

Business Education Compact

DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

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What's So Important about DRESS?

- First impressions are ***CRITICAL!***
- You are marketing a product – **YOURSELF!**
- Dress is the ***first thing an employer sees*** when greeting you!
- Will dressing properly get you the job? NO, but it will:
 - Give you a competitive edge
 - Provide a positive first impression!

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The Reality

Should you be judged by what you wear?

PERHAPS NOT

- **THE REALITY:**
 - You ARE judged
 - With the job interview, it's HOW YOU ARE DRESSED that sets the tone of the interview.



How Should I Dress?

- Conservative is ALWAYS the safest route
- BUT – do some investigation of the employer
 - What you wear should make you look as though you **FIT IN** with the organization
 - If you overdress or under dress, the employer may feel that you don't care enough about the job!
- Ways to find out the proper dress:
 - Call the Human Resources offices and ask
 - Visit the company's office and observe the attire current employees are wearing
 - Make sure you are not there on a "casual day"!



Hints for Dress Success

- **Make sure you have:**
 - Clean and polished conservative dress shoes
 - Well-groomed hairstyle
 - Cleaned and trimmed fingernails
 - Minimal cologne or perfume
 - No visible body piercings beyond conservative ear piercings for women
 - Well-brushed teeth and fresh breath
 - No gum, candy, or other objects in your mouth
 - Minimal jewelry
 - No body odor



Dress for Success- Women

- **Wear conservative colors**
 - Matching blazer and skirt or pants – dark colors with light colored blouse – nothing low-cut
 - OR
 - Dress/khaki slacks (pressed) and long-sleeve button-down shirt
- **Skirt length should be a little below the knee and NEVER shorter than above the knee**
- **Avoid wearing tight clothing**
- **Shoes should be low-heeled**
- **Make-up should be minimal**
 - Lipstick and nail polish in conservative tones
- **Bring a briefcase rather than a purse**



Dress for Success - Men

- **Wear conservative colors**
 - Conservative suit or sports coat and pressed dress/khaki slacks
 - White long-sleeved button-down shirt
 - Conservative silk tie (optional)
 - Polished dress shoes
 - Belt that matches shoes
- **If you have a beard or mustache:**
 - Make sure it is neatly trimmed
- **If you have any visible body parts pierced or tattooed:**
 - Remove all piercings and cover all tattoos if possible

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Dressing ON THE JOB

- **Once you've landed the job...**
 - Consult your supervisor as to what is acceptable dress for his/her department
 - Ask about any "casual days" and what type of dress is allowed on those days
 - When in doubt, **DRESS CONSERVATIVELY!**

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Questions?

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