

## JOB INTERVIEW ATTIRE -- FOR WOMEN

The rules for proper business attire for men are quite simple. Sure, men get them wrong all the time, but they are simple.



For women, things are more complicated. This is because male hominids are genetically programmed to sexually objectify female hominids, especially the hot ones. It's in the female hominid's best interests to dress asexually, so as to be taken seriously as a workmate rather than a sexual conquest. Yet she must dress provocatively enough so as not to invite scorn. It's a balance between a burka and Dr. Lisa Cuddy.

Here are some quick tips for female job interview attire. One general rule: while it's generally undesirable to dress as generally undesirable -- that is, too much "like a man" -- it is better to dress less feminine than to wear an outfit that is *too sexy*. Yes, dressing provocatively may very well help you get hired -- if the boss is a guy. But he's not the kind of guy for whom you'll want to work. To put it in terms familiar to D&D players: you want to be *charismatic*, not *comely*.

**Wear a suit.** Make it navy, black or dark gray. Some misguided people will tell you that a red outfit is a "power" outfit. Unfortunately, there are still people in the 21st Century who think a red outfit on a woman means she is a prostitute. Also, avoid lavender, aqua and other '80s colors. These colors say "I collect unicorns and watch QVC while I cry into my Ben & Jerry's."

**Wear a skirt or pants.** Well, obviously -- don't show up in a thong. If you wear a skirt, keep it below the knee with no provocative slit along the side. If an employer requires its female employees to wear skirts, do not work there. You do not want to associate with those people. Unless you enjoy "Power Prayer Breakfasts," "No on Prop. 8" rallies, glass ceilings, and anti-Semitism.

**Coordinate your blouse.** You are safer with a perfectly opaque blouse, but a VERY SLIGHTLY transparent one should be fine. If I can read the label on your bra, it's no good. Make sure the color coordinates with your suit. Oh, and those blouses with frilly junk along the front? Don't do that. You're not a pirate.

**Minimal jewelry.** Small earrings (non-dangling), a thin necklace and a ring. That's it. Wear all silver or platinum -- gold jewelry is for Jersey mob wives. (Whatever your wedding ring is, even if it's awful, you can wear it. No one expects you to take off your wedding ring. Although your next husband should have better taste.) Avoid cheap jewelry -- better to wear none.

Also, wearing multiple rings implies you lost your virginity in the wheat germ hut at Burning Man. Save that stuff for your off-hours.

**Wear pantyhose.** For the interview, anyway. Yes, in 20 years this ridiculous clothing item won't exist anymore. But for right now, wear the damn things. Wear neutral pantyhose -- colored hose are for porn stars and Harajuku girls.

**Wear sensible shoes.** First, keep them dark and coordinate them with your suit. Avoid buckles, frills and bells. "Light-up" clear plastic heels are right out.

Second, wear comfortable shoes. DO NOT WEAR HIGH HEELS. It's not necessary, and you walk like a hobbled calf. Why spend your interview in severe pain? Men may notice if you wear high heels, but they *won't* notice if you *don't*. It's time to end the tyranny of the cruel shoe.

Got any advice about female interview attire? Let us know in the comments!