

Getting it Right . . .

How to Dress for Interview Success

If getting that job with your dream company is really important to you, then heed the advice of experts and make sure you dress right for the interview! The primary goal in dressing for an interview is to feel great about ones appearance, while projecting an image that meets the requirements of the position and company. Dress conservatively – that means a suit – unless the recruiter has told you in advance that you may dress casually.

Men and Women

- Conservative solid dark colored two-piece business suit
- Conservative long-sleeved shirt/blouse (white is best; pastel is next best)
- Make sure your shoes are clean and polished
- Comb your hair: conservative style and out of your face
- Trim your fingernails and make certain that they are clean
- Use minimal cologne or perfume
- Remove visible body piercing (nose/eyebrow rings)
- Carry a notepad or portfolio case

Men

- Wear a silk tie; the colors should complement the suit and the pattern should not be overstated
- Dark shoes; black lace-ups are recommended
- Beards are not recommended; if you have one, be sure it is well groomed. The same follows for mustaches
- Don't wear jewelry other than a wedding ring or college ring

Women

- Always wear a suit with a jacket (pants or skirted suits); no dresses
- Wear low heels/pumps; no sandals
- Conservative hosiery at or near skin color . . . be careful of runs
- Do not carry a purse into the interview
- If you wear nail polish, choose a clear or conservative color
- Wear minimal makeup (not too noticeable)
- No more than one ring on each hand; and one set of earrings only

Other general suggestions: Feel free to dress very casually for employer informational meetings on campus . . . it's expected. However, be sure to dress in interview attire if you are selected for an on campus interview. If invited for a site interview after your campus interview, be sure to clarify the dress code with your host. Normally, you would take along a suit as well as business casual clothes. Remember that business casual means different things to different people. For men, you might consider a sports jacket with khakis. For women, a blazer or dressy cardigan sweater with dress pants/khakis are just a few suggestions.

Clothes Closet: The RPI Clothes Closet is a resource on campus for students to find appropriate professional attire. The idea was created by student, in order to help our students make a great first impression in a professional setting. The clothes closet consists of men's and women's professional and business casual clothing and accessories donated by volunteers of RPI faculty, staff, students, the neighboring community and companies.

There will be no fees charged to the student for using the closet. There is a small selection, but is perfect if you are in need of something quick. Students have the option to keep the item of clothing or donate it back. Students that keep an article of clothing are able to utilize the closet once a semester. If a student keeps a suit, they can use it once a year. If a student chooses to donate the items back, we ask that they are dry cleaned. The Clothes Closet is located in DCC 252.