Dress for Success!

"Nothing succeeds like the appearance of success."
Christopher Lasch, author & social critic

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Appearance Counts

- *Make a positive first impression*
- *Wear something comfortable*
- *Combine personal style with good taste*
- *Your visual and behavioral appearance will be appraised from head to toe*
- *Your first impression may be your last!*

Interview Attire: The Basics

"A *perfect* suit is classic in style. It is a solid-color neutral, the pieces of which (jacket and pants) can be interchanged to give you more looks."
Author JoAnna Nicholson, "Dressing Smart for Men & Women"

A suit is almost always your safest, smartest, and only option!

Men and Women:

- Choose a conservative suit in black, grey or navy blue…
- Buy good quality and properly fit clothing
- Wear a white or light colored shirt that is well pressed
- Black or dark shoes only – polished & no scuffs
- No stains, tears, rips, wrinkles or lint…
- It is always better to overdress rather than underdress
- Dress professionally formal rather than socially formal
- Try on your interview outfit ahead of time

Interview Attire: Women

- Skirt length no more than 2 inches above knee
- Shoes: 2 inch heels maximum; No open toe
- Watch for runs in pantyhose and bring an extra pair
- Some companies find pant suits and dresses too casual
- A professional, conservative jacket and skirt suit is always your safest choice

Interview Attire: Men

- Black, navy or gray two-piece suit
- No white socks!
- Polished and professional dress shoes
- Match your belt and shoes (same color)
- Tie should:

- Be conservative in color and pattern
- Fall at the top of the belt buckle
- Proper length and width (average is 54 in. x 3 ¼ in.)

Grooming Essentials

- Hair should be clean, neat, and not attract attention
- Scents, perfumes and aftershave should be subdued
- Hands and nails clean and manicured
- No visible piercings or tattoos
- Watch what you eat before/during an interview
  (no onions, coffee, garlic, cigarettes, etc)
- Women: make-up should not be over done
- Men: clean shaven beards and goatees/mustaches trimmed

Business Casual

What is business casual?

- Combination of traditional business and casual attire
- Crisp, neat, put-together look
- Classic not trendy
- Dress business casual when appropriate but always professionally
- NO jeans, sneakers, t-shirts, tight fitting or revealing clothing
- Different ideas of business casual…if in doubt, ask!

Financing Your Attire

- Outlet, discount stores and consignment shops
  - Marshall's, TJ Maxx, Ross, Filene's Basement, Men's Warehouse, local consignment shops
- Buy one good quality suit and learn to accessorize
  Men: multiple shirts and ties
  Women: multiple shirts and scarves
- Watch for department store sales
- Non-profit organizations
  - The Bach Foundation: www.thebachfoundation.org
  - Dress for Success (women): www.dressforsuccess.org
  - Career Gear (men): www.careergear.org

Additional Resources

Websites

- Syms Dress to Achieve website, www.symsdress.com
- Quintessential Careers : www.quintcareers.com
- Men's Warehouse website: click on Interview Attire

Books

- Beyond Business Casual by Ann Marie Sabath
- Dressing Smart for Men/Women by JoAnna Nicholson
- Dress Smart: Women and Dress Smart: Men by Kim Johnson Gross and Jeff Stone

Questions? Stop by and see us!
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