

Dress for Success

You cannot judge a book by the cover but you can always look at the cover to decide whether or not to read the book. Your appearance may not be an indicator of your work capabilities but you probably will not get the chance to prove your value if your appearance does not meet the employer's expectations.

Do not rely on a company's dress code as a guide for what to wear during an interview. The interview and the job are entirely different and require different appearances and different behaviors.

By dressing appropriately for an interview you are showing the employer that you have respect for them and the company. This level of respect is rare in today's labor market.

People who look good usually feel good about themselves. This translates into confidence during interviews.



Even if you are applying for a job that does not require you to wear nice clothes or a suit, it is still a good idea to spiff up for the interview. Think of the interview as a first date. Your chances of getting a second date (second interview) are always better if you make a solid first impression.

An interview is no place for inappropriate or sloppy attire. Employers want someone who talks like, looks like and behaves like a good employee. If there is any doubt, you may not get the chance to prove how good an employee you are.

Always make sure your clothing is cleaned and wrinkle free. Stay away from flashy clothing. The subject of the interview is you, not your clothes.

Never smoke before an interview or use cologne/perfume products. Different people have different sensitivities to smells. You want them to focus on your skills not your smell.

Clothing recommendations for interviews:

Executive/Professional – Suit and tie for men, suit or conservative dress for women.

Administrative – Suit and tie for men, dress or pantsuit for women.

Light Industrial – Neat, clean, wrinkle free work clothes. A button down shirt is recommended. No tee shirts.