



FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: THE GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL
DRESSING

ROANOKE READY



DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Making a great first impression at professional events starts with how you dress. "Dress for Success" is more than just a saying—it plays a key role in how employers and colleagues perceive you.

While formal attire may not always be required, ensure that every aspect of your outfit is as polished as your resume.

Clean, well-shined shoes, thoughtfully selected accessories, and attention to grooming can emphasize your professionalism.

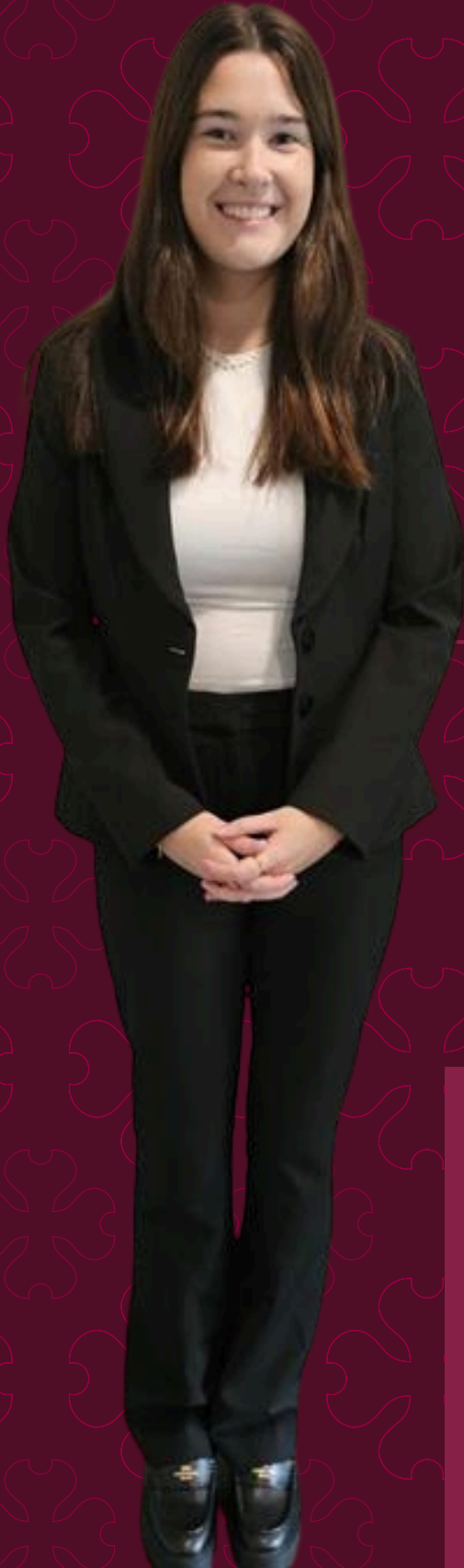
Additionally, consider how visible jewelry or tattoos align with the event's culture to avoid any potential mismatches and ensure you're presenting yourself appropriately.



JOSH DIONNE
ROANOKE
COLLEGE
MBA STUDENT



DRESS FOR SUCCESS



DANA MEYER
ROANOKE
COLLEGE
MBA STUDENT



Before attending a professional event, research the attendees and the expected dress code. Select an outfit that aligns with the event's culture while maintaining a broadly professional appearance. This approach ensures you make the best possible impression and present yourself effectively to potential employers and industry peers.

AUTHENTICITY IS IMPORTANT

When preparing for professional opportunities, it's crucial to balance expressing your individuality with maintaining a polished, professional appearance. Regardless of your race, gender expression, religion, ethnicity, or cultural background, dressing in a way that aligns with your identity can boost your confidence and comfort in professional settings. It's important not to compromise your authenticity for the sake of fitting into traditional expectations. If you're concerned about potential bias, take time to research legal protections in your area or the region where you may work to better understand your rights.

Your sense of self should be honored in the workplace. If an employer doesn't respect or support your identity, it's a sign that the company may not be the right environment for you. Prioritize finding organizations that not only appreciate your skills and qualifications but also respect who you are as an individual. Staying true to yourself will help ensure you thrive both personally and professionally.



STAR-ANGEL OPPONG
ROANOKE COLLEGE
BIOLOGY STUDENT

NOTHING BUT THE ESSENTIALS

Keep your look simple and minimal. Avoid large briefcases or oversized handbags, as you'll want to move easily through crowds. Keep your hands free for handshakes, and present a polished, professional image. Opt for a compact bag or a sleek, dark folder to hold your resumes, business cards, and any materials you collect. This approach not only keeps you organized but also helps maintain a clean and professional appearance.



LEWIS EDWARDS
ROANOKE COLLEGE
MBA STUDENT



INCORPORATE A SPLASH OF COLOR

Don't be afraid to introduce a touch of color into your professional wardrobe! While traditional colors like black, navy, and gray are reliable choices, adding a bit of color can make your outfit feel more personal and help you stand out in a positive way. A subtle pop of color can also reflect your unique style while still adhering to professional standards.

You don't need to go overboard—something as simple as a bold tie, a brightly colored blouse, or a vibrant accessory can bring personality to your look without compromising professionalism. The key is to strike the right balance, using color to enhance your appearance rather than distract. Thoughtful color choices can give you an edge by making your outfit memorable while maintaining a polished image.



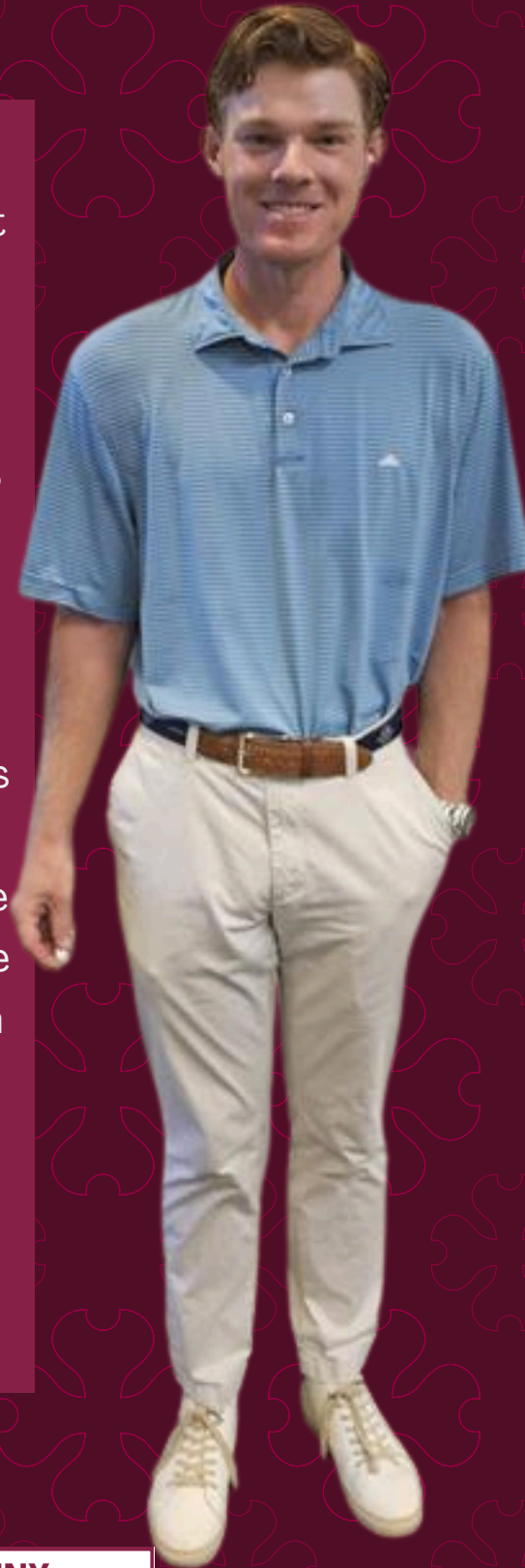
HALEY PRUTER
ROANOKE COLLEGE
COMMUNICATIONS
STUDENT

WHEN TO GO BUSINESS CASUAL



While presenting yourself professionally is important, a full suit or heels may not be necessary for every situation. In tech startups, creative fields, or non-traditional workplaces with casual dress codes, business casual is often more appropriate.

Business casual is also acceptable for career fairs, provided it matches the expectations of the employers you're targeting. If opting for a more relaxed look, keep it polished. Choose a plain polo or crisp blouse/shirt with wrinkle-free slacks. Pay attention to details like clean shoes, simple accessories, and well-groomed hair to ensure a professional appearance.



CLARA SHERMAN
ROANOKE COLLEGE
ECONOMICS STUDENT

PALMER CUNY
ROANOKE COLLEGE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
STUDENT

KEEP EXPLORING YOUR PROFESSIONAL STYLE!

As you transition from the classroom to your career, dressing professionally plays a critical role in making strong first impressions at interviews, career fairs, and other professional events. Focus on wearing clean, well-fitted attire that aligns with industry expectations, paying attention to details like grooming and accessories. While classic choices like neutral colors are always a safe bet, don't hesitate to incorporate subtle touches that reflect your personality.

Keep refining your professional style as you gain experience, ensuring it continues to reflect both your authenticity and your aspirations.

Have questions about what to wear? Contact PLACE for additional support.



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AT PLACE



Activate your Handshake account

Book appointments with our career staff and register for upcoming events, including the job and internship fair!



Meet a Maroon

Have questions? Ask Meet a Maroon! This platform allows you to ask questions and alumni are able to answer to help you navigate college and your future career.



LinkedIn Group

Join our PLACE LinkedIn group so you don't miss out on career opportunities.



Career Planning Guide

Designed to empower your journey towards a fulfilling and impactful career.

