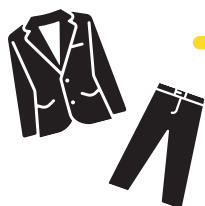


INTERVIEW ATTIRE

Research shows that it only takes six seconds or less for someone to make a decision about what type of person you are, and if you could be a good fit for their organization. This decision can be made before you even speak! It is for this reason that your attire needs to be considered a crucial part of the interviewing process. Below are guidelines for appropriate attire, accessories, and grooming habits:



Suits - A suit is very appropriate for interviews. Possible colors include black, pinstripe, navy blue, or dark gray. Make sure that the suit fits properly; for example, the sleeves should come to the top of your wrist, the material should fit properly in the shoulders and around the neck, and the pants should just touch the top of your dress shoes. If wearing a skirt suit, the skirt should be at or slightly above the knee. Most department or suit stores will provide guidance.



Ties - Try not to wear anything with bright colors or wild patterns. A tie with a small print or conservative stripes that matches the suit is ideal. The bottom of your tie should end at the middle of your belt buckle. You could try and match your color to the potential employer's colors.



Shirts - A blouse or long-sleeved neutral colored shirt is a good choice, one that fits properly in the shoulders and neck. Wearing another layer under your shirt is recommended in many cases, such as a white t-shirt.



Shoes, Socks, and Belts - Shoes should be a complimentary color to your suit. Shoes should be freshly shined and not scuffed! Dress socks and belt should be dark in color and should match the suit; panty hose should match your skin color. Keep any heeled shoes at a reasonable length.



Jewelry - Body rings such as tongue rings or eyebrow rings should not be worn. Jewelry is fine to wear, as long as it does not distract from your interview.



Grooming - Hair, facial hair, and nails should be clean and neatly trimmed. Be aware that some employers do not allow any type of facial hair. Keep your makeup natural.



Miscellaneous - Clothes should be clean and neatly pressed. Avoid wearing cologne/perfume or aftershave. Try to keep tattoos covered at all times. Do not chew gum. Do not have the odor of cigarette smoke on your clothes and/or body. Bring a portfolio or briefcase, and if bringing a purse make sure it is small.