Dress Code Guidelines

Freshman Leadership Program Seminar

Featuring Examples by Nick Quinn and Lauren Steier
Casual – The most relaxed form of dress code.

Men and Women:
Casual is what you wear on an everyday basis, and encompasses nearly everything. Shorts, jeans, sweatpants, t-shirts, or similar items are acceptable.

*I won’t use this for FLP seminars.
**Smart Casual – Casual, but smart.**

Women:
Similar to casual, but more presentable. Nice jeans, solid color or plaid shorts or pants (no athletic shorts), nice t-shirts or tops are all acceptable. Tops should not be low cut and should cover to waist. No sweatpants, spaghetti-string tops, short shorts, etc.

Men:
Similar to casual, but more presentable. Nice jeans, solid color or plaid shorts or pants, nice t-shirts or polos are all acceptable. No sweatpants, athletic shorts, tank tops, etc.
**Business Casual** – Casual dress that is acceptable in a business workplace (typical).

Women:
This is what you are most likely to encounter in the real-world workplace. Wear nice pants or a skirt and an appropriate top. Should hit between smart casual and business formal. There is room for a lot of flexibility here.

Men:
This is what you are most likely to encounter in the real-world workplace. Dress pants are the norm, usually khaki, but black or grey will work as well. Match the shoes to the pants (so brown with khaki, black with black or grey) and have a sock color that is the same color as your pants or darker. Your belt should be the same color as your shoes. Shirts should have a collar, but can be either a nice polo or a button down. No tie or coat is needed.
Business (or Business Formal) – For interviews, meetings, or higher-level positions.

Women:
Think business casual, but then up a step. If you have a business suit, that is the most professional, but a nice dress or skirt and blouse with blazer can look great as well. Dark colors are better such as navy, black, charcoal, or dark brown. Blouses can add color and variety to what would otherwise be just a single outfit. Higher necked (less revealing) is always better for portraying a professional manner. Can choose either a skirt or pants depending on the weather and what your personal preference is. Just keep in mind that they need to be of appropriate length.

Men:
Business formal dress is characterized by the addition of a tie and coat to business casual. Hence, shirts must be button down – no polos. Typically a suit is worn for these events (ie matching coat and pants) although it is also acceptable to wear khakis and a blazer if a suit is not available. The same rules with belts, socks, and shoes apply as in business casual. Tie length should hit at or just above the belt line.