

LGBTQ PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING TIPS



Whether you are preparing for an interview or your first few days on the job, these few tips might help in assessing what to wear for each environment.

***Know Your Audience** Are you interviewing with a conservative organization, a more creative one, or a nonprofit organization?

**Adapted from: Folds, Riley B. Your Queer Career: The Ultimate Career Guide for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Job Seekers. Lexington, KY: Riley B. Folds III, 2013. Print.*

Know Your Comfort Level Interviews can be stressful enough, adding an additional element of feeling uncomfortable can affect the entire process.

Know Yourself Adapting to organizational dress code norms is part of the professional working world. Be sure to assess the industry in which you are entering and dress accordingly.

Presenting as the gender you identify with is encouraged. The litmus test is asking yourself if what you are wearing is polished and professional. For those job seekers who are gender-questioning or currently going through a gender transition, speaking to someone in the organization’s human resources department may be an option and prevent any misunderstandings.

INTERVIEW ATTIRE In the interview, you want the employer to regard you as a professional, well dressed, neat, and clean. Dressing in a way that will enhance these preferred characteristics will leave them with a good impression. Professional and conservative attire is recommended for interviews except in casual, creative settings where business casual would be appropriate.

Clean, free of wrinkles and tears, comfortable fit.

Suits: Pant suits and skirt suits are acceptable. Skirts should be no shorter than knee-length. Dark colors are more professional (black, navy), though a lighter colored suit (gray, beige) may be appropriate, depending upon company culture.

Shirts: Solid color. Covers the chest.

Tie: A conservative pattern or solid color. Not necessary to wear with skirt suits or suits that align with a more feminine gender expression.

Shoes: Close-toed dress shoes in a solid dark or neutral color. Heels or flats are acceptable. If heels, no more than two inches high.

Socks (if wearing pant suit): Solid dark color that matches or complements suit.

Nylons (if wearing skirt suit): Black or nude.

Accessories: Minimal and subtle. For interviews, avoid bringing a purse or bag, if possible. A leather portfolio for your resumes, notepad, and pen is recommended.