It is difficult to know what to wear for interviews or in the workplace, especially when this can vary so much by industry. Appropriate interview attire is necessary to maintain your look of professionalism and show that you are serious about your job. It is ALWAYS better to be overdressed than underdressed. Generally, a good rule of thumb is to dress in a way that isn’t distracting. You want the employer to focus on what you say—not what you wear! The best way to find out what is appropriate attire for your workplace is to ask before you start the job. Here are some guidelines to get you started.

**Interview/Professional Business Attire**

**MEN**
- Clean, pressed business suit
- Clean, pressed dress pants (for the workplace; not in an interview)
- Light-colored, pressed shirt
- Necktie that is tasteful and not distracting
- Leather or leather-like shoes with matching belt
- Dark socks that complement the suit
- Clean, trimmed head and facial hair

**WOMEN**
- Clean, pressed suit or tailored dress
- Shirts/blouses that are not too revealing (low-cut neckline or see through material) or that have a distracting color or print
- Skirt or dress that is not too short and low-rise pants that are too revealing.
- Closed-toed shoes with low heels
- Cosmetics and hairspray used sparingly
- Clean, controlled hairstyle
- Conservative hosiery with no runs

**GENERAL INFORMATION ON INTERVIEW ATTIRE FOR EVERYONE**
- Wear properly fitted clothes—neither too tight nor too loose; make sure no underwear is showing; avoid skirts that are too short and low-rise pants that are too revealing.
- Ensure that your shoes are polished and in good condition.
- Keep the jewelry to a minimum; no jewelry that jingles or is distracting.
- Avoid perfume, cologne, or other strong smells (e.g., smoke, food, etc.) in case the interviewer is sensitive to smells or has allergies.
- Use a padfolio rather than a briefcase or backpack.
- Pay attention to the details: no stains, loose strings, tags, wrinkles, lint, or missing buttons.

**Business Casual**

**MEN**
- Khaki or dress pants, neatly pressed (not jeans)
- Long sleeved, button-down shirt, a polo, or knit shirt with a collar
- Leather or leather-like shoes and belt
- Dark socks
- Minimal jewelry
- Optional tie or sweater

**WOMEN**
- Khaki or dress pants, neatly pressed (not jeans)
- Skirt or dress no shorter than two inches above the knees while standing
- Sweater, twin set, cardigan, polo/knit shirt, or blouse that looks nice without a jacket and is not revealing
- Conservative shoes; most companies prefer closed-toed shoes