The Business Professional Style Guide

Whether you’re at an interview for your dream job, or a professional development event, it’s important to look the part. Use this style guide to make sure you are in the right clothes for the job. Remember: it’s always best to err on the side of caution; you can easily remove a tie to appear more casual. Start off more formal, then get a feel for what those around you are wearing, and dress to match.

Solid suits in neutral colors (black, Charcoal, Navy) look best, but you could include a subtle pinstripe. A good suit will last for several years, so don’t go for the cheapest option. Keep it simple with a single breasted jacket, and make sure you are measured so that it fits well!

Your pants should obviously match your jacket, and should be long enough to cover the top of your shoes, but not drag on the ground under your heel. As with the jacket, make sure you have accurate measurements taken; an ill-fitting suit could be enough to leave a doubt in the mind of your interviewer.

There’s always one guy in the office who’s known for his loud shirt and tie combinations. Don’t be that guy. For an interview, a crisp white shirt with a classic collar, paired with a conservative tie, will look clean and professional. Tip: your tie should reach your belt.

They say you can tell a lot about someone from, their shoes. Polished black shoes will say all the right things about you. Make sure you have a belt to match, but keep other accessories to a minimum. A watch, and some subtle cufflinks will finish off your outfit quite nicely. Tip: DO NOT wear white socks. The Michael Jackson look will not do you any favors...

Obviously, your clothes don’t tell the whole story of who you are, but looking the part will give you the confidence to act the part. Arrive at an interview 15 minutes early, with copies of your resume, cover letter and other required documents. Bring these in a messenger bag, briefcase, or laptop bag. No backpacks.