

Bethel's Career Compass



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Dressing for Success

How to Dress for an Interview

By [Alison Doyle](#), About.com Guide

An article in U.S.A. Today spoke about candidates for jobs wearing jeans, purple sweat suits, and spike heels or sneakers.



Other applicants weren't afraid to show pierced body parts and spiked hair. Still others chewed gum or showed up in rumpled clothes or with their pants falling down. One recruiter even told a candidate with his trousers down below his hips, to "Pull your pants up." According to the article, the outlandish dress costs some candidates the job.

Dress Your Best When Interviewing

Does it really make a difference how you [dress for an interview](#)? In many cases, it does. I'll never forget the gentleman I interviewed for an accounting position. He had been out of work for a few months and wanted to show me why. He took off his jacket, unbuttoned his shirt and started to pull down his pants (this is a true story) to show me the scar from a boat propeller that had injured him. He didn't get the job. Neither did the young lady in a bright red skirt so short and tight that she could hardly sit down!

In the conservative business climate I worked in at the time, appearances did matter. In other environments it isn't as important. However, it does make sense to dress your best for the interview, regardless of the dress code at the organization. If you're in doubt about [how to dress for an interview](#), it is best to err on the side of conservatism. It is much better to be overdressed than underdressed (or undressed). If you're not sure, check with the person who scheduled the interview and ask.



According to Kim Zoller at [Image Dynamics](#), 55% of another person's perception of you is based on how you look.

Her *Dressing for Success* information gives some tips on how to look your best, without necessarily spending a lot of money. Here's a quick look at the basics:

Women's Interview Attire

- Solid color, conservative suit
- Coordinated blouse
- Moderate shoes
- Limited jewelry
- Neat, professional hairstyle
- Tan or light hosiery
- Sparse make-up & perfume
- Manicured nails
- Portfolio or briefcase



Men's Interview Attire

- Solid color, conservative suit
- White long sleeve shirt
- Conservative tie
- Dark socks, professional shoes
- Very limited jewelry
- Neat, professional hairstyle
- Go easy on the aftershave
- Neatly trimmed nails
- Portfolio or briefcase

Career Countdown for Seniors

Your monthly guide as you transition from college to the work world

January: Buy an Interview Suit

Wonder what is and what is not appropriate interview wear?

Don't want to feel like you're wearing your parent's clothes? Then you must check out the short video clips:

Interview Dress for Men
Interview Dress for Women

To access, go to the bottom of our home page to **CareerSpots Videos**.

When Job-Hunting: Dress for Success

It's probably one of the most over-used phrases in job-hunting, but also one of the most underutilized by job-seekers: dress for success. In job-hunting, first impressions are critical. Remember, you are marketing a product — yourself — to a potential employer, and the first thing the employer sees when greeting you is your attire; thus, you must make every effort to have the proper dress for the type of job you are seeking. Will dressing properly get you the job? Of course not, but it will give you a competitive edge and a positive first impression.



Should you be judged by what you wear? Perhaps not, but the reality is, of course, that you are judged. Throughout the entire job-seeking process employers use short-cuts—heuristics or rules of thumb — to save time. With cover letters, it's the opening paragraph and a quick scan of your qualifications. With resumes, it is a quick scan of your accomplishments. With the job interview, it's how you're dressed that sets the tone of the interview.

How should you dress? Dressing conservatively is always the safest route, but you should also try to do a little investigating of your prospective employer so that what you wear to the interview makes you look as though you fit in with the organization. If you overdress (which is rare but can happen) or underdress (the more likely scenario), the potential employer may feel that you don't care enough about the job.

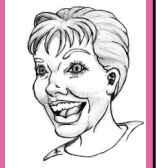
How to find out what is the proper dress for a given job/company/industry? You can call the Human Resources office where you are interviewing and simply ask. Or, you could visit the company's office to retrieve an application or other company information and observe the attire current employees are wearing — though make sure you are not there on a "casual day" and misinterpret the dress code.

Finally, do you need to run out and spend a lot of money on clothes for interviewing? No, but you should make sure you have at least two professional sets of attire. You'll need more than that, but depending on your current financial condition, two is enough to get started and you can buy more once you have the job or have more financial resources.

This article was written by Randall S. Hansen, Ph. D.
founder of Quintessential Careers

SHERRY'S CORNER

Sherry Weldy, Bethel's Career Development Coordinator, a.k.a. *'the crazy chapel announcement lady'* shares trivia, tips and tantalizing tidbits for student jobseekers!



So, you're gettin' that outfit together? Trust me—you do not want to be tearin' around the dorm the night before your interview moochin' a dress shirt from someone who's 2 sizes smaller than you are! **SENIORS:** at this point, your interview outfit should be pressed and ready to go in your closet, so when that interview call comes in, you are ready to hit the ground running!



And let's talk grooming for a second here — if I can smell ya, be it good OR bad, before I actually see you, we may have a problem! Too much perfume or cologne is just nauseating, and body odor is a definite turnoff! Ooooh! And guys—if your nails are longer than mine, well, that's just soooo WRONG! And don't even get me started, girls, on your flip-flops!

Hey! Did Ya Know...

We have something brand spankin' new to bring to you this semester to help you with those times you scratch your head and wonder, "Whatever possessed me to be a *blah-blah-blah* major? What in the world can I even do with this degree?"

I am so jazzed to announce the launching of our

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

that aims to answer those very questions! Each semester we will invite professionals from a selected field to share their experiences; let you know what employers are looking for in YOUR field; and answer YOUR questions! To kick this semester off, the focus will be on our ministry students!

Friday, February 18 • for all ministry students

We invite you to grab your lunch and come to the **President's Room** in the Dining Commons from **11:30 – 12:30**.

Communication majors and minors—you'll be next up in March so be lookin' for more info on this soiree in next month's newsletter!

Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs is a listing of the 50 fastest growing, high-wage jobs of tomorrow. This listing will show you what jobs will be in demand by 2018 in the state of Indiana. We interviewed real people with Hot Jobs. This is your opportunity to get the inside scoop on each of the Hot 50 Jobs in Indiana from Hoosiers in today's workforce. To check out the video profiles and more visit HoosierHot50.com today! Check out some of the current hot jobs below!

RANK	HOT JOB	SALARY
1	Computer Software Engineer	\$72,268
2	Management Analyst	\$66,691
3	Physician and Surgeon	\$166,400
5	Registered Nurse	\$56,393
10	Accountant	\$55,909
13	Postsecondary Teacher	\$59,869
15	Human Resources & Training	\$43,537

RANK	HOT JOB	SALARY
16	Computer Systems Analyst	\$66,867
17	Customer Service Manager	\$43,083
19	Truck Driver	\$37,588
21	Sales Representative, Services	\$44,473
24	Licensed Practical Nurse	\$37,417
32	Accounting Clerk, Bookkeeper	\$31,030
38	Computer Support Specialist	\$38,239