress appropriate to various occupations. Use these as a guide when selecting your first wardrobe.

Marketing / Communications / Public Relations

Since these fields are about creativity and imagination you should project just that. Even though you are wearing a suit you can add more color and personal style.



Academia / Education / Social Services

Stay with traditional conservative interview attire. Use the classic suit for men and women. Men have some room to wear a slightly less conservative tie. Still no bold prints.



Technical / Scientific

Even if you will not necessarily be wearing a suit once you start in this career, wear it anyway. You do have the option to wear the least conservative of your dressing options with the use of more color in accessories.



General Sales / Retail

This category is split. If you are interviewing for a more trendy type of retail position you still need the suit, but women can go with more color in a blouse. Men can use a bolder color or bolder print tie. If the sales position is for a more conservative sales position again stick with your basic conservative suit look.



Financial Services / Law / Accountants

This is the traditionally the most conservative wardrobe. Use the classic suit for men and women.



TIPS for Women

- Try on your interview outfit ahead of time. Your interview clothes should be comfortable enough to wear for several hours. You may be walking, sitting or standing depending on the style of your interview.
- Wear something that fits correctly. Not too big or small. If it doesn't fit don't wear it. Blouses for the interview should be conservative. Button all the buttons on the blouse. A button front blouse should not have an open gap at the bust. Skirts are to the knee and hemmed to fall evenly all the way around
- Be sure after each wearing your outfit looks fresh. Take into consideration your schedule when planning what you need. You may be busy and not always have the time to get things cleaned.
- Some special attention strategies that can give you a more polished look include a good antiperspirant to avoid underarm stains, a bra that fits well to avoid visible bra lines and having a good haircut and color. Don't forget to pay attention to your hands, have your nails trimmed, clean and neat. You might also consider using one of the bleaching products available to have your teeth look great too.

TIPS for Men

- Try on your interview outfit ahead of time. Your interview clothes should be comfortable enough to wear for several hours. You may be walking, sitting or standing depending on the style of your interview.
- Be sure after each wearing your outfit looks fresh. Take into consideration your schedule when planning what you need. You may be busy and not always have the time to get things cleaned.

- Some special attention strategies that can give you a more polished look include a good antiperspirant to avoid underarm stains, having a good haircut and a clean shave. Don't forget to pay attention to your hands, have your nails trimmed, clean and neat. You might also consider using one of the bleaching products available to have your teeth look great too.