

Top 10 College Interview Mistakes

<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/theartofgettingaccepted/tp/college-interview-donts.htm>

DO NOT:

- 1) Be late
- 2) Under dress – Business casual is best. Wear comfortable shoes in case you go on a campus tour.
- 3) Talk too little - If you can provide an example when answering a question then the interviewer will know you truly possess the characteristics they are looking for.
- 4) Have a prepared speech – Practice answering sample questions, but don't memorize your responses. You want to come off as genuine.
- 5) Chew gum
- 6) Bring your parents into the interview– Have your parents walk around campus, tour the town, or wait in the lobby while you go on your interview. This shows maturity.
- 7) Show disinterest – Making comments about another school being your first choice, or your parents requiring you to “just check it out” may put you at the bottom of their acceptance list.
- 8) Fail to research the college – If you research the college then your questions can be more intellectual. This allows the interviewer to know you are truly interested in the college.
- 9) Misrepresent yourself– Be sure your resume is accurate because they can ask you about anything (i.e. What is your role as Vice President of Physics Club?). Don't say you run the company when you work their part time.
- 10) Be rude – Shake hands, say “thank you”, introduce anyone who came with you, send a thank you note.

What to Wear:

<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/theartofgettingaccepted/tp/interview-dress-men.htm>
<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/theartofgettingaccepted/tp/interview-dress-women.htm>

Men:

- 1) The shirt – Button up with a tie is ideal, but a polo or sweater is just as good.
- 2) The pants – Khakis or slacks preferred. Leave the sweats and jeans for home. Khaki style boating shorts may be fine if the weather is hot. In this case, adding a belt dresses your outfit up to appear more respectful.
- 3) The shoes – Be comfortable, in case your interview is on campus and you go on a tour. However, avoid sandals, flip flops, and ratty sneakers.

Woman:

- 1) The shirt – A nice and conservative blouse or sweater.
- 2) The bottoms – A conservative skirt (avoid pencil skirts so the interviewer doesn't focus on you pulling on it), dress pants, or classy capris.
- 3) A dress? – Sure, if it is appropriate for both the weather and college you are trying to represent.
- 4) The shoes – Professional flats are ideal, just in case you tour the campus.
- 5) Jewelry – A few small and non-distracting pieces are appropriate. You want the interviewer to focus on what you are saying, more than what you are wearing.