

# The great conference closet conundrum

Ladies and femmes: Choosing the right outfit for days of networking with would-be LinkedIn connections and business partners is often a bigger decision than simply deciding what to wear. Try these tips on for size to ensure you put your best foot forward—heeled or otherwise.

## 1 Don't wear heels if you're not comfortable in them.

The jolt of self-appreciation you get from that 7 a.m. glance in the mirror will turn into pain and discomfort by 6 p.m. Dress up your outfit in another way. There's no need to give your booties the boot.

## 2 Stay in your comfort zone (just this once).

Wherever you sit on the formal/informal, feminine/masculine or flirtatious/somber spectra, your conference garb should reflect what represents you best, helping to boost your confidence.

## 3 Basic black is anything but.

There's a reason the Little Black Dress is a classic: everyone looks good in one. If the clock is ticking and you're still drawing a blank, an all-black outfit is sure to keep it simple and accentuate the positive.

## 4 Dress one thing up, dress another thing down.

If you go with dressy slacks, you can afford to be more casual on top, and vice versa. Balance the formal with the casual—for example, dark jeans pair well with a blazer.

## 5 Color yourself memorable.

It's understandable if you're not comfortable in head-to-toe red for a day of panel discussions (or ever). But that doesn't mean you can't experiment with pops of color: perhaps a bright blouse, a multicolored scarf, or a headband.

## 6 Make a statement with statement jewelry.

Accent pieces, such as a fancy ring or a chunky necklace can help you stand out in a good way. Bonus: They're fantastic icebreakers, whether you're presenting on a panel or chatting between sessions.