

# INTERVIEW ATTIRE: MEN

Appearance has nothing to do with a person's knowledge, experience or ability to do the job. However, it impacts other people's perceptions of you which can affect your chances of success. Don't let your appearance undermine your chance for a job! Always be well dressed and groomed for an interview!

## Clothing

### Suits

- Wear a fitted, light weight, wool matching two-piece suit (black, navy blue or charcoal gray).
- Jackets should have two or three buttons. Only button the top two buttons or the middle button- never all three!

### Shirts

- White is the safest color. As you become acclimated to a new job, you can experiment with other colors.
- Shirts should be 100% cotton with classic collars and long sleeves.

### Ties

- Ties should be silk or silk-like with an understated pattern.
- Always make sure your tie is clean!
- Ideally your tie should touch the top of your belt. Don't make it too long or too short.
- Stay away from gaudy ties for the interview or first meeting.

### Socks

- Wear dress socks- NOT tube socks! Trust me, they WILL know!
- They should be dark and match either your shoes or your suit.
- Make sure they are at least calf-length.

### Shoes

- Your shoes should be black or brown and polished.
- No sandals, sneakers or hiking boots.

### Belt

- Always wear a belt. You do not want to worry about your pants falling down in the middle of your interview!
- The color of your leather should match your shoes (ex. a black belt with black shoes).

### Coats

- Stick to a good classic raincoat or trench coat.

## Appearance & Accessories

### Briefcase & Pad-folios

- Briefcases are not necessary, however, if you do bring one, make sure it's a neutral color.
- You may want to bring a pad folio for resumes and/or portfolio. Make sure the pad-folio is neutral colored and of good quality, preferably from your university.

## **Jewelry**

- Keep it conservative- not flashy!
- Anything other than a watch and a ring is probably too much. Leave the earrings, bracelet and rope chain at home.

## **Hair**

- Get a good haircut a few days before the interview.
- If you have long hair consider pulling it off of your face.
- Do not over-style with too much gel or product.
- Get rid of any crazy colors!

## **Facial Hair**

- No facial hair is preferred, but if you do have some, make sure it's neatly trimmed. No one wants to interview a cave man.

## **Nails**

- Nails should be short and well groomed.
- Get rid of any grease or dirt.

## **Cologne or Scent**

- Scent can become overwhelming during an interview and some people are allergic to scents. Your best bet is to use a very light scent or avoid them all together.
- Be mindful of the scent of your hair products.

## **Deodorant and Fresh Breathe**

- Please use good hygiene!
- Don't eat food that will leave an odor on your breathe.
- If you must, use a breathe mint, but do NOT chew gum.

## **Tattoos**

- Cover them up for interviews and first meetings or work for an organization that embraces them.

## **Body Piercing**

- If cultural, wear very small studs. Otherwise, remove them!

## **Additional Tips**

- Present yourself as a professional.
- Dress for the interview or dress for the job- but don't dress for a party.
- Your attire should not be distracting or become the focus of attention in the interview or on the job. You want the focus to be on you and what you have to offer.
- There is a distinction between business casual and "at-home" casual. Business casual does not include tennis shoes, jeans, shorts, sandals, or t-shirts.
- Leave your backpack at home. Make sure whatever item you carry looks professional.
- A smile, a firm handshake, and a positive attitude makes a good first impression.
- Arrive early for your interview and head for the restroom. Check out your appearance in a mirror
- Don't drink alcohol before an interview.
- When in doubt about what to wear to an interview, visit Career Services and talk with a professional staff member.

*Interview Attire*, Career Services Center, Clarion University, Clarion, Pennsylvania. Retrieved from <http://www.clarion.edu/career>

*Interview Dress for Success*, Career Development Center, Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania. Retrieved from

<http://www.albright.edu/resources/careercenter>



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