

# MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT TO WEAR DURING A JOB INTERVIEW

You can have anything you want in life if you dress for it.

First impressions are very influential. Aside from your resume, employers don't know who you are personally or how well you will fit into their culture, so what you wear is one of the only ways to get immediate insight into your personal grooming and professionalism. When preparing what you will wear to an interview, keep it simple.

### What is Business Attire?

Business attire refers to a standard dress code that is formal in nature; it is centered on professionalism, so often it will involve suits, dress shirts, hosiery and formal shoes. For corporate settings, formality should always be maintained, so you should aim for a more traditional and classic aesthetic. Business attire is usually the dress code for office jobs, where the office wants to leave a professional impression.

Employers like to imagine you being part of their office, so professionalism should be expressed greatly through your interview attire.

### Suits

A two-piece, gray, navy or black suit are great choices when preparing for an interview - it looks simple & clean..

Single Breasted suits aren't too complicated and have clean lines so that the interviewer can focus on you

Tailoring is also paramount! your suit should fit appropriately

**Choose a suit color that suits you!**

### Shirts / Blouses

Compliment your suit with a light colored blouse/shirt. Steer clear from strapless, casual T-shirts, and crumpled clothing under the jacket / blazer.

A white or light colored, tailored shirt is an interview staple.

### Accessories

Dress up your look with a necklace, tie, cufflinks, pocket square or another piece of conservative accessory. The tip of your tie should barely touch your belt. Choose colors that are clean and classic and/or wear small stud or button earrings. If nails are painted they should be a neutral color

### Undergarments

Hosiery may or may not be optional. Many companies have relaxed their view on panty hose, especially in extremely hot weather. A job interview, however, is not the time to take any chances.

If you know someone currently employed with the company, ask them about their dress policy. You may also make an effort to drive by the company during a time when employees are entering or exiting the building. If employees are wearing conservative suits and hosiery, it would be in your best interest to do the same

Socks can be a great way to demonstrate your personal style in an office setting, **but for your interview, play it safe.** Opt for darker shades to complement your suit and if you are going for a print opt for traditional motifs in subtle tones. and ensure that your socks are not too short.

### Shoes

A mid heel, closed-toe shoe is the best choice. Regardless of current shoe trends, your shoe selection for a job interview should be professional and understated.

The exception would apply to a creative position, or a position in the fashion industry where your choice of clothing should reflect the current fashion trends.

**Do your "shoe-search" prior to securing the interview!**

### Stay Fresh!

Before heading into the building - pop a mint, instead of gum, to freshen your breath. Make sure it's gone before you get to the receptionist so that you are not chewing and talking at the same time.



### Grooming

Hair and grooming are the utmost priority for interviews. Since most interviews are held face to face, and the interviewer will be looking directly at you for the majority of the time, you must pay very close attention to your grooming needs.

The way that you groom yourself can make or break the interview regardless of whether or not you were a good fit for the position.

### It's all in the Details!

Leather briefcase, purse or portfolio

Nicely manicured nails

Neatly groomed hair, worn away from the face

Clean and polished shoes (Pay special attention to heels and soles)

Quiet Jewelry - nothing should make a sound

1-2 sprays of perfume/cologne is just right!

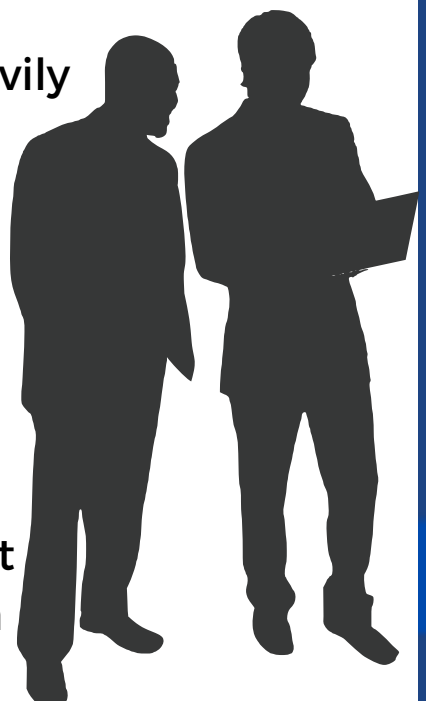
Make up; even minimal makeup is an indicator that you value your professional image

### Fragrances

Do NOT wear a strong fragrance to your interview. Fragrances can be very distracting as many people have severe allergies .

### Do's AND Don'ts

- Short skirts, pants or extremely form fitting garments
- Textured, patterned or bright colored accessories
- Strong perfume, cologne or heavily scented lotions
- Distracting or noisy jewelry
- Visible body piercings and tattoos
- Jeans, t-shirts, sneakers, canvas slip-ons
- Exposed technology; turn off cell phone and keep out of sight
- Carrying a book bag rather than briefcase



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