

Interview Attire



INTERVIEW BUSINESS FORMAL



MATCHED SUITS

- Grey, blue, or black
- Solid colors are best, subtle stripes OK
- No cling or shine
- Suit pants and jackets must be identical fabric

PANTS VS. SKIRTS

- A skirt suit is considered more formal
- Skirts should fall to the knee or below
- Pants should be tailored to fit without being overly tight or dragging

HOSIERY/STOCKS

- Formal workplaces will expect pantyhose with skirts
- Socks should coordinate with suit—same shade or a shade darker
- Solid color socks or with subtle design
- NEVER wear white/athletic socks



GROOMING/ACCESSORIES

- Nails should be clean and groomed
- Keep makeup conservative
- Conceal tattoos and remove facial piercings
- Avoid using perfume or cologne; others may be allergic
- Watch/jewelry should be minimal and subtle
- Use briefcase/padfolio or small purse

DRESS SHIRTS/BLOUSES

- Pressed, clean, and well-tailored
- White, ivory, or light blue are best
- Solid colors or subtle patterns are best
- Avoid lace, ruffles, and shiny fabrics

SHOES

- Choose basic, conservative shoes that look clean and polished
- Neutral colors, like black, navy, or brown, recommended
- Must match conservative tone of suit
- Should have closed toe and heel
- If wearing heels, low heels recommended (2 1/2" or lower)

TIES/BELTS

- Coordinate tie with suit and shirt
- Belt should match shoe color; no large or flashy belts

WHEN TO WEAR IT

Q: When should I wear business formal?

A: Business formal is always the safest bet for an interview. Also wear business formal to the Career Fair if you are looking for full-time work or if you are a business student.

Q: What if I am overdressed?

A: It is much better to be overdressed than underdressed.

Q: When can I get away with NOT wearing business formal?

A: One instance is if the interviewer explicitly says to wear Business Casual, then you could do that. Another instance is if you don't own a suit and cannot borrow one. In that case, just wear the nicest thing that you own (ie. dress shirt, slacks, tie).



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Business Formal Business Casual (Interview) Business Casual (Office) Business Formal Business Casual (Interview) Business Casual (Office)

The rule of thumb is that you dress one or two levels higher than the job that you're applying for.

Interview Attire

 INTERVIEW BUSINESS CASUAL 		
<p>PANTS/SLACKS/KHAKIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pants should be tailored, not too tight • Cotton, wool, or micro-fiber • Darker=dressier; lighter=more casual • NEVER wear jeans or cargo pants <p>SKIRTS/DRESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservative pants, suits, skirts and dresses are all acceptable • Skirts and dresses should be knee length • A variety of colors and patterns are OK, but solid tones or subtle patterns are safer <p>JACKETS/BLAZER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid shade or subtle design • Create more professional look • Can be removed to create more casual look <p>TIES/BELTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a casual look more formal • Belt should match shoe color; no large or flashy belts 	 	<p>SHIRTS/BLOUSES/SWEATERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many choices are available, but use discretion when considering cut, fabric, or formality • Long-sleeve button-down is more business-oriented • Crisp, clean, and pressed • Soft pastel colors and subtle patterns are recommended • Should be well-tailored to fit without cling • Avoid flashy, shiny or revealing looks • NO t-shirts <p>SHOES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean, polished, neutral tone • Style and color must match outfit • Should have closed toe and heel • Avoid high heels (less than 2 1/2") • Flats are okay; heels look more formal <p>GROOMING/ACCESSORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as business formal
<h2>WHEN TO WEAR IT</h2>	<h2>COMMON MISTAKES</h2>	
<p>Q: When could business casual be appropriate for an interview?</p> <p>A: Business formal is always the safest bet for an interview. However, if the interviewer explicitly says to wear Business Casual, then you could do that. Also, business casual could be appropriate for internship interviews. If not sure, you could always ask the interviewer or call the employer's office and ask the secretary.</p> <p>Q: What if I am underdressed?</p> <p>A: If you are concerned about being underdressed, then wear business formal. It is much better to be overdressed than underdressed.</p> <p>Q: Business casual is anything I would wear in an office setting, right?</p> <p>A: Business casual for an INTERVIEW is going to be a step more formal than what might be appropriate business casual once you have the job/internship.</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>Messy hair/appearance</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>Too much makeup</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>Hair in front of eyes</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>White/athletic socks</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>Heels too high Difficulty walking Brightly colored heels</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>Skirt too short</p> </div> </div>	