Business CAREER HUB

HUB INSIGHTS

A Publication of the Business Career Hub

Strive to Thrive

Career Tips For Ted Rogers School Students

These reports leverage the expertise of BCH staff to share best practices for students & alumni.

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Business Attire: How to Dress Professionally

Business attire is used for professional settings like job interviews, networking events, conferences, and more. Dressing professionally is valuable because it showcases your commitment to the role and respect for other colleagues. As a student transitioning into the professional world, it's important to know how to dress appropriately for the setting you're in.

Help! What should I wear for a
- Networking event
- Job interview
- Conference

This report will provide **functional examples** of outfits that fall under the Business Casual, and Business Professional categories.

For key business events like executive meetings and client presentations, Business Formal attire remains vital despite its declining popularity. Marked by tailored suits, classic dresses, and polished accessories, it stands apart from the more relaxed feel of Business Casual or Business Professional.

Please Note: The photos and content below do not encapsulate the expectations of every company and are solely suggestions based on industry standards. For specific dress code information, confirm with your Direct Manager about the organization's expectations.

Inclusive Dress Code: Based on your culture or religion, you can modify the dress code guidelines to best fit you. There are regulations that restrict employers from enforcing discriminative dress codes. Please speak with your HR department if needed.

To find out more about the Ontario Human Rights Code dress code policy, click here.

Business Casual

Business casual dress codes are common for day-to-day office wear in the majority of organizations. The term ‘casual’ is defined differently in different industries, so gauge what your co-workers are wearing and what that industry’s standard is. See below for examples of what to wear in a business casual setting.

Women’s Attire

Grace is a 3rd year Marketing student at TRSM working at the Hub as a Project Coordinator.

Layering a vest or blazer is a great way to add a professional touch!

Dress pants should not have any distressing. Midi or maxi skirts are also acceptable with minimalist colours.

Dress shoes or boots are optimal. Some industries are okay with sneakers, do your research beforehand!

Men’s Attire

Illiyan is a 3rd year Marketing Co-op student working as a Marketing Coordinator in the Hub

Plain collared shirt with optional tie depending on the occasion.

Full length dress pants or chino pants are great options.

Any closed-toe shoes with non-bright colours (preferably leather shoes).

Business Professional

Business professional dress codes is a more conservative style of dress that is common in the banking, accounting, government, and legal sectors. For networking events, it's recommended to stick to a business professional dress code to leave a positive impression. See below for examples of what to wear in a business professional setting.

Women's Attire

Milcah is a 3rd year Finance Co-op student currently on a work term at CIBC.

Sophisticated top with a high neckline. Blazers with dress shirts are always a safe bet as well.

Full length mid-to-high waisted dress pants or midi-to-maxi skirt. Opt for neutral colours wherever possible.

Leather closed-toe shoes or modest high heels are great options.

Men's Attire

Stanley is a 4th year Global Management student working as an Ambassador at the Hub.

A collared shirt is necessary and fitted blazer with tie optional. Darker colours like navy, black, and grey are best.

Matching your dress pants to your shirt or blazer is a great way to look smart and cohesive.

Dark leather shoes such as oxfords or derby's. No sneakers in this dress code.

Want to Learn More?

Forbes

Do Clothes Matter To Our Success At Work?

DRESS FOR SUCCESS® TORONTO

Dress for Success Toronto

A non-profit that provides suit and styling services for women.

New Circles CLOTHING · CONNECTION · COMMUNITY

New Circles Program

New Circles offers free, gently used clothing for those in need.

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Employer Events

The BCH hosts several employer events to prepare you for your professional career. Refer to your weekly 'BCH Careers Newsletter' for a list of upcoming events.

Bootcamps/Prep Programs

Advance your technical and soft skills, earn digital badges, and gain an advantage in today's workforce through bootcamps. Click here to register for current bootcamps.

Coaching & Mock Interview

For career coaching, interview prep and more, schedule a 1:1 appointment with a Career Consultant or a Co-op Coordinator.

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Career Consultant Contributor
Jason Andrada
Jason is a Career Consultant with experience in post-secondary advancement and accounting. Having formal training in career development, he is passionate in helping others achieve their dream career and building meaningful relationships.

Student Contributor
Grace Lu
Grace is a Marketing student at TRSM with a minor in Public Relations. She is currently working as a Project Coordinator at the Business Career Hub and is the Director of Digital Marketing at StyleCircle.

1. Seek Content Team. (n.d.). Smart business attire: Dressing for success (with examples). Seek. https://www.seek.com.au/career-advice/article/smart-business-attire-dressing-for-success-with-examples
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