

MEN'S BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW ATTIRE

The Suit:

- Choose solid color conservative suit such as black, navy, (gray, brown or tan in non-interview settings), in a flattering cut that is properly fitted.
- The fabric should be gabardine, a firm hard-finish durable fabric such as light wool, or rayon.
- Jacket should match pants. Pants should have a slight break over shoe.
- Suit should be a solid color or subtle pinstripes.
- Avoid wearing trendy lapels or buttons.

The Shirt:

- Wear a neutral color such as white or beige; avoid bright colors and large prints. Button-down collar.
- Long sleeved, collared shirt.

The Tie

- Conservative silk tie that matches the colors in the suit. Tie should reach belt line; use solids, stripes or small patterns.

Jewelry:

- Limited – conservative watch & one ring. If visible piercing – remove jewelry, including earrings. Observe other men in your industry to see what is acceptable.

Shoes and Socks:

- Leather, black or brown to match the suit. Buy a reversible belt to save money!
- Shoes must match belt. Make sure the shoes are polished & heels are not scuffed!
- Dark socks that match the suit color. Mid-calf length so no skin is visible when you sit down.

The Hair:

- Neat, professional hairstyle. Facial hair should be neatly trimmed, if any at all. Know your industry and how conservative it is; observe men in your industry if you are unsure what's appropriate or are considering changing your look.

DO DRESS FOR THE INTERVIEW, NOT THE JOB!!

GENERAL TIPS:

- Err on the conservative side. Go classic, not trendy.
- If your interview attire/appearance speaks louder than you, you won't be heard. The louder your appearance is, the less attention the employer will pay to your capabilities, skills & experience.
- Practice good hygiene: brush teeth and wear deodorant. Neatly trimmed nails.
- Make sure all clothing is clean, neatly pressed and coordinated.
- **Keep cologne to a minimum; apply at least 2 hours before the interview. Best approach - don't wear it at all.**
- **Carry a briefcase or portfolio** with copies of your resume.

SPECIFICS FOR MEN'S BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

In general – 4-pocket pants or khakis; oxford, long-sleeved polo; turtleneck sweater, or button-down shirt; socks that match your belt; dress shoes. A nice sports coat or blazer can polish up your look for less casual situations.

- **Pants:** Khaki, gabardine or cotton pants, neatly pressed.
- **Ties:** Ties are generally not necessary for business casual, but if you are in doubt, you can wear a tie. It never hurts to slightly overdress; by dressing nicely, you pay a compliment to your host. You can always wear the tie and inconspicuously walk by the room where the function is held; if no one else is wearing a tie, you can discreetly remove yours.
- **Shirts:** Long-sleeved shirts are considered dressier than short-sleeved and are appropriate even in summer. Choosing white or light blue solid, or conservative stripes is your safest bet. Polo shirts or knit shirts – with a collar (tucked in, of course) are acceptable in more casual situations. Make sure they are not wrinkled.
- **Socks:** Dark socks, mid-calf length so no skin is visible when you sit down.
- **Belt:** Leather – that matches your shoes.
- **Shoes:** Leather shoes should be worn. No sandals, athletic shoes or hiking boots.
- **Facial hair:** Just as with interviews: Facial hair, if worn, should be well-groomed. Know your industry and how conservative it is; observe men in your industry if you are unsure what's appropriate or are considering changing your look.
- **Jewelry:** Wear a conservative watch. If you choose to wear other jewelry, be conservative. Removing earrings is safest. For conservative industries, don't wear earrings. Observe other men in your industry to see what is acceptable.

Cost / quality:

You are not expected to be able to afford the same clothing as a corporate CEO. However, do invest in quality that will look appropriate during your first two or three years on the job for a business casual environment or occasions.

Details:

Everything should be clean, well pressed, and not show wear. Even the nicest khakis after 100 washings may not be your best choice for a reception. Carefully inspect new clothes for tags, and all clothes for dangling threads, etc. (as with interview attire).