Dress for Career Success

What you wear to an interview and on the job can and does say a lot about you. As a general rule of thumb, dressing conservatively and professionally in a business suit, being neatly groomed, and wearing limited accessories will be appropriate in nearly all settings. (Always ask the employer ahead of time if unsure or if the environment is more casual.) For an interview, your goal should be to ensure that the interviewer is focused on what you are saying, not what you are wearing.

There are numerous websites and magazine articles that deal with appropriate business dress, and in particular, dress for the new college graduate. Here are a few to investigate:

- Dressing for Success: [http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/CareerCenter/Prep/ Etiquette/ProfDress.aspx](http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/CareerCenter/Prep/ Etiquette/ProfDress.aspx)
- Syms – Dress to Achieve! [www.symsdress.com](http://www.symsdress.com)

If you have questions about what you’re thinking of wearing for an interview, contact a Counselor in The Career Center. We’re happy to give you our professional opinion.

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**Where to Buy Clothes**

**Affordable**
- Marshall’s, TJ Maxx, Ross, Stein Mart, Fashion Bug, Dress Barn, Twice as Nice
- Consignment, Good-Buy Girls
- Consignment

**Mid-Range**
- JC Penney, Bon-Ton, Boscov’s, Kohl’s, Sears, Lane Bryant, B. Moss

**Expensive**
- (but good deals can sometimes be found!)
- Talbot’s, Express,
- Men’s Wearhouse, Macy’s, Ann Taylor

**Shoes**
- Baker’s, Bostonian, Payless Shoe Source,
- The Shoe Dept., Naturalizer,
- Sage, Nine West

(This is just a sampling of ideas to get you started. If you don’t know where to find these stores in the area, let us know.)

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**For Men:**
- A two piece suit in blue, black, or another dark color
- A tie in a simple pattern that matches your suit
- Button down dress shirt (white, off-white or light blue)
- Polished dress shoes in a dark color and dark socks
- No earrings! If you normally wear one, take it out
- No visible body piercing (nose ring, eyebrow rings, etc.)
- Get a haircut. Short hair always fares best
- Clean trimmed fingernails
- Minimal cologne
- Small briefcase or padfolio

**For Women:**
- A neutral colored skirt or pant suit in navy, gray, tan or another dark color
- Skirt length should be a little below the knee and never shorter than just above the knee
- Blouses should be cotton or silk (white or light pastel color)
- Pantyhose should be flawless (no runs) and conservative color to match your skin tone. (You may want to bring an extra pair with you)
- Basic pumps with 1” to 2” heel (No strappy sandals, platforms or high heels)
- Simple accessories. No visible body piercing (nose ring, eyebrow rings, etc.)
- Make-up should be minimal and in conservative tones
- Minimal cologne or perfume
- Small briefcase, handbag or padfolio