

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 **best 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

One 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](#).

Below are some non-profit organizations that can outfit you for an interview for **free**:

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

Dress for Success Western Massachusetts (for women's clothing)

[Dress for Success Western Massachusetts](#) is a non-profit organization. Our mission is to help unemployed and underemployed women achieve economic independence by providing no-fee programs, development tools, and professional attire to thrive in work and in life.

Address

45 Lyman Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-301-8506

Store Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Women obtain what they need for an interview—from clothing to confidence—and can return once they find employment for the apparel and accessories needed to enter the workforce. **Please call 413-301-8506 to schedule an appointment well in advance of your interview.**

Suit Up Springfield (for men's clothing)

[Suit Up Springfield](#) is a community organization focused on providing the young men of Springfield professional attire. Our goal is to help each individual find a suit that will give them the confidence, knowledge, and tools to help them become a successful member of our community.

Address

139 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Store Hours

Friday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm



If you need a suit to help you create a more professional impression and can't afford one, we will help you! **Please fill out the form if you would like to be considered for receiving a free suit from Suit Up Springfield:** <https://suitupspringfield.com/get-suits.html>