



Dress for Success

Knowing how to dress professionally is an important life skill to have. Whether it is for a job or college interview, attending an awards ceremony, giving a presentation or any number of other situations, there will be times when a t-shirt and jeans just won't cut it. See the tips below for how to dress for success.

- Clothing should be clean, in good condition, wrinkle-free and work-place appropriate. Because level of maturity is a significant factor for employers looking to hire young people, dressing modestly and tastefully helps to make a good first impression.
- Young men should wear a collared shirt (polo or button-down) or a nice sweater, slacks and a belt. A tie and jacket are not necessary in most situations, but consider adding them if the setting is more formal. Stay away from t-shirts, jeans, shorts, clothing with holes and casual sneakers or sandals.
- Young women should wear a nice shirt or sweater with pants or a skirt, or a nice dress. Stay away from jeans and shorts, skirts or dresses that are too short, clothing that is too tight, spaghetti straps and casual sneakers or sandals (like flip flops).
- Dress for the situation. For example, a polo shirt and pants or a skirt may be fine for an interview at a restaurant, but a suit or nice dress would be more appropriate if interviewing for an internship with an elected official.

Finally, regardless of the situation, make sure you check everything off the list below to look and feel your best:

- ___ Shower and wear deodorant.
- ___ Go light on perfume or cologne, or don't wear any.
- ___ Style hair neatly to keep it out of your face.
- ___ Keep a mint handy to make sure breath is fresh.
- ___ Keep accessories to a minimum.
- ___ Put your cell phone on silent, and keep it out of sight.