

D3 Interview Dress & Attire Tips

The first impression you make on a potential employer is the most important one. The first judgment an interviewer makes is going to be based on how you look and what you are wearing to the interview. It is imperative that you dress professionally for a job interview, regardless of the work environment.

What is the appropriate dress code for an interview? You will want that first impression to be not just a good one, but, a great one. D3 offers the following tips on what to wear to an interview for professional, casual and startup companies, when you want to make the best impression.

How to Dress for a Professional Interview:

Male Interview Attire

- Professional suit (solid color - navy or dark grey).
- Long sleeve shirt (white or coordinated with the suit).
- Belt (colored - should coordinate with your dress shoes).
- Professional tie.
- Dark socks, conservative leather shoes.
- Little or no jewelry.
- Neat, professional hairstyle.
- Limit the aftershave.
- Neatly trimmed finger nails.
- Portfolio or briefcase and writing instrument.

Female Interview Attire

- Professional suit (navy, black or dark grey).
- The suit skirt should be long enough so you can sit down comfortably.
- Coordinated blouse.
- Conservative shoes.
- Limited jewelry (no dangling earrings or arms full of bracelets).
- No jewelry is better than cheap jewelry.
- Professional hairstyle.
- Neutral pantyhose.
- Light make-up and perfume.
- Neatly manicured and clean finger nails.

In a mostly conservative and cautious job market today, in which companies might interview dozens of people for one position, first impressions are more important than ever. Interviewees must pay attention to everything from what they wear and how they are groomed, to their body language.

Colors

One important, and often overlooked, aspect of an interviewee's first impression is color. The color of your clothing sends a subconscious message to the interviewer about your personality. The right colors can help convey your confidence,

professionalism and your ability to fit into an organization's environment. Below are a few tips for choosing the right colors for your interview attire.

Choose Solids over Patterns

An important rule of thumb is to try not to be remembered for your attire; you want to wear something that allows the interviewer to focus on your skills and qualifications rather than your outdated, eccentric or wacky style. Wearing solid colors helps ensure that your clothes will not distract.

Choose Neutral over Bright

Neutral colors - navy, gray, black, and brown - are the best colors for a job interview. White is also an excellent color for a blouse or button-down shirt. You can certainly add a pop of color to a neutral interview outfit. Pale colors are a great way to add color without appearing too authoritative, and are great for people-friendly jobs such as service positions.

Know the Office Environment

Do a bit of research on the company's work environment before your interview. You want to wear colors that show you will fit in with the company's culture. In an office that tends to dress more conservatively, you should definitely stick to neutral, solid colors. If you are in any doubt about the company's culture, it is best to dress conservatively, with neutral, solid colors.

What Different Colors Say

Different colors evoke particular human responses, whether or not we are conscious of them. Below is a list of different colors you might want to wear for an interview, and the emotions they can evoke. Picking the right colors can help you present yourself in a particular way.

Brown - Brown is a neutral color that evokes feelings of calm. It is a great solid, neutral color for any interview.

Blue - Blue, particularly navy, is another great neutral color for interview outfits. Blues convey feelings of calm, trust, and confidence - great qualities for an interviewer to sense in you. Darker blues (like navy) convey authority and confidence. Blue is also many people's favorite color, and wearing an interviewer's favorite color will always make a great first impression.

Gray - Gray is another great neutral color for interview outfits. It evokes sophistication and neutrality. Gray is a great color to wear as a suit or dress; it allows you to look powerful, but is not quite as domineering as a black suit or dress.

Black - Black is a very popular color for suits and dresses in interviews. However, black is a very commanding color that conveys a lot of power, authority, and even drama. This is a good color for a job in a conservative environment like a law office, or for an interviewee applying for a high-level executive position. However, black can be a bit overwhelming in a more laid-back office environment, and can make you appear unapproachable. Using black as an accent color (for example, in a scarf or tie) can give you a bit of that sense of authority without being overwhelming.

Red - Red is a bright, powerful color that conveys energy and passion. A pop of red (for example, in a scarf or tie) can convey just the right amount of passion without making you appear too emotional.

White - Crisp and clean, white is a great color for shirts and blouses. The color conveys truth and simplicity, and adds a bit of brightness without being too overwhelming.

Additional D3 Information

For additional information and insight concerning dress and attire options, please consult with a D3 representative. As industry leaders in legal staffing, we pride ourselves on offering our expert commentary and analysis of a wide range of subjects affecting a candidates' employment search. www.d3search.com