

DRESSING FOR A JOB FAIR

Planning your wardrobe is just as important as polishing your resume and practicing interview responses. While the idea of being told what to wear might sound offensive to some, there are societal norms that most employers have become accustomed to expecting – even from college students. However, keep in mind that you should never be made to feel uncomfortable by the clothes you wear.

We've put together some tips to help you plan an outfit that will give a great first impression.

APPAREL

You don't necessarily need a suit. Business casual attire is generally acceptable for an academic job fair, unless you're applying for a role or employer that require a higher level of formality.

Stick to neutral colours like blue, black, gray, or tan – they will make you look more professional. A little colour is fine, but avoid too much flash and any pattern that might be controversial or distracting.

Bonus tip: patterns will help you camouflage that last-minute coffee spill.

FOOTWEAR

Choose function over fashion. You'll most likely be spending part of your day on your feet, so your shoes should be really comfortable. That said, stay away from flip-flops, sandals, and flimsy shoes. Go for a shoe that matches your outfit and in a style that allows you to walk and stand comfortably. A laced-up loafer or pumps (with heels less than 3 inches) will work well for this occasion. And socks! Yep, gotta have 'em.

ACCESSORIES

You can style it up, but keep your look clean. Wear a belt that coordinates with your shoe colour. If you choose to wear a watch, opt for a classic style in gold, silver, or stainless steel, or one with a leather band that matches your belt and shoes. A briefcase can help you maintain a put-together appearance by keeping your resumes, portfolio, and essential items organized and out-of-sight until necessary. For jewellery, small earrings and a wristwatch will add a sleek touch.

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GROOMING

This final finishing touch, or lack thereof, can make or break your look. Take the time to assess your look from head to toe. Do a complete cleanliness check – you don't want to compromise your firm handshake with dirty fingernails. Hair should be neatly combed. Clean-shaven or impeccably groomed facial hair not only makes you look good but also feel good – adding a little boost to your confidence! Avoid heavy makeup and attention-grabbing nail polish. Freshness is important, but be respectful for people who may have sensitivities; avoid wearing perfumes and colognes.

No matter what you decide to wear, fresh, neat and clean are the watchwords. Take some time to try everything on a few days before the fair, so you have enough time to make any necessary adjustments.

IF YOU'RE STILL INDECISIVE ABOUT YOUR OUTFIT, SEE OUR [INTERVIEW DRESS CODE GUIDE](#).

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