# COLGATE UNIVERSITY Career Services

Dressing professionally for job interviews shows respect and emphasizes your interest in the position. Make sure your attire is in good condition and aligns with industry standards.

# **Business Professional Dress**

Expected at interviews unless otherwise directed.

## Suits

Choose a classic pant or skirt suit. Both the jacket and bottoms should be the same color and fabric. Dark colors like black, gray, or navy are considered more formal.

#### **Shirts and Tops**

Choose a white or light-colored, long-sleeve buttondown shirt or a blouse in a variety of colors or patterns. Shirts should be well-ironed.

#### **Socks or Stockings**

Choose neutral-colored stockings or dark socks that coordinate with your suit.

#### Shoes

Dark-colored leather or synthetic leather shoes in a classic style are standard. Shoes should be clean and polished, and heel height should be low enough for walking comfortably. Avoid open-toed or sling-back styles.

## Accessories

- Ties or scarves: Choose a simple, classic pattern and color that coordinates with your suit.
- Belts: A leather or synthetic leather belt with a simple buckle.
- Watches and jewelry: Choose items that complement, not overwhelm, your ensemble.
- Portfolios and handbags: Plain leather or synthetic portfolios and a simple handbag.

# **Business Casual**

Expected at employer information sessions, receptions or dinners, and alumni receptions and events.

The range of clothing options is more flexible in a business casual setting. The following examples would be acceptable in a business casual session:

- Professional slacks or skirt with a suit jacket or blazer of a different color, fabric, or pattern.
- Professional slacks or skirt with a business shirt and tie, blouse, or sweater.
- Professional dress with or without a cardigan or jacket.

## **Additional Tips**

- Plan your outfit and try it on before your interview to ensure it fits well and is comfortable.
- Make sure your attire is wrinkle-free. Iron shirts, suits, or dresses.
- Interview clothing is more formal than typical workday attire. Consider how an employer might view your grooming, piercings, tattoos, skirt length, heel height, etc.
- Accessories, cosmetics, and fragrances should complement your ensemble, not overpower it.
- If your tradition requires it, religious dress is appropriate for interviews.
- Matching the industry's clothing culture and expectations shows that you have done your research.
- Be mindful of industry expectations, but also remember to maintain your authenticity.

If you are not sure what to wear, ask a career adviser.