

WHAT **NOT** ***TO*** **WEAR**

To a Job Interview



**Professional Dress
Workshop**

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Workshop Overview

- Top 20 wardrobe malfunctions
- How to address tattoos and piercings
- Online resources
- Discussion

It's Time to Tuck it in!

A first impression can strongly impact your chances at a job interview

TUCK IT IN

Video clip

Tattoos and Piercing

- Make sure tattoos and piercings are out of sight.
 - Wear long sleeve shirts
 - Avoid low-cut pants that might reveal tattoos on the lower back
 - Remove all but one set of earrings



What is wrong with this picture?

Avoid wearing short sleeve anything.

Leave bulky jewelry that could make noise or distract you or your interviewers.

Avoid going bare legs no matter how tan you are.



Remember this is an interview, not a fashion statement. First impressions are crucial. Dress conservative, only the wealthy and those applying for artistic positions can attempt to dress more trendy.

No sexy or inappropriate shoes allowed. Avoid open toe or backless heels.

What is he thinking?

Unless you are applying to be a model or an athletic trainer, hide your pecs and guns.

Avoid bringing backpacks. Briefcases or portfolios should be conservative.

Even if you are applying for a job on campus dress to impress. Bring a change of clothes.

Address visible tattoos.

Never wear Jeans to an interview.



Don't look like you are going out clubbing

Don't wear too much make up

NO spaghetti strap outfits

No trendy purses or handbags if you also have a briefcase.



It is better to wear **two piece outfits**. If you are going to wear a dress and wear a jacket over

Don't wear ankle bracelets unless you are required to by law. Then you really want to cover it up.

What is wrong with this outfit?

Avoid unnatural hair colors



Never wear turtle necks. You don't want to look like a talking head.

Nice pants ✓

Remember to take off all price tags and telltale signs that you are wearing new clothes

Professionally Dressed?

Best to pull your hair out of the way, but not necessary. Avoid distracting hair pieces.

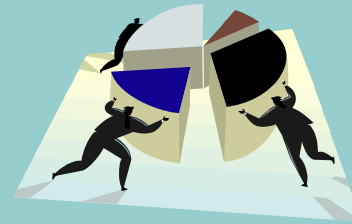
Light colored conservative top ✓

Well-fitted suit ✓

Closed toe shoes ✓



Conservative colors are various shades of blue and grey are best. Black could be viewed as too serious so be sure to wear a light color blouse under. Brown is still considered questionable as a business color.



Can you find anything wrong here?

Without the tie and the belt the outfit works for **SOME** interviews

NEVER wear a tie with a short sleeve polo, it looks tacky.



Nicely fitted pants ✓

You always want your belt to match your shoes

Lets take a closer look

Nice blouse ✓

Well-fitted Jacket ✓

Make sure that skirts
are an appropriate
length ✓

No open toe shoes



Don't wear
Earrings that
are
Distracting
or make
Noise.

Trim those
Fingernails.



Don't have brightly
colored or interesting
pattern nails.

Is he dressed for success?

Nice shirt ✓
It would look even better with a tie.

Nice suit ✓

Nice shoes ✓

Depending on the company and the position you are applying for ask about their policy on facial hair. For example, if you are handling food you may be asked to trim or remove your beard or mustache.



TOP 20 Wardrobe Malfunctions

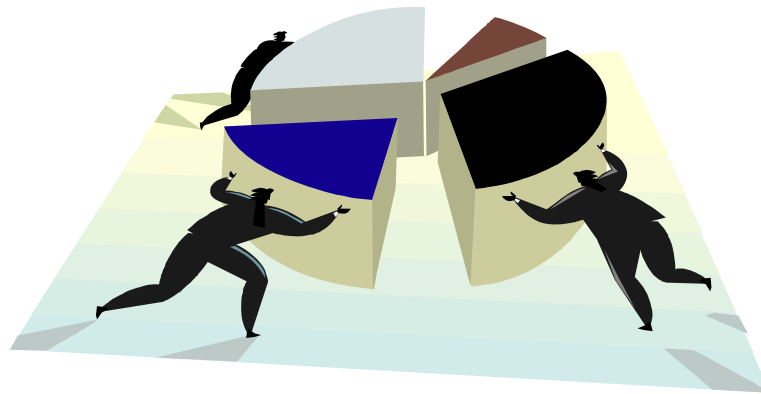
1. Carrying a backpack, printed or trendy handbag. Briefcases or portfolios should be conservative.
2. Short Skirts
3. The wrong tie
4. Overly bright or large-patterned clothing
5. Heavy makeup
6. Earrings/ Jewelry on men, unless it is a wedding ring, class ring, or mental watch
7. Jewelry that jangles: more than one set of earrings on women, no ankle bracelets, or too many rings
8. Facial piercings, tongue jewelry, or visible tattoos
9. Long fingernails, especially with bright or polished finishes.
10. Unnatural hair colors or styles

TOP 20 Wardrobe Malfunctions (cont.)

11. Scuffed or inappropriate footwear (open-toed or backless shoes)
12. Belts and shoes that don't match
13. Telltale signs that you are wearing a new suit (remove all tags and extra buttons)
14. Sunglasses on top of your head, remove all "transit gear"
15. Ill-fitting or out-dated clothes
16. Short-sleeved shirts (even worse when worn with a tie)
17. Fishnets, patterned hosiery or bare legs
18. Men whose socks don't match their shoes (worse when socks are short and leave a gap of flesh when they are seated)
19. Rumpled or stained clothing
20. Strong aftershaves, perfumes, or colognes

Professional Dress Colors

Conservative colors are various shades of blue and grey are best. Black could be viewed as too serious so be sure to wear a light color blouse under. Brown is still considered questionable as a business color.



Check Your Values

- If your personal style means more to you than the job and their restrictions on hair, tattoos, piercing, etc. consider your alternatives.
- Apply for other types of positions
- Apply to other companies
- Make the appropriate changes to your personal style

Make it work

Select apparel, fragrances, jewelry, hairstyle, etc. that DO NOT detract from your professional image. The interviewer's attention should be focused on what you say and your qualifications. Check out the following websites to see what works for you.

- <http://www.collegegrad.com/>
- www.career.unm.edu/forms/interview_dress.pdf
- <http://www.career.vt.edu/jobsearc/interview/appearnc.html>
- <http://jobsearch.about.com/od/interviewsnetworking/a/dressforsuccess.htm>