



Dress Code for Interview & Campus Visit

A school visit enables you to check the campus facilities, interact with professors and students, and, if possible, impress an admissions committee officer. Ultimately, you will understand whether that is the right place for you and whether you will fit in.

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01.) What Schools say

Dress code is something to be respected. HBS, for example, even tells their current students what to wear.

HBS: <http://www.exed.hbs.edu/Pages/faq.aspx#faq5a> (*attire*)

“Business casual attire is requested for classes and meals in the Executive Education dining facility during your program. Since dress codes and terminology vary widely amongst companies and countries, here are a few examples of what is considered business casual attire:

Open-necked, collared shirts or blouses and sweaters; khakis or other pressed pants; leather or casual walking shoes”

Cornell: <http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/academic/mba/guide/faq.html#a33>

“We encourage you to visit the Johnson School and talk with students, sit in on classes, tour the campus, and attend information sessions about our application process and admission criteria. To register for class visits, please log onto our website for available dates and times. If you are going to interview, dress as you would for a professional job interview.”

Wharton: <http://engage.wharton.upenn.edu/MBA/forums/t/945.aspx>

Q: This may seem like an odd question, but I was wondering what is the appropriate dress code for a campus visit and lunch with students?

A: “There is no formal dress code. Students tend to wear clothing ranging from business casual to jeans and a collared shirt”. Victor M. Lee, MBA Candidate, Class of 2011

Booth: www.chicagobooth.edu/.../2009-08-26_admissions.aspx

“Glad to hear you're joining us for Booth Live! In terms of dress, we don't have a formal dress code for the event, but do suggest business or smart casual”. Rose Martinelli, Associate Dean

Q: Any special dress code for campus visit?

A: “No formal **dress code** is required. Don't wear a suit. I'd suggest jeans and a decent shirt - nice enough to look OK. Most prospective students go business casual”. Ellen Mc Donald's, assistant director of admissions and evening student



Stanford: www.stanford.edu/dept/visitorinfo/site/.../index.html

How should I dress for my campus visit?

Dress casually—and for the weather! Be prepared for sunny and warm days during the summer. If you're taking a tour, it's a good idea to bring a water bottle and a hat and/or sunscreen. You can't go wrong with "layering" in the late fall, winter, and early spring. Some backup rain gear is advisable for November through March.

Kellogg: http://www.interviewbay.com/interview_tips/Kellogg-MBA-Interview-tips.php

"Can't speak for other schools, but at Kellogg generally people dress casually - jeans, sweaters, t-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, etc. Plenty of people wore shorts and sandals while the weather was warm. People usually only dress in business casual for recruiting or other special events and suits are only for interviews". Anonymous

"If the interview is taking place on campus or if it is off campus in the office of a professional then dress should be business formal (suit and tie for males). If the interview is in a coffee shop (mine was in Starbucks) then business casual is appropriate. I wore a shirt, slacks, dress shoes and a jacket, and a tie. I only put on the tie because my interviewer worked at a PE firm and I knew he was coming from work so I did not want to be much underdressed relative. I think I could have gone without the jacket and been just fine also. Under no circumstances should you arrive in jeans or running shoes". Strategy Consultant (Monitor Group)

Tuck: <http://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/faqs/index.html>

Q: What should I wear to my visit to campus/interview?

A: Please wear business-appropriate attire for your interview.

"Anything goes at Tuck. We've got more than 1/2 the first year class living on campus, so it's not unusual for people to be sitting in class in January in flip-flops, t-shirt, and shorts. Some people dress pretty nicely each day, but most seem to just dress how they feel, some days fancied up, other days very casual". AF



02.) TIPS for Men & Women

Specifics for men

Ties: Ties are generally not necessary for business casual, but if you are in doubt, you can wear a tie;

Shirts: Long-sleeved shirts are dressier than short-sleeved and are OK even in the summer. Choose white or light blue solid. Polo shirts (tucked in, of course) are OK in more casual situations;

Socks: Wear dark socks, mid-calf length so **no skin is visible** when you sit down;

Shoes: Leather shoes should be worn. No sandals, athletic shoes, or hiking boots;

Facial hair: Just as with interviews: Facial hair, if worn, should be well-groomed. Little or no perfume;

Jewelry: Wear a conservative watch. If you wear other jewelry, be conservative. No earrings.

Specifics for women

Pants / skirts: Women can wear casual pants or skirts. Neither should be tight. Fabrics should be crisp; colors should be solid; navy, black, gray, brown and khaki are safe bets;

Skirt length and slits: Your skirt should come at least to your knees while you are standing. While you are seated, your thighs should be covered. A very long skirt should not be slit to above the knee;

Shirt / sweaters: In addition to tailored shirts or blouses, tailored knit sweaters and twin sets are appropriate business casual choices for women. Cotton, silk, and blends are appropriate. Fit should not be tight;

Jewelry / accessories: Wear a conservative watch. Jewelry and scarf styles come and go. Keep your choices simple and toward conservative. Avoid extremes of style, patterns, and colors.

Cosmetics: Keep makeup conservative and natural looking. A little is usually better than none. Nails should be clean and well groomed. Avoid extremes of nail length/polish color. Little or no perfume;

Shoes: Leather or fabric / microfiber. Appropriate colors: black, navy and brown (to match your clothes). For the most conservative look, toes should be covered. Sandals which are neither too dressy nor casual might be OK. Neither thin straps and high heels nor chunky heels and platforms! If you carry a purse, keep it small and simple; a structured bag tends to look more professional than something soft or floppy.