



Employees May Wear “Business Casual” Clothing

The government workplace is different than it was ten years ago—everything from agencies’ structures to employees work schedules has changed. The appearance of the government worker has changed as well. Not long ago, everyone from the most seasoned professionals to entry-level employees had a common understanding of “appropriate” business attire. Thanks to the creation of the “khaki culture” and increasing popularity of business casual dress, it is no longer that simple.



What is “business casual” clothing?

The definition of “business casual” depends on whom you ask. At the Office of Inspector General (OIG), “business casual” means “neat clothing that is less formal than a suit and tie and more formal than faded jeans, a novelty T-shirt and worn sneakers.”



Why “business casual” clothing at work?

Many of our employees have asked to wear “business casual” clothing at work because much of their time is spent at their desks reading, analyzing and writing. These employees believe they can be more productive in less formal and less restrictive clothing.

When and where may we wear “business casual” clothing?

You may wear “business casual” clothing at work every day with your supervisor’s approval, except when meeting with non-OIG individuals. Some meetings with non-OIG individuals may be acceptable in business casual dress. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis by your supervisor. For example, during audit and investigation work, you may wear “business casual” clothing if it conforms to the auditee’s or investigatee’s dress code with your supervisor’s approval. “Business casual” clothing is acceptable at all training sessions sponsored internally or externally unless notified otherwise.

What “business casual” clothing may we wear to work?

Again, you may wear neat clothing that is less formal than a suit and tie and more formal than faded jeans, a novelty T-shirt and worn sneakers. Some examples of clothing we consider inappropriate at work include:

- Tank or tube tops
- Muscle shirts
- Halter or other backless tops
- Spaghetti straps and see-through blouses
- Any top that does not cover the midriff
- Untucked shirttails
- Novelty shirts
- Clothing with foul language/obscene images
- Torn clothing

- Shorts or mini-skirts
- Sweat pants or sweat suits
- Stretch pants or leggings
- Cargo pants or army fatigues
- Flip-flops
- Worn sneakers
- Bedroom slippers
- Baseball caps



If I have a question about this policy, whom can I contact?

Please speak with your supervisor or the Office of Management by email at OIG-OM@oig.treas.gov or by phone at (202) 927-5200.