



What to wear to a Professional Headshot portrait session.

The options are endless for women's attire in a headshot. With business being more casual, you really want to think about your audience and what you are trying to convey with your attire.

Here are a few tips in the many categories we see when we have clients come in.

Coordinate to the background

Find out what your background will be before you pick your clothing. Is the background is white or light? Consider medium to dark colors and tones for more contrast. If the background is black or very dark, you can wear light or vivid colors. I usually recommend against white clothing because the eye is drawn to the lightest thing in the photo. We photograph using both black and white backgrounds in our session but can accommodate other colors.

Are You Wearing a Business Jacket or Blazer?

You may opt for a more formal look like a suit or blazer.

It won't be evident in your headshot whether you are wearing a pants suit or one with a skirt.

Since we focus on the upper body, you want to think about the fit and color of the jacket.

- We prefer medium to dark tones for the jacket such as medium to dark grey, blue or navy.
- Red jackets photograph well.
- Stay away from white.
- Black jackets can work, but make sure you bring some lighter options.
- Add a little pop of color by picking a collarless blouse or camisole with a jewel or crew neck
- Try some options other than white on the blouse.
- Colors that work well are medium grey or medium colors like blue, red and colors like jewel tones.
- Pick a color that complements the jacket.
- Shirt-jacket combos like a blue blazer with red blouse or a light blue shirt under a grey jacket.
- Stay away from big patterns that can distract.
- Collared shirts can work too. Think about putting the collar outside of the jacket collar.
- Make sure the jacket is not open too low.
- Maintain a clean professional look.

Dresses Look Great in a Headshot

Often a dress possesses a great color or fabric texture that translates well.

- Heavier fabrics than a standard blouse or shirt look very nice.
- If appropriate for your audience, a sleeveless dress that shows shoulders can look vibrant.
 - Also, try a few photos with a blazer over the dress.
- Keep in mind necklines.
 - A lower neckline may end up cropped out of the photo.
 - Avoid that by picking a higher neckline like a jewel that falls at or above the collar bone.
 - A scoop neckline should not be too deep.
 - Square necklines tend to be too deep.
 - V necks work well, but consider that the bottom of the V probably won't be in the photo.
- Some businesses prefer that arms and shoulders do not show.
 - Make sure to check with your company before your session.
- When picking color, use the same guidelines as the shirt section above.

Jewelry as an Accent in Your Headshot

Necklace and earrings can be great as an accent or splash of color.

If you have a signature necklace that you always wear, by all means, get it in your headshot.

In a headshot, anything that goes below your sternum may be cropped out of the final shot.

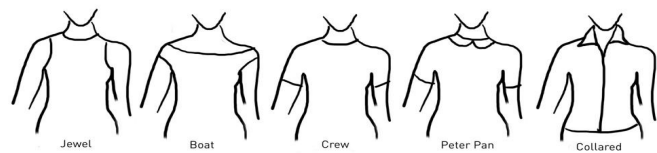
- Consider clipping the necklace behind your neck to shorten it.
- Doubling your necklace is another good strategy.
- Make sure any pendant is centered.
- Often, less is more on jewelry... simplicity looks classic and stunning.
- Big necklaces can really work. Just remember the length.
- For earrings, a lot depends on your hair style as to whether they will even show.
- Simple studs or pearls look great with short hair.
- Longer earrings can work well too.
- Adjust longer hair or tilt your head a little to show one side.
- Consider putting longer hair on one side for a few photos and see how it looks.

Necklines in Your Headshot

- A classic headshot is cropped at or above the sternum.
- So the bottom of the neckline needs to be at that level if you want it in the headshot

Here are some necklines and our opinions on which work best in a headshot.

Necklines for Headshots



Good for a Headshot



Can Work for a Headshot



Not Recommended

Glasses

- If you normally wear glasses, wear them in your headshot.
- If you have multiple frames, particularly colorful frames, bring them.
- Try to coordinate with the rest of your wardrobe.
- Make sure the glasses are clean and in good repair.
- If your glasses tend to slip down, make sure the photographer reminds you to push them up.

Scarves

- Scarves can really add a pop of color.
- If you wear them frequently, get a few photos with a scarf.
- Practice tying your scarf.
- Keep in mind that only the upper part in the front will be showing in your headshot

Half and Full Body Portraits

- Many of these same guidelines can work in a full body portrait.
- Just keep in mind that the bottom and the top should work together.
- Consider your hands will be in the portrait, so get that manicure before your appointment.
- Consider your body type and wear clothing that is flattering and comfortable.
- Shine the shoes if it is a full-body portrait.

Your Clothing Should be Clean and Well Pressed for Your Photo Session

- Send your wardrobe to the cleaners before your headshot session
- Keep the clothing looking great by bringing them in a garment bag.
- Do not stuff your clothing in a bag and expect them to look great when you pull them out.