Business Casual vs. Business Professional Attire

When attending professional events it can be important to distinguish between Business Casual and Business Professional attire to ensure you make the right first impression on employers, coworkers, and clients.

Business Casual

This look is appropriate in many office environments or human services roles. This look also works for community or after-hour events such as lectures or informational interviews.

There is no singular definition of what makes an outfit business casual, so make sure to ask HR or read the company dress-code before you chose an outfit.

Key Tips for the Perfect Look

Khaki pants, nice trousers, or skirt

Tie optional

Collared shirt or blouse

Flat shoes or heels

Business Professional

This look is appropriate for job interviews, networking events, the SSU Job & Internship Fair, and in more formal working environments such as finance and law offices.

Professional Attire generally includes a blazer or suit coat and involves neutral colors over patterns or bright colors.

Key Tips for the Perfect Look

Neutral colors
- Black, Navy, Brown, White, Tan, Gray

Suit or sports jacket, or business dress

Suit pants or slacks

Dress shoes, low heel

Tips for Both Occasions

Wear what makes you feel confident and stay true to who you are

Consider a uniform to avoid decision fatigue, for example, have a few neutral colored shirts and slacks to rotate through

When in doubt, dress professionally

Make sure your outfit is wrinkle free and check for missing buttons, lint, or a crooked tie

Stick with solid colors or simple patterns: Shirts with lettering or graphics should not be worn

Accessories should be kept simple and hair should be groomed

A skirt or dress should be no shorter than the tips of your middle fingers

Looking for androgynous or gender-non-conforming styles? Check Out VEEA and GFW Clothing online