

## Presentation – Dress for Success

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This should give you a good indication of how you should present yourself. But if you're just beginning to interview, there are some standard things to consider when preparing your interview wardrobe.

### WOMEN

Women usually have a greater range of fashion choices for interviews than do men, but they should keep in mind the following wardrobe rules:

DO	DON'T
Consider the suit as the major mode of dress for interviews.	Wear a shirt and blouse or casual dress.
Solids, pinstripes and muted plaids are acceptable colors.	Choose attire that will cause undue attention such as fluorescents or animal prints.
Cotton-polyester, wool, and natural synthetic blends work well.	Wear natural fibers that wrinkle easily. You may arrive at the interview looking as if you just rolled out of bed!
Be on the conservative side when choosing skirt length.	Choose a skirt length that may be uncomfortable to you as well as those around you. A short skirt may send the wrong message and be a distraction during the interview.
Choose a blouse with long sleeves that will allow the cuff to show about a quarter or half-inch beyond the jacket sleeve. Colors such as white, gray, or blue are most acceptable. Stick with natural fibers.	Pair a suit with a sleeveless blouse. You never know when you may need to remove your jacket and bare arms are not appropriate for an interview.
Wear conservative shoes with a closed toe. The heel should be about 1 ½ inches high. Black, brown or navy are standard colors that should compliment most suits.	Wear those three-inch heels you wear to the club. They're not considered conservative and may not be comfortable for walking should you be asked to visit other offices during your interview.
Hose should also be neutral or skin tone.	Even think about wearing hose that incorporate wild patterns or colors.

John Molloy, author of the bestseller, *The New Dress for Success* and image consultant to such corporate giants as General Motors and Merrill Lynch, advises that students should take note of "what's been worn by those who are considered successful and influential."

You'll want to emulate their mode of dress." For women, something that looks expensive is the best choice. "Cross shop. Go to the most expensive/conservative shop in town. Look at the shades, styles, and textures. Then go to the store that you can afford and find a suit combo that looks most like those in the more expensive store," says Molloy. He also contends that if your jacket does not match the bottom part of your outfit, it is not considered a suit. For an interview, the suit should be uniform.

## MEN

What types of things should a guy consider when dressing for an interview?

DO	DON'T
Consider a two-piece suit for your interview	Show up for the interview in your dad's old leisure suit or a three-piece borrowed from a friend. These looks are dated and can lead one to believe you don't have an eye for detail
Choose suits made of wool or polyester-wool blends. 100% wool, however, is always the best bet for men.	Bet on a synthetic suit to exude success. Synthetics have a tendency to shine and look cheap. Linen or cotton may be acceptable in hotter climates, but beware of the wrinkle factor!
Most clothing consultants agree that conservative is best: shades of blue, gray, beige and brown. Solid colors are most appropriate, however pinstripes, herringbone, tweed and some plaids are acceptable.	Even consider the electric blue number. It's strictly for fun and should not be worn in a conservative business setting.
Stick to standard colors when choosing a shirt: white or blue. Other hues are acceptable, but it is a good rule of thumb to make sure that your shirt is lighter than your suit and your tie is darker than your shirt. Preferably, the shirt should be long-sleeve. Ties should come to your belt buckle.	Wear shirts that are busy and incorporate loud colors or patterns. It may cause the interviewer to focus more on your shirt instead of you.
Select either black or brown shoes for the interview. Socks should also compliment your shoe color. Make sure your shoes are polished well.	Pull out the alligator or snakeskin shoes for the interview. Also, avoid colors for both shoes and socks that may take away from the appearance of your suit.

Here're some other words of advice as you begin the interview process:

1. Contact the company in advance of the interview to get information on dress code and try to dress conservatively.
2. The more conservative the better. Stick to that train of thought and once you've gotten a job and established yourself, you can be a bit more liberal with your clothing choices.
3. Get to the interview early and duck into a restroom to spruce yourself up. It's easy to become slightly disshelved as you travel to the interview. If you are carrying an overcoat, check with the receptionist for a place to hang it. Better yet, try not to take it to the interview. Go to the waiting area and be polite, even if the interviewer is late.