

## On interviews, dress for job you want

By Kevin Cowan  
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It took a lot of work for recent college graduates to earn those degrees. Now it's time for them to get to work and get a job.

For them to land one, they have to impress during the interview process, which requires hopefuls to dress like professionals.

"It cannot be overstated just how important it is for people to dress the part when they go on a job interview," said Bobbi Schwartz, founder and CEO of the Bobbi Schwartz Group, a Dallas-based personal-styling company in Dallas. "People often make a decision about you within the first 30 seconds they lay eyes on you. That's why it is so important to dress to impress for every interview."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recommends that job-seekers do some homework first and learn about a prospective employer. This will help determine what the company's dress code is, which the interviewee should try to emulate.

"If you are applying to work for a place that always dresses in full business attire, then you don't want to show up to the interview in anything but that," Schwartz said. "On the other hand, if it is a very casual company where employees wear jeans everyday, then you will want a more neutral outfit for the interview."

To avoid a fashion faux pax at an interview:

### Women:

- Wear quality, lower-heeled shoes. Four-inch stiletto pumps may be too much at a conservative company.
- Keep skirt length at mid-knee or below. Save short skirts for after hours.
- Go with dark colors, such as black or gray, and steer clear of bold patterns.
- Wear pantyhose with skirts and dresses, and make sure they are free of runs and snags.
- Easy on the perfume and jewelry. Less is definitely more in this case.
- Match the handbag with the shoes. It should be conservative and better quality. This is not the time for the flashy status purse.
- Have nails manicured in a soft shade of pink.

### Men:

- Make sure shoes (black or brown) are polished. Socks should match the shoes or the pants.
- Stick with a gray, navy or black suit and pair it with a crisp white or light-blue shirt. The suit should be constructed of quality fabric and well tailored. No too long sleeves or pant legs.
- Complement the suit and shirt with a tie in a safe hue, such as red, blue or yellow.
- If you don't have a suit, improvise. Opt for a sport coat with a nice shirt and tie and trousers in khaki, gray, black or navy.
- Wear a tasteful watch, and manicure your nails.
- Go light on the cologne and aftershave.

Also, "You don't have to break the bank to get something fabulous for an interview," Schwartz added. "Look for sales at discount retailers."

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