

## BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS FOR MASS ACADEMY PRESENTATIONS

Several times during the year, Mass Academy students will be asked to dress up in “Science Fair Dress” or “Business Casual” for presentations to members of our community including parents, WPI professors, partners including Seven Hills, Easter Seals, and Worcester Elder Services, Legislators, and many others. These include our STEM fairs, our Assistive Technology Design Reviews, our Apps Fair, the Walden Chamber Players Concert, academic conferences (e.g. AJAS), senior dinner and graduation, and any time you are representing the Academy at a school event requiring professional dress. Below is a reference guide to outline what “Business Casual” means, to help students prepare for dressing appropriately for these events.

**Business casual attire** is less formal than traditional business clothing but still professional enough to be office appropriate. Examples include a skirt or slacks, a button down blouse, closed-toe shoes, button down shirt, slacks, and dress shoes.

Business casual can be a combination of skirt or slacks paired with a button-down blouse or shirt. A simple dress can also be worn. A simple jacket or blazer can be added to complete the look for dressier occasions. Shoes should ideally be closed-toe, but one can wear open-toe shoes with heels.

Below are some examples of the types of clothing one can use in mixing and matching their business casual outfit:

- Tops: wrap-around cotton blouses, classy sleeveless shirts, turtle necks, tops with dressy but appropriate necklines, dresses in neutral and solid colors
- Bottoms: pencil-cut skirts, knee-length skirts, dress pants
- Shoes: pumps, open-toed heels, closed heels
- **Avoid**: strappy flat sandals, denim, pants with bold prints and bright colors, spaghetti straps

The business casual basics can also include a long-sleeved button down shirt, pants, socks, and dress shoes.

Here are some other examples:

- Tops: short-sleeved button down shirts ideally in neutral colors; avoid printed shirts
- Bottoms: semi-formal pants, dress slacks, khakis – ideally when wearing blazer
- Shoes: tie-up shoes, classic dark leather shoes, classy loafers
- **Avoid**: sandals, winter boots, sneakers, jeans

## SAMPLE OUTFITS

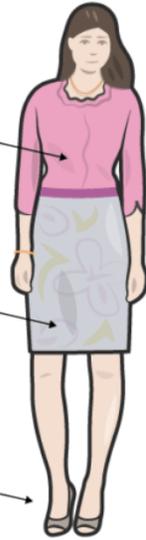
Shirts and sweaters  
in a variety of colors  
and patterns.



Slacks or corduroy  
pants.

Relaxed but  
elegant shoes.

Short-sleeved tops,  
maybe with vests.



Fashionable  
combinations of  
tops, vests, and  
skirts.

Open toe shoes.

Brightly colored or  
patterned shirts  
and ties.



Sports coats and  
jackets.

Dressy slacks.

Loafers or  
monk-strapped  
shoes.

Brightly colored  
shirts.



Bigger and unique  
jewelry and  
accessories.

Fashionable jacket  
and skirt.

Closed toe pumps.

Excerpts from <https://fitsmallbusiness.com/what-is-business-casual/>