

Dressing For Success

Whether you're looking for work or are seeking a promotion at your current job, dressing the part can make all the difference.

Though it's easy to say that appearances shouldn't matter and that a candidate should be judged on their merit and accomplishments rather than their choice of dress, the truth is that your wardrobe choices do reflect upon you and speak to your character in the professional world. This is especially true in the case of job interviews, where a first impression and a relative conversation are all that a hiring manager has to base her opinions around.

Dressing For Interview Success

Scoring a new job in today's struggling economic climate is challenging enough. Don't stack the deck against yourself by dressing inappropriately for a hardwon interview. Keeping the following tips in mind can, along with your qualifications and ability to be personable, help you land a job while everyone else is looking for one.

Err on the Side of Conservatism.

If you're not quite sure of how to dress for a specific interview, it's best to err on the side of conservatism. Some companies are proud of their lack of fuss attitudes about clothing, while others have strict expectations regarding their employees' appearance. If you aren't sure which of these two camps the company you're interviewing for falls into, it's always better to be a bit overdressed than underdressed.

Skip the Novelty Ties.

There's a guy in every office that's known for wearing kooky ties, but chances are he didn't wear one printed with bananas or a piano keyboard on the day that he interviewed. Meeting a prospective employer for the first time is not an ideal moment to break out the novelty tie you got for your last birthday as a gag gift. Go for a solid color or with a subtle print.

Use a Light Hand with Toiletries.

Gentlemen should be sparing with aftershave and cologne to avoid sensitivities to strong scents. Ladies should also make adjustments when going on job interviews, and to tone down their makeup routine if it includes heavy eye shadow or bright red lipstick. Excessive makeup can be very distracting and frivolous. Instead of layering the makeup on, opt for lighter touches.

Understand the Corporate Culture.

You'll need to know a bit about the company you're interviewing with in order to offer informed answers to relevant questions and interview questions. If you do your research, it's a good idea to thoroughly research how the company has been in business, what their long-term goals are and how you can help them achieve those goals.

Dressing for Professional Success

Landing the job doesn't mean that you should be less mindful of your appearance, especially if you hope to rise through the ranks or get a hefty raise in the future. Keeping the following tips in mind can help you to continually make a great impression on the high ups.