

Western Business Attire

Introduction:

Western Business Attire (WBA) refers to a type of formal dress that is used throughout the workplace and in Model UN. You should always wear WBA to Model UN Conferences in order to look and feel more professional. While you are not being judged based on your attire, it's important to make a good first impression on the chairs and other delegates. Additionally, WBA will help you feel more confident and official in any committee!

What does WBA look like?



General Rules for WBA:

- **Pants**
 - If you are wearing pants to a Model UN Conference, do **not** wear jeans, leggings, sweatpants or generally informal attire that you might wear to school.
 - It is best to wear dress pants, which are often looser and in colors such as navy blue, grey, or black.
- **Skirts/Dresses**
 - Skirts and dresses should above all be comfortable—you will be wearing them for the whole day, so make sure you can breathe!
 - Skirt length should be around or below the knee (this is not an exact science, just make sure that both when you sit and stand it is at a respectable length)
 - Typically, bodycon dresses are not worn, but pencil skirts are acceptable.
 - Dresses should not be overly revealing
 - Sleeveless or short sleeve dresses may be worn with a cardigan or blazer to make it more professional
- **Tops**
 - Tops should be comfortable; remember that you are wearing this all day!
 - Typical colors include blue and white, but any colors are fair game as long as they generally go with your outfit and are not distracting.
 - Often tops will be button up with a collar; these will often be paired with a blazer and tucked into pants. Ensure that buttons are neither button too high or too low.
- **Ties**
 - Ties should be complimentary to your outfit and convey your professionalism and confidence
 - Blue and black ties often convey formality and knowledge, while red ties convey aggressiveness and a lack of ability to work in groups
 - Bowties are less commonly seen in the Model UN conference setting. Ascotts, western bow ties, bolos, cravats, and neckerchiefs should not be worn during committee.
- **Blazers**
 - Blazers are a great addition to any outfit and are always recommended
 - If you are wearing short sleeves or a sleeveless top, it's always best to throw on a blazer, especially because most committees are kept at a cold temperature
 - Most blazers are black (see pictures above for examples)
 - For men, blazers should be unbuttoned when sitting and buttoned while standing, normally using only one button (even though some blazers may have two). For women, you may choose whether to keep it buttoned or unbuttoned.
- **Shoes**

- Your first priority for shoes is to be comfortable. You can't engage in debate if you can not stand up.
- Ensure that you can walk properly in your shoes. For heels, you may want to practice walking in them as to not look clumsy.
- While heels are not necessary, they do bring a certain confidence and allow you to be taller, giving you the advantage in unmoderated caucuses.
- Dress shoes may include loafers, oxfords, heels (usually not sandals or platforms), or flats
- Dress shoes are often brown, tan, blue, or black, and will often be suede or leather. The shoe color will often match the belt and purse (although this is not necessary).
- If you wear heels, it is always a good idea to bring a pair of flats to change into or bandaids *just in case!*
- Purses/Bags
 - Purses and bags are often necessary, as you will need a place to store a Model UN binder, legal pads, pens, electronics, and other necessities during committee and at lunch.
 - A purse or briefcase is generally recommended, but other bags may be used
 - Typically backpacks are noted as unprofessional and can be a burden to keep track of during committee
 - If you don't have a bag, a black binder can convey a sense of professionalism.
 - Bag color will often match the shoes and belt (although this is not necessary)

Note: Feel free to experiment with different forms of Western Business Attire and be creative. These guidelines are a great place to start but it is always good to think outside the box!

Where can I buy WBA?

- Nordstrom
- Nordstrom Rack
- UNIQLO
- TJ Maxx
- ThredUp
- Brooks Brothers
- Hugo Boss
- Express
- Target
- Kohls
- General Thrift Stores (e.g., Salvation Army, Crossroads Trading)
- Rent the Runway (rentals)