

## Dress for Success

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When preparing what to wear for an interview, remember that what is safest is best. You do not want your physical appearance to distract the interviewer from getting to know you as a candidate. Note that while we do recommend a suit, if you do not have a suit and cannot get one for any reason, just wear whatever you have that is the next best option (for example, nice pants and a button-down shirt, as long as they are both ironed and conservative in color and style). Below are some general conventions. Remember that business-style dress is very traditional. If you do not feel comfortable following these conventions, just know that there may be risks associated. You get to make your own choices!

### Men and Women

Conservative two-piece business suit (solid dark blue, black or grey is best)

Conservative long-sleeved shirt/blouse (white is best, pastel is next best)

Clean, polished conservative shoes

Well-groomed hairstyle

Clean, trimmed fingernails

Minimal, if any, cologne or perfume

Empty pockets- no bulges or jingling coins

No gum, candy or cigarettes

Briefcase or portfolio case

No visible body piercing (nose rings, eyebrow rings, etc.)

Men	Women
Necktie should be silk with a conservative pattern	Wear a suit with a jacket; usually no dresses
Dark shoes	Shoes with conservative heels
Dark socks (black is best)	Conservative hosiery (and no runs!)
Get a haircut; short hair always fares best in interviews	Carry a briefcase instead of a purse
If you have a beard make sure it is neat and trimmed	If you wear nail polish, use clear or a conservative color
No more than one ring on each hand	Minimal use of makeup (it should not be too noticeable)
No earrings (if you normally wear one, take it out)	One set of earrings only

### Websites to aid your preparation:

Dress to Impress: [http://amdt.wsu.edu/research/dti/General\\_Guidelines.html](http://amdt.wsu.edu/research/dti/General_Guidelines.html)

When Job-Hunting Dress for Success: [www.quintcareers.com/dress\\_for\\_success.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/dress_for_success.html)

About.com Job Searching: <http://jobsearch.about.com/od/interviewsnetworking/a/dressforsuccess.htm>

**Remember, you can always get wardrobe advice from a Career Advisor or someone in your field.**

Speaking of, here are some quick ironing tips. While using an actual iron and ironing board is best (and if you don't have both, now is probably a good time to invest!), in a pinch, you can try putting your clean, dry clothes in a clothes dryer for a few minutes (make sure you use a dryer sheet and have some static guard spray handy), or using steam (hang your clothes in the bathroom while you take a long, steamy shower). And, straightening irons for hair can also be used to smooth out your collar – just use caution! And you may want to try these techniques on something other than your interview outfit first.