Dress for an Interview

Keep in mind...
where to shop for interview attire

- Macy's
- Nordstrom
- JC Penney
- Bloomingdale's
- Men's Wearhouse
- The Limited
- Ann Taylor Loft
- Banana Republic
- Steinmart
- Marshalls
- TJ Maxx
- Ross Dress for Less

FAQs about dressing for an interview

I have an interview scheduled, and they told me that I can dress business casual. What should I wear?
Even though an employer tells you that you can wear business casual attire, it is highly recommended that you dress in formal attire. It demonstrates professionalism and maturity.

How do I find out what the proper attire is for an upcoming interview?
You can contact the Human Resources department of the company and ask them what is appropriate. Keep in mind that some technical companies encourage their applicants to dress more casually. Ask for clarification as to what is acceptable. Is it khakis and a polo shirt? Slacks and a button-down shirt?

I can’t afford a really expensive suit and I know I have to wear one for interviews, what should I do?
There are many stores available that sell quality suits at discounted prices. Some students will borrow their friend’s suit if they have an interview coming up and are not able to go shopping, but your friend’s suit may fit you differently.

What if the recruiters or company employees dress casually during career fairs or on-campus interviews?
Employers want to see if you are able to represent yourself professionally. Therefore, it is recommended that you wear formal attire to the interview.

Can I wear a shirt and tie without a jacket?
Wearing a shirt and tie without a jacket would be considered business casual and is usually not appropriate for interviews.

Interview Tips

- Arrive early – you’ll be on time and have a chance to collect your thoughts
- Treat all staff members with respect. Everyone is a potential co-worker
- Silence your cell phone and dispose of any gum
- Make sure your hair and outfit are neat, and refrain from using any heavy fragrances (your interviewer may be allergic)
- Keep bags and satchels on the floor, close to your seat
- Alert references that they may be contacted soon

More Interview Attire Help

- www.dressforsuccess.org
- www.q quintcareers.com/dress_for_success.html

A Final Check

- Neatly trimmed hair
- Shoes polished
- No missing buttons or lint
- Clean hands and fingernails