

The Laws of Dressing for Success

- ∩ You never get a second chance to make a first impression.
- ∩ If you are confident in your attire, that's one thing you don't have to think about.
- ∩ Don't let your clothes speak for you.
- ∩ You and your appearance will represent your employer, so don't be surprised that interviewers judge you on what you say and how you dress.

Business Attire / Professional Dress

- ∩ Suit or Jacket/Coordinated Pant
 - § Neutral Colors
 - § Patterns okay if subtle
 - § Pockets and vents in hem come stitched closed; remove stitching.
 - § Dark dress shoe
 - § Dark sock
- ∩ Fit (Get it altered if necessary)
 - § Sleeve length = Inch of cuff shows when arm bent
 - § Jacket length = Inside of folded fingers
 - § Trouser length = Slight break onto shoe;
No exposed leg when seated
- ∩ Beware of
 - § Pants, Sleeves, and Jackets that are too short/too long
 - § Too tight
 - § No canvas or casual shoes
 - § Minimal jewelry (watch and wedding ring only, no earrings,
no piercings,)
 - § No sunglasses

Business Casual (if appropriate)

- ∩ Khakis with a button down shirt and tie
- ∩ More casual shoe
- ∩ Argyle sock
- ∩ No denim, shorts, t-shirt

Cocktail Attire

- ∩ Black suit
 - § Any evening event that doesn't require a tux or cocktail dress
 - § White shirt only, solid tie

Dressing for Interviews in Business Attire

- ∩ The interviewer should see
 - § A well-put together person, not fashion
 - § No fidgeting with your clothes
- ∩ Minimum of two suits
 - § In good repair
 - § One Black (recommended)
 - § Designate first interview suit and second interview suit
- ∩ Dark dress shoe
 - § Polished and unscuffed
 - § In good repair
- ∩ White shirt
- ∩ Conservative tie, but color okay
- ∩ Belt should match shoes
- ∩ Hygiene
 - § Clean hair
 - § Nails clean and well manicured
 - § Teeth brushed
 - § Deodorant
 - § No perfume or cologne
 - § Clean shaven
 - § No exposed tattoo

Building a Wardrobe

- ∩ Low clothing budget
 - § More careful and conservative purchases
 - § Buy Quantity over Quality
 - Low quality clothes won't last as long, but you need quantity now.
 - § Don't overlook discount retailers
 - § Graduation gift idea
 - § Approximately \$80 for a jacket

- ∩ Enough clothes to dress for a 5-day week
 - § 2 interview suits you already have
 - § At least 2 pair of shoes
 - § Add pants and shirts to coordinate with interview jackets
 - § Add jacket with coordinating bottom (not necessarily a suit)
 - § Add color in shirts

- ∩ Find a mentor at your firm

- ∩ Dressing for a Month (increased clothing budget)
 - § A minimum of \$2000 per year (\$167/month)
for your professional wardrobe
 - § Buy better quality (\$200 jacket, not \$80 jacket)
 - § Buy clothes you can wear and launder for at least 2 years
 - § You really need a black suit now
(can be used for black tie events)

Clothing for a Career

- ∩ Jacket Example
 - § \$80 jacket
 - ú + \$60 for dry cleaning in a year
 - ú A rag now
 - ú This jacket has cost you \$140 or \$12/month
 - § \$200 jacket
 - ú + \$180 for dry cleaning in two years
 - ú Still looks okay
 - ú This jacket has cost you \$380 or \$10.50/month
 - § \$400 jacket
 - ú + \$600 for dry cleaning in 10 years
 - ú Still looks great
 - ú This jacket has cost you \$1000 or \$8.33/month

- § Lesson: Buying quality often costs more up front but is cheaper in the long run.

- ∩ Now get serious
 - § Replace original pieces that have worn out
 - § Don't be afraid to pay a lot for classic, must-have items
 - ú Higher quality
 - ú Worn less often
 - ú Lasts longer
 - § 5 years to a varied, all-inclusive professional wardrobe