

## What to Wear for an Interview

Dressing appropriately for a job interview is an important part of making a positive first impression. Regardless of the employer's typical dress code, it's always best to err on the side of formality by wearing a suit if possible. If you don't have a suit, business casual attire can still help you look polished and professional. This guide outlines the essential items to consider when dressing for an interview and provides helpful resources if you're in need of professional attire. Remember, how you present yourself speaks volumes before you even say a word!

**The top recommendation is to wear a suit** for an interview (regardless of the daily dress code at the employer), if you own or can borrow one.

If you do not own a suit, then wear your best business casual attire. Generally speaking, **business casual attire** includes:

- Dress pants or khakis, with a belt
- Button-down shirt or modest blouse, tucked in
- Tie if you have one; only top button open if you don't wear a tie
- Knee-length dress or skirt
- Blazer, suit jacket, or dressy cardigan
- Clean and good-condition dress shoes
- Modest amount and type of jewelry

No matter what you wear, your clothes should always be clean, wrinkle-free, and well-fitting. Your appearance should be neat, well-groomed, and free of body odor. A *very light* application of cologne or perfume is acceptable, but do **NOT** overdo it. Also, never wear athletic shoes or sandals to an interview.

### Where to Find Professional Attire on a Budget

If you prefer to wear a suit but do not own one, here are some outside resources that may be able to outfit you for an interview:

- [Suit Up Springfield](#)
- [Dress for Success Western Massachusetts](#)

Another great option is to shop at thrift stores and consignment shops to find gently used clothing at very affordable prices. Below are a few to consider.

- [Salvation Army Thrift Stores](#)
- [Goodwill Industries](#)
- [Savers](#)
- A Google search for "professional clothing consignment stores near Springfield, MA" produced [these results](#).