

Interview Preparation:

What to wear

Besides your application materials, an interview is your opportunity to put your best, most polished self forward. Although this could mean spending extra time preparing, it is the little details that will convey how you present yourself and make a positive, long-lasting impression on the interviewer. The following guidelines can help you prepare:

- **SUITS OR SEPARATES:** Choose a solid suit or matching separates (jacket, blazer, blouse, skirt, pants, or dress). Neutral colors such as black, dark gray, or navy are good choices as they pair well with other colors. Make sure your suit is clean and pressed/ironed.
- **DRESS SHIRTS & ALTERNATIVES:** A basic long-sleeve button-up shirt, cleaned and unwrinkled, is preferable (tuck it in). Alternative tops include blouses, camisoles, and knit tops. Whatever variation of shirt you choose, make sure you are comfortable with how it feels and works with your jacket/cover/suite choice. If you are uncomfortable in what you are wearing, that will be conveyed to the interviewer.
- **SHOES:** Choose solid color leather or patent dress shoes (no open toes). Depending on the type of shoes you are wearing, make sure and wear nylons or dark dress socks. Also, be sure to clean and/or shine your shoes the night before. If you are wearing heels, make sure that they are no more than 1-2 inches.
- **ACCESSORIES:** Less is more! Stick to 3 or less subtle jewelry items (necklace, bracelet, watch, rings, earrings, tie clip, etc). Ties should be solid or have a basic pattern. Any purses should be small to medium in size.
- **PORTFOLIO/PADFOLIO:** Have copies of your resume, a notepad, and pen. It is highly recommended that you do research on the company, agency, or location you are applying to. It is appropriate to bring notes with you, but be sure you do not rely on your notes during the interview (you should be well prepared prior to your interview).
- **GOING BEYOND THE OUTFIT - HYGEINE AND GROOMING:** It is not just your clothes that help to convey professionalism in an interview. Your hygiene and grooming can have a lasting impact too! Make sure that your hair is tamed and out of your face. If you have facial hair, it should be cleanly shaven. In addition, avoid excess make-up or heavy fragrances.

QUICK TIP

Do your research on the company/organization if you need some guidance on appropriate interview attire. The company website may be able to give you insight on the company culture and how current employees dress. Even if it is a more “casual” work environment, always err on the side of conservative and **never wear jeans**.

