

Attire to Get You Hired

During an interview or when starting a new job, your appearance can enhance or hurt the impression you make. Complimentary clothes, accessories and other factors are important to making an appropriate visual statement. Though preferences change between organizations, there are some basic rules to follow. Keep in mind that some organizations still draw a distinct line between business and casual dress. For a good rule of thumb, pay a visit to the company before your interview to see how the people dress. Dressing a notch above their typical workday wear is a good plan.

Alaska Standards in Work Attire

Alaskan professional attire often differs from other places. Keep this in mind as you research information on dressing for interviews and jobs, and dress appropriately for the organization. The general tips still apply, especially during the first impression stages of an interview. When in doubt, ask someone in the organization. It is important that you conform to wearing professional clothing during your job search, especially so that employers will know that you take the situation seriously.

Women

- Business suits
- Dress skirt and blouse
- Shoes: simple, low heels
- Slip (make sure it's hidden!)
- Pantyhose should be worn with dresses

Men

- Suit and tie
- Sport coat and dress slacks
- Shoes: dark, dress shoes
- Socks: match shoes or pants, long enough to avoid showing leg when sitting

General Appearance Tips

- Be conservative – avoid loud colors or patterns and trendy clothing.
- Wear simple jewelry and light make-up; accessories should compliment your outfit, not overshadow it.
- It is better to over dress than to under dress.
- Avoid perfume or cologne (allergies & personal preferences can be your demise).
- Maintain good hygiene, including trimmed nails, deodorant, brushed teeth, hair off face, etc.
- Do a final check in the bathroom: comb your hair, straighten your tie or skirt, dust your shoes, wash your hands, etc.
- Carry a briefcase with extra copies of application materials and a portfolio.