

De-Coding: DRESS CODES 101

Quick Guide To Dress Codes And What They Mean For Him & Her

FOR HIM:

FOR HER:

BUSINESS CASUAL

Business Casual is what many people would typically wear to work at the office.

Wear a pair of nice khakis paired with a polo shirt or other collared shirt. Trousers, vests and ties are other great options to bring into the mix. Wear dress shoes or loafers

Tip: Avoid the wrinkles; iron your shirt and pants! Patterned collared shirts are a nice option for a less dressy feel than their solid counterparts.



It's safest to go with nice slacks or a skirt, but dress pants or khakis with a fashionable blouse is appropriate. Feel free to dress up your outfit with conservative heels, jewelry and/or a blazer for an extra touch of class.

Tip: For Smart Casual, you should look sharp, stylish and neatly put together.

BUSINESS/INFORMAL

Informal attire may be a misnomer as it does call for a bit of formality (not to be confused with Casual attire). Business and Informal attire is more sophisticated than Business Casual, often signaling the need for suits, ties and dresses.



Wear a business suit with tie. You may also opt for nice slacks with a sports jacket and tie.

Tip: For Business and Informal dress codes, stick to business colors: black, navy blue, gray or brown.

Wear a business suit or business style dress with heels (high or low).



SEMI-FORMAL

Semi-formal attire is more fancy than business attire but just a notch below formal tuxedos and fancy gowns.

Wear a dark suit with long tie.

Tip: The more formal the dress code, the less expression you are allowed in determining your attire options; this is particularly true for men.



This is the perfect time to break out that little black dress. Most women will wear a classy short evening dress, though you may also opt for dressy separates.

Tip: Ladies should avoid very short dresses and skirts that are shorter than 1 inch above the knee.

FORMAL / BLACK TIE / BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Formal, Black Tie and Black Tie Optional events are among the most fancy of all dress codes, and you will likely be surrounded by a crowd full of tuxedos and floor-length gowns.

Wear a tuxedo with all the frills (vest/cummerbund, cufflinks, etc). For Black Tie Optional, you may also opt to wear a black suit with white shirt and conservative tie.

Tip: A Black Tie dress code does not necessarily limit you to only "black" ties, but you may opt for a black tux with any matching tie/cummerbund color of your choosing.



You are safest wearing a long, floor-length evening dress. A very fancy dress that is not floor-length may also be appropriate.

Tip: Wear your hair in an elegant updo or partial updo, and put on fancy jewelry for this occasion.