

Business attire guidelines



Business attire guidelines

Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University, the world's premier leadership and management school, prepares you for a global career. What this means in terms of attire can vary depending on the situation. Thunderbird encourages students to dress in business casual attire during class and academic activities. Employers prefer students to dress in business formal attire during employment related activities (networking, career fairs, interviews, etc.).

Cultural context: The below guidelines provide context for American corporate cultural standard.

This guide includes:

- Business casual explanation and examples
- Business formal explanation and examples
- Clothing resources



Business casual

We encourage you to wear clothing that makes you feel confident in a professional networking setting. Your attire should be more professional than going out with friends, but not quite as professional as a formal interview.

- **Tip:** Use an iron or steamer to ensure your clothes are wrinkle-free
- **Full pieces:** Single item clothing with coverage of chest, torso, and legs
- **Tops:** Dress shirt or blouse accompanied by a sweater or cardigan, if desired
- **Bottoms:** Pants, slacks, or skirts of modest length (refrain from any style of denim)
- **Shoes:** Dress shoes, loafers, and heeled shoes at a conservative height



Business formal

We encourage you to wear clothing that makes you feel confident in a very professional setting, like a formal interview.

- **Tip:** In addition to wrinkle-free clothing, consider tailoring clothing to ensure it fits well
- **Full pieces:** Business suits (the darker the suit, the more formal), single item clothing with good coverage of chest, torso, and legs
- **Tops:** Dress shirt or blouse accompanied by a blazer or suit jacket, if needed
- **Bottoms:** Pants, slacks, or skirts of modest length (absolutely no style of denim)
- **Shoes:** Dress shoes, loafers, and heeled shoes at a conservative height
- **Socks:** Tall, dark colored socks are preferred when wearing suit pants or slacks
- **Additional items:** Thunderbird nametag, tie, or bowtie (for collared shirts)



Clothing resources

We recognize students encounter various barriers to having a business wardrobe. Below are suggested resources students can utilize to build their business wardrobe.

\$ = less expensive options, \$\$ = more expensive

Thrift stores (\$)

Thrift stores sell gently used clothing, furniture, and other household items. Many thrift stores are non-profit businesses where an individual donates gently used items.

- Chain thrift stores: Goodwill, The Salvation Army
- Thrift stores in Phoenix area:

<https://www.sustainablejungle.com/thrift-stores/thrift-stores-phoenix/>

Consignment shops (\$)

Consignment shops sell gently used clothing and other household items. Consignment shops are for-profit businesses in which individuals are compensated for their items at a discounted rate.

- Chain consignment shops: Plato's Closet, Buffalo Exchange
- Consignment shops in Phoenix area:

https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Consignment+Stores&find_loc=Phoenix%2C+AZ

Department stores and malls (\$\$)

Department stores are big stores that offer new clothes, household items, and furniture from a variety of brands in one store. These may be a part of a shopping mall (building with many shops inside) or strip mall (single building with multiple storefronts on the outside), or an individual store.

- Chain department stores: Macy's, Marshalls, Kohl's, Nordstrom Rack
- Special to the Phoenix area only! "Last Chance" is a thrifting experience from the Nordstrom brand. Clothes that are unsold at Nordstrom and Nordstrom Rack move to clearance at an extremely discounted rate.

Address: 1919 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016



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