

Dear Students of RPI,

We hope you all had a great summer! To incoming freshmen, transfer students, and new graduate students, welcome to Rensselaer. Your experience here will surely be one to remember. To returning students, welcome back. We wish everyone a great semester.

RPI's fall career fair is one of the largest student-run career fairs in the country. This year 45 members from both the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) at RPI are working very diligently to host the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual NSBE/SHPE Career Fair.

The missions of both of these multicultural clubs can be found at the [end](#) of this document. If you are interested in joining these clubs please don't be afraid to reach out to us! We will happily inform all members of any background and class ways in which to be involved.

Both of these clubs' national organizations take pride on how one professionally represents themselves. The soft skill development these clubs provide to their members is of pristine value. This occurs both locally at RPI and well as on the national level through leadership and development conferences.

So many ask, why do we have a dress code for the career fair? The reason why is because we represent clubs that require business professional wear at all development conferences and fairs. Given we represent these national societies, we ethically abide by their rules.

So while you are still home, please prepare to pack your professional wear for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual NSBE/SHPE Career Fair in the fall. Despite our clubs only supporting business professional wear, for the sake of our career fair, you **must wear at a minimum business casual**. However, we *strongly* recommend business professional attire. With that being said, myriad companies in the past have come up to staff members and complimented us on how professional RPI students look in our career fair. It would behoove you to dress professionally. Some of the employers may be dressed down, but you are the one interviewing! It is always better to be over dressed than under.

If you are having trouble attaining this clothing or cannot bring it with you to RPI there are alternatives. A free alternative is utilizing the Center for Career & Professional Development's (CCPD) clothing closet to borrow professional clothing. Nothing fits? Go to your local thrift shop! If you are in Troy and want to go to a thrift store be sure to check out Restyle at Unity House (<http://www.unityhouseny.org/locations/restyle/>), the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

The following pages have examples of the business casual and business professional wear we require.

Skip to [men examples](#).

Skip to [women examples](#).

## **Dress Code for Men:**

The best rule of thumb is to dress better than the person you are interviewing. Business professional is highly recommended for this career fair since the idea of business professional is constant amongst all boards.

For men a full suit is recommended. The colors are to be of neutral hue i.e. brown, grey, black, dark blue, etc.



Jewelry should be simple and not distracting. No low gauge chains and colorful watches/rings. Some examples of simple jewelry are shown. If a chain is worn it should be tucked in under your shirt.



If you choose to attend the career fair in business casual attire, please follow the guidelines as outlined below and mentioned earlier.

Pants are not to be ripped and too tight. Joggers, sweatpants, shorts, jeans etc. and pants not of neutral colors will not be accepted. If you intend to wear business casual, khakis or slacks are recommended. Pants are to be worn above the waist and no underwear should be visible.

Examples of acceptable pants:



Wear nice, comfortable shoes. Sneakers, skater shoes, boots, rain boots, flip flops, and sandals, etc. will not be acceptable. Attempt to keep shoes neutral colors. Neon colors will not be acceptable.

Examples of acceptable shoes are shown below.



You may wear button downs, and suit/sports jackets. You may not wear a tank top, t-shirt, or hoodie. Tops should be neutral in design, i.e. no ugly Christmas sweaters/colored shirts with distracting designs, Greek letters, graphic art and content, etc.

You may bring in a small bag, padfolio, or similar items into the career fair. Backpacks will not be permitted; however, we will have a backpack check in area for your convenience.

Hair, both facial and head, should be neat and clean.

The following are examples of clothes you may not wear to the 40th NSBE/SHPE Career Fair.



## **Dress Code for Women:**

The best rule of thumb is to dress better than the person you are interviewing. Business professional is highly recommended for this career fair since the idea of business professional is constant amongst all boards.

Women may wear suits with skirts or slacks. A blazer is recommended. The colors are to be of neutral hue i.e. brown, grey, black, dark blue, etc.



In general, socks and tights may not be distracting. They should also be of neutral hue and have a simple or no pattern. Fishnet designs are not allowed.

No significant amount of skin is allowed to be showing.

No heels higher than two inches.

Jewelry should be simple and not distracting. No bangles. Some examples of simple jewelry are shown.



If you choose to attend the career fair in business casual attire, please follow the guidelines as outlined below and mentioned earlier.

Pants are not to be ripped and too tight. Yoga pants, sweatpants, shorts, jeans etc. and pants not of neutral colors will not be accepted.

Examples of acceptable pants:



Dresses are required to be conservative i.e. no deep cleavage, back and sides covered. Both skirts and dresses cannot end more than three inches above the knee. Keep patterns and colors simple. This is a career fair not a club.

Examples of acceptable dresses:



Wear nice, comfortable shoes. Sneakers, skater shoes, army boots, rain boots, flip flops, and sandals, etc. will not be acceptable. Attempt to keep shoes neutral colors. Neon colors will not be acceptable.

Examples of acceptable shoes are shown below.



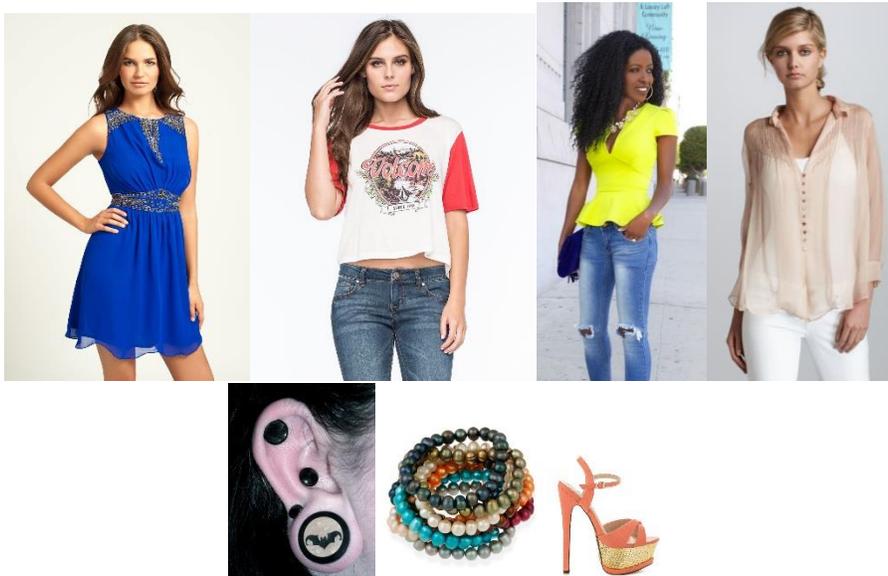
Please use discretion when choosing a top. You may wear button downs, cardigans, sweaters, printed shirts or a combination of above. You may not wear a tank top, t-shirt, or sheer blouse. They may not be too revealing. Tops should be neutral in design, i.e. no ugly Christmas sweaters, Greek letters, graphic art and content, etc.

You may bring in a small bag, purse, padfolio, or similar items into the career fair. Backpacks will not be permitted; however, we will have a backpack check in area for your convenience.

Keep in mind to wear something comfortable. You may be waiting in line a while to talk to recruiters.

Hair should be neat and clean.

The following are examples of clothes you may not wear to the 40<sup>th</sup> NSBE/SHPE Career Fair.



### *Additional Information Pertaining to the Organizations*

The mission of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is to "increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers to excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community." NSBE is the largest student run organization in the nation with over 30,000 members. NSBE is now comprised of more than 270 chapters on college and university campuses, 75 Alumni Extension chapters and 75 Pre-Collegiate chapters nationwide.

The mission of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) is to "change lives by empowering the Hispanic community to realize its fullest potential and to impact the world through STEM awareness, access, support and development." Networking was the key basis for the newly founded organization, and immediately 2 student chapters were created. From these two student chapters SHPE has grown to be the largest and fastest growing Latino technical organization with more than 109 student chapters and 31 professional chapters in over 110 cities across the nation and even has a chapter overseas.

If you are interested in joining these clubs, please don't be afraid to reach out to us! We will happily inform all members of any ways in which to be involved.

Hope to see you at the fall career fair,

*Jo-Ann Diaz*  
Co-Director  
Chemical Engineering

*Talei Moore*  
Co-Director  
Science, Technology, and Society