

Dressing for the Interview

The clothing you wear to an interview is important! Even though many companies (especially in California) have a relaxed dress code (“business casual”), you are better off dressing conservatively for the interview. Remember that your attire reflects how important this interview is to you. The following are general guidelines; if you are not sure how to dress, you can always call the employer’s Personnel Office and ask for advice.

For Men

Depending on the position:

- *Conservative suit in dark color with white or pinstriped dress shirt.
- *Dress slacks and conservative sports coat with white or pinstriped dress shirt.
- *Dress slacks and white or pinstriped dress shirt.

Conservative tie. Avoid wild patterns and colors.
Shave or trim facial hair.

For Women

Depending on the position

- *Seasonal business suit in solid color with blouse in a complimentary color.
- *Jacket in solid color with coordinating skirt and blouse.
- *Tailored dress in conservative print.
- *Tailored dress pants and matching blouse or pants suit.

Avoid heavy application of makeup or wild colors.
Hosiery at or near skin color (even in the summer).

Men and Women

Hair should be clean and well-groomed (avoid hairstyles that fall on the face)
Avoid aftershave and cologne.
Shoes should be polished and coordinated with the suit or dress. Avoid sandals.
No gum, candy or cigarettes.
Avoid excessive and dangling jewelry.

Special Notes

What about body piercing and multicolored hair? In general, think conservatively and remove earrings except from the earlobes. You also may wish to color your hair a single, natural color. These may not be issues with the company and organization, but you never know the interviewer(s)’s attitude. The old motto “better safe than sorry” applies here.

Limited on your budget for interview clothes? You don’t need to shop at the most expensive clothing stores. Visit your local thrift shop; they have some fantastic buys. Consider borrowing clothes from a friend who is close to your size.