

Dress for Success

Event:

- **Career Fair:** Business Professional or Business Casual
- **Professional Interview:** Do your research! (e.g. finance has a business professional expectation where tech & startups sometimes do not). If you don't know, the safest route to take is to do business professional for interviews but know that business casual may be fine
- **Internships & Job Day-to-Day:** Business casual is often the dress code in many offices. Every work environment is different so be sure to observe and inquire about the dress code

General Tips

- Hair: well-groomed hairstyle
- Nails & Makeup: simple and not overdone
- Jewelry & Fragrance: moderate jewelry with mild fragrance (or neither)
- Clothes should be tailored, in good condition, wrinkle/lint free
- Silence cell phone
- Piercings & Tattoos: align to company culture or standards

Business Professional	vs.	Business Casual
Skirt suit (preferably a dark color), includes knee-length skirt, tailored jacket, and solid (or subtle patterned) blouse/top		Jacket, blouse, cardigan, or conservative top with pants or a knee-length skirt. For sheer blouses, make sure to wear a camisole underneath
Pant suit (preferably a dark color), includes tailored pants and jacket		Simple, knee-length dress
Two-piece, single-breasted suit (preferably a dark color and solid and/or conservative pinstripes)		Collared button up shirt with a white undershirt underneath or a collared knit polo shirt
White dress shirt with a white undershirt underneath and a conservative tie that touches the top of the belt		Dark pants or khakis
Solid (or subtle patterned) blouse or top		Open or close-toed shoes such as flats, boots or small heels (no flip flops or sandals)
Dark, polished shoes and matching socks		No jeans, shorts, sundresses, athletic wear or too tight or revealing clothing
Closed-toed shoes with no more than 1-2" heels		

Your culture, religion, and gender identity might influence your choice of business attire. We encourage you to incorporate those elements into your business wardrobe.

Need interview clothing? Come shop at SuccessWorks' Career Closet! Students from historically underrepresented groups, 1st generation, and low-income often find it a barrier to acquire the right clothing. They have gently used business professional and business casual clothing at no cost to you. Stop by SuccessWorks between 8:30 – 4:30, Monday - Friday (on the 3rd floor of the University Bookstore). You may acquire (and keep!) up to 4 items per semester.

Other money saving options: Local consignment shops such as Re-threads, Simply Savvy or outlet malls

- [Examples of business professional & business casual](#)
- [What is business attire?](#)
- [Dress Codes - decoded](#)
- If your day-to-day attire [doesn't conform to a traditional gender norm](#), your career fair/interview attire doesn't have to either
- [How to tie a tie](#)