Dressing for Success
Look the Part

Always dress professionally for an interview. When the interview is set up, ask your contact to kindly tell you about the dress code. While a skirt isn't essential, you can't go wrong in a suit or very well-coordinated separates. Showing up for an interview in a corporate setting while wearing a casual top and jeans may very well be a mark against you. Whether your suit is from Target or Rodeo Drive, be sure that it's clean and crisp.

When you're job-hunting, be prepared to meet a possible contact around any corner. You wouldn't want to miss an opportunity to introduce yourself to someone because you were dressed inappropriately. You don't have to walk around in a suit every day, but take on a business-casual look as the norm when you're looking for a job—even when you're not interviewing.

- Err on the side of conservatism but show some personality, especially at social events. This can be accomplished with a colorful scarf or jewelry.
- Choose clothes that fit and flatter your body type. Wear business clothes, not disco attire, to a networking event.
- Keep your hair neat, cut, and styled. A disheveled look will hurt your chances at the job.
- Wear daytime makeup: no heavy eyeliner or glitzy shadows. Lipstick is more flexible, but it is usually better to wear natural shades. Wear makeup that makes you feel beautiful, but not colors that are overpowering. Make sure that someone notices you, not your makeup. Keep fragrances to a minimum.
- Jewelry and accessories are your chance to express yourself. Wear jewelry that can serve as a conversation starter. When people pay you a compliment, you can offer the story of how you got it or where it came from.

Once you have a job, continue your stylish dressing habits.

- Follow the dress code of your office.
- Even with a casual dress code, avoid short skirts, low-cut necklines, too-high heels, too-tight clothes, and anything bordering too sexy.
• Store an emergency white blouse in your office in case you spill coffee or even lunch down the front of yourself. These accidents typically happen when you have an important meeting later in the day. Keep an extra pair of hose around, too.

• If you plan to socialize after work and want to bring clothes to change into, be discreet. If co-workers see you in something sexy every Friday after work, you will develop the reputation of a partier. Fair or not, this reputation carries negative connotations.

• You can dress up your work clothes to go from daytime to evening. Remove your suit jacket to reveal a pretty camisole. Add jewelry and swap flats for heels.

• Buy the right clothes to begin with. If you can't afford a big dry cleaning bill every week, be aware of this when shopping. Buy comfortable shoes you can wear with many outfits.

• If possible, spend a little more money for good quality clothes that will last. These are the clothes you are going to be wearing the majority of the time. They will affect your self-esteem, so it is important that you like them. Whenever you can, pay a few extra dollars to look good and feel great.

Reference: