

Business Casual Attire

for men



Business casual is one step down from business professional, but still needs to reflect a professional demeanor. Business casual usually requires a combination of dress pants and a dress shirt, but without the suit and tie that you would wear in a business professional scenario. The following suggestions will help you determine what to wear in business casual settings.

TIES

Ties are generally not necessary for business casual, but if you are in doubt, you can always wear a tie. It never hurts to overdress; by dressing nicely, you pay a compliment to your host.

SHIRTS

Long-sleeved shirts are considered dressier than short-sleeved and are appropriate even in summer. Your safest bet is to choose white, light blue solid or conservative stripes. Polo shirts are acceptable in more casual situations. Make sure your shirt is tucked in at all times.

SOCKS

Dark socks are the standard for business casual. No skin should be visible when you sit down, so make sure you choose socks that are at least mid-calf length.

FACIAL HAIR

Just as with professional attire, facial hair should be well-groomed. Know your industry and how conservative it is - observe men in your field if you are unsure what is appropriate or are considering changing your look.

JEWELRY

Wear a conservative watch. If you choose to wear other jewelry, be conservative. Removing earrings is the safest bet. In more conservative industries, avoid earrings and other jewelry.

CHECKING THE TIME

Wearing a watch is a great way to keep an eye on the time, but avoid looking at it too much. Frequently checking the time sends the message that you are bored. Similarly, if you choose to use your cell phone as a watch, be sure that it doesn't look like you are texting while speaking with employers. Again, be discreet.

Ultimately remember that what you wear is a crucial part of maintaining a professional appearance. Ask yourself if your outfit will be a distraction to your colleagues, business partners, clients, etc. or if it will serve to reinforce your image as a business professional.

Business Professional Attire *for men*



It can be difficult to determine how to dress appropriately for a professional scenario. TV shows and movies often portray business attire in a flashier manner than it exists in reality. These shows and films often outfit their characters in a manner to attract viewers and don't always accurately represent the reality of the business environment. Refer to the following recommendations when selecting your professional clothing and avoid looking to the entertainment industry for inspiration.

For men, a matching two-piece suit is always the best and safest choice. Choose a suit that is not too tight or too baggy. The jacket should have two or three buttons and both the pants and jacket should be well-tailored and appropriately sized.

COLORS AND FABRICS

Navy and dark gray are always safe options for men as they are typically considered the most conservative. Black was once considered too severe or overly formal, but that classification has largely diminished and it is now worn by many businessmen. Avoid the extremes of color trends and try to choose a solid or very subtle weave pattern or plaid (the kind that looks solid from across the room).

COST/QUALITY

You are not expected to be able to afford the same clothing as a corporate CEO. One good quality suit is sufficient for a job search as you can always vary your suit and tie.

SHIRTS

Even in the summer months, professional attire mandates long sleeve shirts. Choose white or light blue solids or conservative stripes. Avoid trendy colors or patterns that complicate the look.

TIES

The key with choosing a tie is keeping it simple. Colors and patterns that nicely complement your suit can be appropriate, but avoid extreme colors/patterns. Never wear character or "themed" ties to interviews or meetings.

SOCKS

Dark socks are the standard for business professional. No skin should be visible when you sit down, so make sure you choose socks that are at least mid-calf length.

BELT

Match your belt to your shoes, typically black or cordovan leather.

FACIAL HAIR

If worn, make sure facial hair is well-groomed.

JEWELRY

Wear a conservative watch. If you choose to wear other jewelry, be conservative. Removing earrings is typically safest. For conservative industries, always remove jewelry.

DETAILS

Everything should be clean and well-pressed. Suits typically have tacking stitches to keep jacket pockets, sleeves, and backing in place before wear. Cut these small threads if your tailor/retailer doesn't. Carefully inspect clothes for dangling threads, etc.

Ultimately remember that what you wear is a crucial part of maintaining a professional appearance. Ask yourself if your outfit will be a distraction to your colleagues, business partners, clients, etc. or if it will serve to reinforce your image as a business professional.