Dress To Impress

Dressing to impress employers should be a crucial part of your job search strategy. How you dress is taken into consideration in hiring decisions. You want to have a competitive edge, especially when it comes to making initial impressions.

First, it is always good to research the employer before the interview. Explore the dress requirements typical of that career field. You can find this out by visiting the office and picking up an annual report or employer brochure.

The clothing you wear should make you look like you fit in with the prospective employer and should really communicate the message, “I am already one of you.”

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Visit the Dress for Success Career Closet
Men

Suits
- Traditional dark navy or gray suits are best.
- Don’t forget to cut off the tacking stitches used to hold the vents on the jacket back and on the sleeves. Also that tag stitched on the outside of your sleeve is not meant to stay there!

Shirts
- Long sleeved, pressed white dress shirts are always the best choice.
- Solid light blue is also an acceptable alternative.

Shoes/Socks
- Polished leather, lace up black or dark brown shoes.
- Dark socks, mid-calf length so no skin is visible when you sit down.

Ties
- Wear conservative silk ties, avoid busy patterns.
- Make sure the knot is neat and the tie comes to the top of your slacks.
- Be sure that your tie has no wrinkles.

Accessories
- Wear a dark belt with a functional buckle that matches your shoes.
- Do not wear any earrings.

Women

Suits-Skirts/Pants
- Navy, dark grey, brown and black are safe. Other feasible colors are dark plum, dark green, camel or beige.
- Skirts should be knee length and not too tight. Avoid high slits.
- Tailored pants suits are acceptable. Pants should be creased and not too tight.

Blouse
- Tailored blouses in a color that coordinates with your suit. A fine gauge, good quality knit shell is also appropriate.
- Avoid low-cut necklines or very frilly styles.

Shoes
- Close-toe pumps with a low to medium heels are best (1-2 inches).
- Shoes should be cleaned and polished.

Accessories
- Hosiery should be sheer, in neutral colors and plain (no patterns.)
- Purses should be kept small and coordinate with your shoes.
- Keep makeup conservative. Nail polish should be neatly done in a subtle color.
- Hair should be clean and neat.
- Jewelry should be conservative and kept to a minimum.
- Avoid wearing perfume.