

Top 10 Job Interview Dress Tips for Women

Here are a collection of tips, hints and advice for women on how to dress for the job interview from image consultants who specialize in the world of business.

The clothing you wear to your interview can have a big impact on getting the job. Your resume and qualifications have got you the interview. Now they're looking for fit with the organization.

What you wear will give them clues to your understanding and ability to fit in with their corporate culture. This doesn't mean that you need expensive interview clothing or look like a fashion model but it means that you demonstrate an understanding of business dress.

You want to **make it easy for them to picture you representing their company** to their clients in the position you've applied for.

So how do you do this? The following advice will help you dress for success at the interview.

1 - Do your homework

Google the organization, check out their website for photos and clues on what their dress code is and how they present themselves.

Visit their office building at lunch hour to see how they dress. Watch what outfits the better dressed employees wear and use this as your guide line. (Be careful not to do this on a casual wear Friday, or you may get the wrong idea of their clothing. Visit our site for [Top 10 Business Casual Wear Tips sheet](#))

2 - The interview attire golden rule

Interviewers expect you to show up at the very least in an outfit typical of the job you are applying for. They will credit you for being overdressed for an interview but you will lose points for being underdressed. That's why it's important to do your homework.

3 - When in doubt, dress more conservatively

Younger job seekers often mistake college type clothing or nightclub wear as suitable for the job interview. Remember the younger you are, the more important it is that your dress and image portray professionalism and credibility.

4 - The suited look portrays credibility and professionalism

The suited look is an excellent choice for women in business/professional interviews. It is business credible and makes it easy for the interviewers to visualize you in a professional/management position. When choosing suit colors think along businessmen's colors for credibility. Solids or pinstripes in darker neutrals are best (Black, Navy, Grays).

5 - If not wearing a suit at least wear a jacket

Studies reveal that a jacket gives confidence, credibility and authority to women in business situations. This is especially important for younger or slighter women. You don't need to spend a fortune for a good interview jacket or suit. (No one need know that's not a brand name label or that you bought it at consignment as long as you have altered to fit you properly).

Fit means that the sleeve should end approximately where your wrist bone meets your hand and pants not too long and bagging at the shoe. Petite women (those 5 foot 4 inches or under) should be choosing petite sizes for proper fit.

The jacket gives you presence so you look and feel more confident, just what you need for the interview.

6 - Pants or a skirt?

In North America either are acceptable for the job or the job interview. It's your choice. If wearing a skirt, choose one that is not too short or too revealing.

7 - The more skin you show the less credibility you have in business

The most common complaint we have from CEOs (male and female CEOs) is that many women wear clothing to the office that is too revealing. This includes clothing that is too tight, plunging necklines, miniskirts, high slit skirts and waist revealing short tops. Employers aren't comfortable dealing with this issue with their employees and this will definitely undermine your credibility at the job interview stage.

8 - Jewelry, piercings and tattoos

Less is more. In other words don't over do it for the job interview. remember the whole idea is to get the job. For women at the interview generally smaller scale earrings, a necklace, a ring and a good quality watch is sufficient.

You will be limiting your chances of success with a more conservative organization if you show up for the interview with any facial piercings and visible tattoos.

9 - Shoes, hose, purses and briefcases

For business a moderately heeled pump is best (closed toed shoe). Hose should be worn. Remember fishnets and stilettos won't send a credible message.

Your purse should be in good repair and be the same color as your shoes. Don't arrive over loaded for the interview. if you bring a briefcase it should be good quality leather in darker more conservative colors.

10 - Outerwear and take care of the details

Make sure your shoes are polished and clothing is cleaned and pressed or this will definitely undermine your credibility at the job interview stage. Your outer jacket/coat should be current and in good repair too.

What job interviewers are not looking for

When interviewing multiple candidates for the same position, they are looking for reasons not to hire you and to shorten that list of candidates. Employers often feel that grooming and dress sense cannot be taught or is difficult to change.

Items that will drop you from the short list include: dress that stretches the boundaries for their industry, rumpled clothing or poor grooming habits.

The job interview boils down to making an important first impression

If you want the job, it is important that you do everything you can with your image so that it promotes a positive impression of you being ready for and understanding the position that you're applying for. Otherwise you may just be wasting your time and your opportunities.

Following these tips and advice will help you get the job you want.

With more job interviews taking place over a meal

Don't forget to work on your table manners. Our Wall Street Journal #1 rated [Dining For Success online video training](#) is the easiest way make sure your dining skills look great in business and social settings.

Invest in your success, you are worth it. Good luck in your job interviews.

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