



*After spending days, weeks or even years preparing to
apply for that dream job or post-grad school,
the day finally arrives:*

THE INTERVIEW.

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*Dressing sloppily could
be viewed as a reflection
on the work you do.*

Kathryn Rush

INTERIM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF PENN STATE HARRISBURG'S
CAREER SERVICES

What to wear to an interview may not be your first concern, but Kathryn Rush, Interim Associate Director of Penn State Harrisburg's Career Services, said coming into an interview looking polished and professional will show future employers that you are taking the opportunity and interview seriously.

*Here are some tips to look professional —
without breaking the bank:*



BUSINESS CASUAL?

Not all employees wear corporate suits to work every day. Here's a basic breakdown of some of the differences between business formal versus casual.

BUSINESS FORMAL

To put it simply, business formal is corporate attire — black, gray or navy suits with an ironed tie. Rush said that women can also opt for business suits or swap in a skirt instead of pants. She noted that all skirts should be either at or just below the knee.

BUSINESS CASUAL

There are a number of options when it comes to business casual, and often you can observe how casual the office really is once you're hired.

Instead of a suit, both men and women can lean towards slacks, khakis, or even skinny jeans paired with casual blazers, sweaters, cardigans and button downs. Companies are starting to modernize, and Rush said employees can choose to be more fashion-forward compared to traditional business suits.

LOOK FOR BASIC PIECES

When you start building your professional wardrobe, look for staple and versatile pieces such as dark slacks, khakis, or a blazer. Some pieces — like a little black dress, blouses or button downs — can be dressed up or dressed down depending on the interview by pairing it with a tie or a cardigan.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Rush suggested doing some research to see what people wear in that industry. Look at photographs on the company's website or social media pages to get an idea of how formal the company is. When in doubt, it's better to be overdressed than underdressed, she said.

AVOID HEAVY MAKEUP AND PERFUME

You may love your Anastasia Beverly Hills contour kit and highlighter, but Rush recommended opting for neutral makeup and tasteful jewelry. The last thing you want is for your future employer to focus on your heavy cologne instead of your resume during your interview.

HERE'S THE DEAL WITH HEELS

Go ahead if you want to wear heels to a job interview. Rush recommended

sticking to two-and-a-half- to three-inch heels. Error on the side of caution, though, because some employers may give you a tour of the building (aka walking a distance further than from your car to the interview room). If heels aren't your thing, then flats are always an option.

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If you're going to wear it to a bar, don't wear it to an interview.

Kathryn Rush

PLACES TO SHOP

You don't have to break the bank to look nice for an interview.

If your budget is tight, check thrift stores:

Salvation Army: 3847 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg

Goodwill: 6033 Allentown Boulevard, Harrisburg

CommunityAid Thrift Store: 4405 Lewis Road, Harrisburg

If you have more flexibility, consider stores like Target or department stores like Marshalls, TJ Maxx or JCPenney.

Otherwise, test your luck at nearby outlets:

Tanger Outlets: 46 Outlet Square, Hershey

This includes numerous stores like: Michael Kors, LOFT, Kate Spade, J. Crew, Gap, Francesca's, Express, Coach and Lane Bryant.