Dressing for the Interview

PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE

Women:
♦ Suit: Neutral colors, such as navy blue, charcoal gray, or black. Long sleeved jacket with knee-length straight or pleated skirt. Solid-colored vs. a pattern. A suit consisting of a jacket and a skirt is considered more professional than a pantsuit or a dress. Note: A tailored pantsuit is appropriate—just consider three things: industry, location, and the company's corporate culture.
♦ Blouse: White or pastel shades. Cotton or matte silks are a good choice.
♦ Shoes: Close-toed leather pumps, in black or a complimentary color that works with your suit. No more than a one or two-inch heel. Last, no bare legs! Wear panty hose in a skin tone color.
♦ Jewelry and Perfume: Simple post earrings or pearls. No more than one earring per ear, one ring per hand, or one bracelet. No nose, tongue, eyebrow or any other rings worn in facial piercings. Very light perfume, if any.
♦ Makeup: Simple and conservative. Avoid use of bright nail polish.
♦ Hair: Pull back if normally covers face. Don’t overdo scented hairspray.
♦ Bag it: Keep handbags small, if carrying a purse at all. Classiest bet is a small, thin attache or padfolio. No backpacks or school bags.

Men:
♦ Suit: Neutral colors, such as charcoal gray, navy blue, or black. Look for suits made of 100% “worsted” wool. Two-piece matched suit is the safest choice.
♦ Shirt: Solid color. White is best for first interview. Well ironed, long sleeved with a point collar.
♦ Tie: Simple stripe or repeating pattern of good quality silk. No “story ties.”
♦ Shoes: Leather, polished, and matched to clothing (black shoes can be worn with a navy blue or charcoal gray suit). Socks should be dark and mid-calf length so no shin is visible when sitting. Belt color should match shoe color.
♦ Jewelry and Cologne: Conservative watch. Removing earrings is safe, especially in conservative industries. No nose, tongue, eyebrow or any other rings worn in facial piercings. Use cologne in moderation, if at all.
♦ Hair: Get a haircut a week (not a day) before the interview. If you have facial hair, it should be well groomed.
♦ Bag it: Carry a small, thin attache or padfolio. No backpacks or school bags.

*Men and Women - Give your clothes a test run before the interview to ensure comfort and an appropriate look.