

Suit up for the Interview

(a what-to-wear guide)

J.CREW


Introducing the Interview Suit:

Good news—you've got the interview. Now...what to wear? The key to dressing for an interview is making a great first impression. And it all starts with the interview suit.

—Did you know?—

College students get
10% off purchases at any
J.Crew store with a valid
student ID.




A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored blazer over a blue and white striped button-down shirt, and matching light-colored trousers. She is standing with her hands in her pockets, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with some shadows from a window on the left.

For law, investment banking, sales, insurance...

Invest in a formal interview suit in a year-round fabric. Whether it's navy, neutral or black, pants or skirt—make sure the fabric you choose is high quality, lightweight and exceptionally tailored.


Think twice...
before over-accessorizing—
less is more.



For advertising,
publishing,
public relations,
fashion, graduate
school...

Mix it up—take a few great suiting pieces and add your own personal style. Try pinstripe trousers paired with a brightly colored blouse and heels, a pencil skirt with a classic cardigan or a two-button jacket with your favorite pants.

Think twice...
before wearing a low-cut
blouse or a miniskirt.



**Your suit isn't
just for an
interview...**

Take it out of the closet and on the town to dinner, drinks, even to a party...or pair your suit jacket with jeans and heels for a casual Friday.

Think twice...
before putting on
nude hose.

fit checklist



- Make sure the jacket falls smoothly across your shoulders and back.



- The pant hem should fall to the top of your shoes and not touch the floor.*

* If you're altering your pants, be sure to bring the shoes you'll be wearing.



- When buttoned in the middle, your jacket should not pull.



- The jacket sleeve should fall at the base of your thumb.

Try setting up a complimentary appointment with one of J.Crew's Personal Shoppers. They're trained to help you with your suiting needs.



A little advice on what to wear from J.Crew Creative Director and style expert Jenna Lyons...

What should a student look for in her first interview suit?

Fit and fabric. A tailored-fit suit will always appear pulled together and professional. Find the suit that fits your body type best. For fabric, you'll need a four-season suit—a lightweight fabric breathes better and will keep you cool during a stressful interview. Most importantly, a great interview suit makes you feel confident and ready for anything.

What do you think is the best color option for an interview suit?

If you're only going to get one suit, navy is the most versatile option. Black can sometimes look unimaginative and very safe. Navy goes with everything and is always chic.

“A great interview suit makes you feel confident and ready for anything.”

What would you suggest, a pantsuit or a skirt?

It's really a matter of personal choice, but if you choose to go for a skirt it must be knee length and no nude hose please!

How do you give an interview suit personality?

Pick an accessory that shows a little bit of you.

A good bag or shoe will get you far. Remember to keep it classic but with a twist—think polished rather than conservative.

“A suit is a big investment and it shouldn't retire to your closet once you've landed the job.”

College students are often on a tight budget—any advice on how to make the most of one suit?

A suit is a big investment and it shouldn't retire to your closet once you've landed the job. My best advice is to keep the separates separated. Mix it up with other pieces in your wardrobe and be creative. Don't be afraid of color!

What is the most common mistake made by students on their first interview?

Not dressing the part. Companies like to know that you did your research and you'll be a good fit for their office environment. Don't be afraid to ask your recruiter or contact for advice.

When interviewing job candidates, what stands out to you?

A bad handshake, dirty hair or nails, a negative attitude and beaten-up shoes.

For more style advice and to find a suit that always works, visit jcrew.com or email us at well-suited@jcrew.com

Did you know?

All college students receive 10% off purchases at any J.Crew retail store with a valid student ID.*

* Offer valid on purchases at J.Crew retail stores only and cannot be honored at J.Crew Factory stores, online at jcrew.com or over the phone.

Discount cannot be combined with any other promotions or offers.