

# THE BEST DRESSED CANDIDATES

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*The way that you dress and present yourself for an interview is your chance to create a favorable first impression on an employer. Follow the tips below to make sure you are dressed for success.*

## **Dressing for an Interview:**

- When possible, wear a two-piece business suit (navy or other dark color). Even if the interview is with an organization that allows business casual attire, you will still need to dress professionally for the interview.
- Achieve a consistent, professional look from head to toe; avoid wearing a business suit with sandals, sneakers, white socks or scuffed shoes.
- Have a well-groomed hairstyle; avoid unusual styles, unusual colors or “big hair.”
- Do not wear cologne or perfume; the interviewer might have allergies.
- Do not wear more than one ring on each hand (exception: engagement/wedding sets).
- A dress watch is preferable to a bulky sports watch.

## **Tips for Women:**

- Wear a solid-colored neatly pressed blouse with a conservative neckline and no cleavage showing.
- Dress in a traditional suit with either a skirt or dress pants; choose the style most flattering and appropriate for you.
- Avoid ill-fitting skirts that are too tight, short or clingy; the skirt should be no higher than one to two inches above the knee when standing.
- Wear closed-toe leather pumps with low to medium heels; avoid open-toe “strappy” high heels, sandals or shoes with decorations.
- Choose skin-colored hosiery or a color that matches your suit (e.g., black hosiery with your black suit).
- If you wear nail polish, it should be conservative. Avoid unusual colors (e.g., green, blue, lavender).
- Make-up should be understated.
- Wear one small pair of stud earrings instead of dangling or oversized earrings.
- Pull back long hair in a neat, simple style, not an elaborate style.
- Carry a briefcase or portfolio in place of a handbag or purse. Don’t carry multiple items.

## **Tips for Men:**

- Wear a long-sleeved oxford cloth shirt (neatly pressed) in white or light blue.
- Choose a necktie conservative in color and pattern; avoid cartoon characters, less-than-serious graphics or theme ties.
- Wear high-fitting dark socks; avoid light-colored socks with a dark suit.
- Wear business-style leather shoes.
- Match shoes and belt color; don’t mix black and brown.
- Do not have any visible body piercing.
- Carry a briefcase or portfolio, not a backpack.