Professional Attire: Blend In to Stand Out

Your professional image is very important in your career search. A polished, confident appearance helps to introduce you as an individual who is qualified and capable. Below are suggestions for making a positive, lasting first impression.

Business Professional/Interview Attire:

- Most widely-accepted interview attire
- Professional business suit: dark color slacks/skirt with matching jacket
- Neutral color button-down shirt/blouse
- Dark color, closed-toe, polished dress shoes including heels, flats, oxfords
- Minimal patterns, jewelry, and other accessories including neckties
- Dark color dress socks/hosiery that matches slacks, etc.
- Clothes should fit well with conservative neck and hemlines
- Neatly groomed and styled hair

During interviews it is best to lean toward the conservative, which, in most cases, will further promote your candidacy with employers. However, if you are applying to positions in less-conservative settings, it may be more acceptable to dress in business casual attire.

Business Casual:

- Slacks, trousers, conservative skirt or dress
- Neutral color shirt or blouse
- Necktie with muted or minimal pattern (optional)
- Sport coat/blazer (optional)

When dressing for an interview, the most important thing to keep in mind is that your appearance tends to be a large factor in the employer's first impression of you. Keep in mind that it is important to adhere to your own cultural and/or religious norms. If any of these suggestions conflict with those norms, wear what is culturally appropriate.

Avoid:

- T-shirts
- Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, casual pants
- Sneakers, sandals, any shoes that are difficult to walk in
- Sundresses, miniskirts
- Wrinkled, ill-fitting, stained attire

You want to blend in with the organization's attire standards so that your qualifications and personality standout.

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