

# Dressing for that Counseling Job Interview

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**Many interviews for Masters-level or Doctoral-level Counselors are done by panel. I have been on many of these panels. Some panel members are rather conservative. It is a good idea to dress in a way that does not offend any member of the panel.**

- It is certainly your safest bet to wear a suit (women choose a skirt or pants suit, men a standard business suit). Investing in one nice, well-fitted suit is a good idea, even if (like most of us) you have spent your school years in jeans and t-shirts! It is likely that a more casual sort of dress is acceptable at your potential new employer's location, but an interview calls for a more substantial effort.
- Some panel members may be sensitive to fragrance, avoid perfume/cologne that day.

**When a candidate walks into the interview, I assume this is the best I will ever see them look. So I think, would this be appropriate for that day when I ask them to speak at a large gathering in an auditorium, or give testimony in court?**

- Go that extra mile for the interview. Wear a clean, pressed shirt under your suit, shine your shoes, and make sure your hair is neat. Bring a nice briefcase, even if you need to borrow one for the day.

**This is not the time to make bold statements, if you want a positive outcome.**

- I realize that I have a style that is not everyone's style. When I get hired I will be able to dress in the way I like. But for the interview, when a panel of people will be taking everything into consideration, it is best to go in a simpler, more conservative style.