You don’t need expensive clothing to make a great first impression. The point of dressing professionally is to allow the employer to focus on what you are saying and the content of your interview. If you are wearing something that distracts from what you are saying, then it can be frustrating for the employer.

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**Men's Suit**

1. Men should wear a well tailored suit.
2. Colors should be traditional. Navy blue, charcoal gray, or black are appropriate, in solid or subtle striped patterns.
3. The shirt needs to be long-sleeve and button down, preferably in a solid color such as white or light blue.
4. Choose a suit fabric. High-quality worsted wool is the most seasonally versatile. Avoid blends that are made with too much polyester, as they do not breathe well and may look cheap.
5. Test the jacket for fit. Make sure the collar lies flat against the back of your neck and shows a 1/4-inch rim of shirt collar. Shoulders should be lightly padded and neither too boxy nor too sloped. Sleeves should reveal 1/4 to 1/2 inch of shirt cuff and fall 5 inches above the tip of your thumb.
6. Button the jacket and sit down to verify that it is comfortable and does not bunch up.
7. Make sure the pants sit at the waist. Check that your socks do not show when you walk.

**Women's Suit**

1. No matter what your age, your business attire should be as professional as possible. Avoid clothes that are the latest fad and choose a more conservative look.
2. Women should wear a two-piece matched suit in power colors such as charcoal gray or black.
3. Skirts should cover your thighs when you are seated, with no high slits.
4. Pantyhose are a necessity when wearing a skirt.
5. Pants should be tailored.
6. Shirts and sweaters should be tailored and the color should either be a solid color or small print that coordinates with your suit.

**Men's Accessories**

1. The tie can be a solid subtle color or have a small print or stripes, however, its overall appearance should be conservative.
2. Socks need to be a dark solid or a small pattern.
3. Shoes need to be a leather wing tip or loafer style. They should be clean and polished.
4. Belt should match shoes.
5. Facial hair needs to be well groomed.

**Women's Accessories**

1. Jewelry should be simple and conservative.
2. A little make-up goes a long way. Keep it attractive, yet minimal.
3. Shoes should be dress pumps; professional yet comfortable.
4. Panty hose, if any, should be plain with no pattern and compliment your suit.
5. Make sure your purse or bag is not a large, flashy print. The smaller the bag, the better.
6. Portfolios are encouraged!