



District and State Career Development Conferences DRESS CODE

Professional appearance is an important aspect of the overall preparation of DECA members for the business world. To that end, Tennessee DECA supports a dress code for its career-based functions that exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism while being non-discriminatory between genders.

Tennessee DECA has adopted the following official dress standards for the district and state career development conferences. Students, advisors, and chaperones must follow the dress code.

Competitors must wear an official DECA blazer (or suit jacket) during interactions with the judges. While official DECA blazers are not required during briefing and testing, professional business attire is required. Professional business attire should also be worn to all conference sessions, including workshops and special meal functions, such as luncheons and banquets.

For a more polished, professional appearance, it is recommended that attendees wear appropriate hosiery/socks. All skirts and dresses must be at or below the knee.

AN OFFICIAL DECA BLAZER OR SUIT JACKET IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION OR AN AWARD ON STAGE.

WHEN APPEARING BEFORE JUDGES AND ON-STAGE

- ◇ Official DECA blazer (or suit jacket)
- ◇ Dress slacks, dress skirt, or business dress
- ◇ Collared dress shirt and appropriate neckwear (necktie, ascot, scarf) or dress blouse
- ◇ Dress shoes

DECA GENERAL SESSIONS, MEAL FUNCTIONS, EVENT BRIEFING, MANUAL REGISTRATION AND TESTING, AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES

- ◇ Business suit or sport coat or blazer (blazer optional)
- ◇ Dress slacks, dress skirt, or business dress
- ◇ Collared dress shirt, dress blouse, or dress sweater
- ◇ DECA blazer optional
- ◇ Dress shoes
- ◇ Necktie/scarf (optional)

DECA BUSINESS CASUAL

- ◇ Casual slacks (e.g., Dockers), blouse or shirt, socks, and casual shoes
- ◇ Jeans, t-shirts, and athletic shoes are not included in business casual attire

UNACCEPTABLE DURING DECA ACTIVITIES

- ✗ Skin-tight or revealing clothing
- ✗ Midriff-baring clothing
- ✗ Swimwear
- ✗ Athletic clothing
- ✗ Leggings or graphic designed hosiery/tights
- ✗ Clothing with printing that is suggestive, obscene, or promotes illegal substances
- ✗ Unacceptable types of dress shoes include boat shoes, canvas or fabric shoes, flip flops or casual sandals, athletic shoes, industrial work shoes, and hiking boots

When judging adherence to the dress code, Tennessee DECA directs advisors, teachers, and chaperones to use observation as the tool for assessing compliance. It is inappropriate to touch a student or their clothing as a means of determining adherence to the dress code. Tennessee DECA members who are not appropriately dressed will have a reasonable opportunity to meet the dress code prior to seeing a judge or being allowed on stage.

*Revised on November 19, 2019
Steven J. Mitchell, State Advisor*