Dress for Success - Women

Career Fairs and Interviews
Dress conservatively. The general rule is to dress one step up from the company’s dress code, but you can never go wrong with a suit. So what does dressing conservatively mean?

- Standard career fair/job interviewing attire for women is a conservative dark navy, gray or black skirted wool blend suit. Pant suits are fine too.
- Colors: navy, gray and black are perfect, but other colors like beige or brown are also acceptable. Avoid overly bright or large-patterned clothing.
- Always wear a jacket with an interview suit.
- Avoid too-short skirts. Your skirt should cover your thighs when you are seated.
- Wear neutral color hosiery (no bare legs), and leave the fishnets or patterned tights at home.
- Note: if you’re applying for a job in a creative field (advertising, graphic design, etc.), it’s best to stick with the suit, but show your creativity with a scarf or unique piece of jewelry.

Hair, make-up and accessories
The basic rule: keep it low-key.

- Hair: wear it natural and controlled, or pulled back into a low ponytail
- Make-up: again, neutral is best, with a conservative colored lipstick.
- Nails: keep them short, clean and neutral.
- Perfume: while you might have a favorite scent, a lot of people are allergic to perfumes. Overwhelming odors are distracting, so avoid perfume, or keep it to a minimum.
- Accessories: Small stud earrings, understated necklaces, or a simple bracelet is fine — just avoid dangling or bulky jewelry. Opt for a briefcase or portfolio instead of a purse (slouchy handbags look sloppy).
- Shoes: basic, well-polished black pumps with a 1” - 2” heel are perfect. Avoid super high heels or boots.

Other tips

- Make sure your clothes are tailored and fit properly (not too tight, please), and double check to make sure you are free from visible panty lines.
- Keep the sexy to your nightlife — nix the see-through lace, stiletto heels, too much cleavage or too short skirts. You’re looking for a job, not a date.
- It might be obvious, but make sure your clothes are cleaned and pressed.
- Do not cook food in your interview clothes, and do not show up smelling like smoke.

Links:

Skeptical about the skirt vs. pants issue for an interview? Read more at http://www.quintcareers.com/dressing_at_the_interview.html

When Job-Hunting: Dress for Success
http://www.quintcareers.com/dress_for_success.html

What Not to Wear to an Interview