

# Dress for an Interview

[www.career.uci.edu](http://www.career.uci.edu)

## Interview Tips

- Arrive early – you'll be on time and have a chance to collect your thoughts. Try to check in 10 – 15 minutes early
- Treat all staff members with respect as everyone is a potential co-worker
- Silence your cell phone and dispose of any gum
- Make sure your hair and outfit are neat and refrain from using any heavy fragrances (your interviewer may be allergic)
- Keep bags and satchels on the floor, close to your seat
- Alert references that they may be contacted soon and send each a copy of the job description and your resume



### Try these stores:

- Macy's
- Nordstrom
- Nordstrom Rack
- JCPenney
- Men's Wearhouse
- The Limited
- Ann Taylor Loft
- Banana Republic
- Marshall's
- TJ Maxx
- Working Wardrobes

## A Final Check

### Make sure you have...

- Neatly trimmed hair
- Conservative makeup
- No runs in your stockings
- Close-toed shoes (polished)
- No excessive jewelry
- No missing buttons, crooked ties, or lint
- Clean hands and trimmed fingernails

## FAQs

### *About Dressing for an Interview*

How do I find out what the proper attire is for an upcoming interview?

You can contact the human resources department of the company and ask them what is appropriate. Keep in mind that some technical companies encourage their applicants to dress more casually. Ask for clarification as to what is acceptable. Is it khakis and a polo shirt? Slacks and a button-down shirt?

I have an interview scheduled and they told me that I can dress business casual. What should I wear?

Even though an employer tells you that you can wear business casual attire, it is highly recommended that you dress in formal attire. It demonstrates professionalism and maturity

Suits are too expensive for me and I know I have to wear one for interviews. What should I do?

There are many stores available that sell quality suits at discounted prices. Some students will borrow their friend's suit if they have an interview coming up and are not able to go shopping, but your friend's suit may fit you differently. Working Wardrobes offers a package deal for UCI students (see details at [career.uci.edu](http://career.uci.edu))

What if the recruiters or company employees dress casually during career fairs or on-campus interviews?

Employers want to see if you are able to represent yourself professionally. Therefore it is recommended that you wear formal attire to the interview

Can I wear a shirt and a tie without a jacket?

Wearing a shirt and tie without a jacket would be considered business casual and is not appropriate for interviews

Should I wear a skirt suit or a pants suit?

Either a matching skirt or pants suit is acceptable to wear. Make sure that you are comfortable in whichever suit you choose to wear