

Dressing for that Counseling Job Interview



Many interviews for Masters-level or Doctoral-level Counselors are done by panel. Some panel members are rather conservative. It is a good idea to dress in a way that does not offend any member of the panel.

- It is certainly your safest bet to wear a suit (women choose a skirt or pants suit, men a standard business suit). Investing in one nice, well-fitted suit is a good idea, even if (like most of us) you have spent your school years in jeans and t-shirts! It is likely that a more casual sort of dress is acceptable at your potential new employer's location, but an interview calls for a more substantial effort.
- Some panel members may be sensitive to fragrance, avoid perfume/cologne that day.

When a candidate walks into the interview, the panel members assume this is the best they will ever see this candidate dress. So they think, would this be appropriate for that day when I ask this candidate to speak at a large gathering in an auditorium, or give testimony in court?

- Go that extra mile for the interview. Wear a clean, pressed shirt under your suit, shine your shoes, and make sure your hair is neat.

This is not the time to make bold statements, if you want a positive outcome.

- Realize that you may have a style that is not everyone's style. When you get hired you will be able to dress in your style. But for the interview, when a panel of people will be taking everything into consideration, it is best to go with a simpler, more conservative style. Don't let your style remove you from consideration. Written by Rebecca Daniel-Burke for ACA