INTERVIEW DRESS

WOMEN

Shopping List for Women:

Suit (skirt and/or pants with coordinating jacket) or a dress with a coordinating jacket
Second pair of pants or skirt that will coordinate with jacket
4 blouses or sweaters
Good shoes, flats or with a heel no higher than 2 inches

LOCAL RESOURCES

Nordstrom
Macy’s
Alpha Thrift Stores in Goleta and SB (go often!)
For women, try consignment stores such as Renaissance in Santa Barbara
Kim’s Tailoring at ZipKleen on the Mesa

Lori Cooper is an expert wardrobe consultant and owner of Wardrobe Wisdom in Santa Barbara, CA. Her contribution to the content on these pages make them invaluable to job seekers.

Hair: Style your hair so it’s not falling into your face.

Make-up and Jewelry:
Avoid bright colors and excessive amounts. Light shades of lip coloring and nail polish are recommended. Jewelry should be small and conservative. Only one ring per hand and one earring per ear, small studs preferred.

Blouse: Wear a neutral color such as white or beige; avoid bright colors and large prints. Do NOT wear a low-cut or see-through blouse.

Suit: A business dress, worn with a jacket, or tailored pantsuit is acceptable. Make sure the skirt length is just at knee length, either right above or right below the knee.

Color: Choose conservative colors such as black, navy, gray, camel or brown in a flattering cut.

Fabric: Choose a light wool or rayon fabric with some weight, in a solid color or subtle pinstripes.

Shoes and Hosiery: Do not wear open toe or extremely high heels. Shoe color should coordinate and remain in neutral, such as navy, black or taupe. Wear hosiery in a color similar to your skin tone.

Dos and DON'Ts FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Take the time to make sure you have a good, neat haircut and short, clean nails. For men, facial hair should also be well-trimmed and tidy looking.
Have a dress rehearsal 2 days before your interview

Make sure your suit is tailored to fit you (take it to a tailor 2 weeks before your interview)
Ask for help when you are shopping for your outfit. Let the salesperson know you are looking for a timeless interviewing suit and tell them your budget.
Jacket: The sleeves should taper, gradually ending just over the wrist so the shirt cuff extends about 1/2 inch beyond the jacket sleeve.

Tie: Your tie should be darker than your shirt and should not extend below the belt. Wear 100% silk (or similar looking) in solid colors or small patterns.

Shirt: The button down collar offers a more casual look than the more formal business style of a point collar. Choose a good fit, neatly pressed. Best colors include white or pale blue. Always wear an undershirt.

Suit: A suit is always first choice, but if unavailable, a navy jacket or blazer with black or navy buttons and gray or beige pants are acceptable.

Pants: The pant leg bottom in the front should touch the front of the shoe and angle towards the back of the shoe to fall just above the heel. Pant cuff or no cuff is a personal choice.

Color: Choose dark colors, such as navy or gray. Black is often considered formal). Suit should be solid color or subtle pinstripes.

Fabric: Choose a light wool or rayon fabric with some weight, in a solid color or subtle pinstripes.

Shoes: Best choice is a conservative style with laces. Best shoe colors are black, brown, or burgundy and should match your belt. Wear with a new shine and dark socks over the calf.

Iron your shirt and check your outfit for stains or tears before you put it on.
Do not get your haircut minutes before your interview. This will result in tiny hairs all over your neck and suit jacket.
Do not wear cologne or perfume.

Do not show up to your interview with distracting piercings (i.e. nose rings, eyebrow piercings, HUGE ear holes)
Do not arrive in an ill-fitting, wrinkled, stained, or torn shirt or suit.

Shopping List for Men:
One suit (jacket and pants)
Second pair of pants in coordinating color
4 shirts
3 ties
Good shoes (loafers or oxfords)
belt

MORE INTERVIEW TIPS
Always wear a watch to an interview
Carry some breath mints
Iron your clothes
Get a good night sleep beforehand