

A young man with short, dark, textured hair is standing in front of a large glass window. He is wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket over a bright teal-colored dress shirt and a dark, patterned necktie. He has a small earring in his left ear and a watch on his left wrist. His left hand is raised, touching his hair. The background shows a blurred view of a modern building with glass panels and some greenery outside.

# STYLE GUIDE

GUY'S  
EDITION

# how to use this guide

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One of the most important parts of your senior photo prep is selecting your portrait outfits. This guide includes tips + tricks to assist you in choosing clothing that works well on camera and that highlights your unique features.

Use this guide as you begin your wardrobe selections to achieve photo perfect style for your senior session.

# DOS AND DON'TS FOR YOUR SENIOR SESSION WARDROBE

a few ground rules before we dive in

- ✓ iron / steam and hang all of your outfits (yes... even your tees)
- ✗ shove your outfits in a duffle bag to bring them to your session
  
- ✓ bring a nice metal watch or leather bracelets to accessories your session looks
- ✗ wear your apple watch for two weeks prior to your session to avoid unsightly tan lines
  
- ✓ wear neutral toned underwear for your session
- ✗ wear underwear with crazy colors that we can see through your pants
  
- ✓ check all your outfits for any stains or holes before bringing them to your session
- ✗ bring clothes with unpleasant stains, holes, rips or tears to your session
  
- ✓ thoughtfully plan your outfits a week before your session
- ✗ throw together a couple of pieces the night or morning before your session
  
- ✓ match your belt to your shoes for every outfit (brown shoes = brown belt)
- ✗ mix your leathers and tonal hues in color (warm tones = warm leathers)
  
- ✓ wear darker tones for a more formal look and lighter tones for a more casual look
- ✗ throw a dark toned blazer on top of lighter toned pants (khakis)
  
- ✓ bring quality material pieces that aren't too thin
- ✗ bring your fave tee you've washed eleventy billion times that's as thin as tissue paper
  
- ✓ remember that you can always roll up a long sleeved button down for a lighter look
- ✗ rely on a short sleeve button down – they can look very casual and sloppy
  
- ✓ check out Pinterest or men's magazines for style advice and inspiration.
- ✗ blindly throw outfits together if you don't have a fashion sense

01

Try to bring a VARIETY of outfits. You don't want to wear the same shirt in two different colors, or keep the same pants throughout all of your wardrobe changes. This will make your session look boring and redundant. Think about your outfits in "styles" like formal (suit and tie), sophisticated (what you'd wear on a date), casual, etc. Even if you're most comfortable in t-shirts, try to bring different styles of them (henleys, striped tees, v-neck, marled texture, etc).

02

Don't shy away from color. If all of your outfits are khaki and white, it's time to switch it up. Throw in some olive green, or sky blue (depending on your color tones) for a more eye catching outfit that will add a ton of interest to your session.

03

Layers are ALWAYS in style. If you are bringing an outfit that you can throw a jacket or sweater over, that will be a winning combination. Layers add an attractive dynamic to your outfits that can make them so much more interesting.

04

Consider bringing a different pair of shoes for each outfit. You'll know that you have a great variety of outfits when you need to bring a different pair of shoes to complement each one. For example, dress shoes for your formal look, fun kicks for your casual look, desert boots for your sophisticated look, etc can really elevate each outfit you bring to your session.

05

A great way to show your personality without going overboard is to keep it to the accessories. Wear a super fun bowtie with your suit, or colorful belt, socks, or shoes with your ensemble to show your fun and crazy side. Even if you feel compelled to wear a shirt with crazy print on it, keep it to the bare minimum to make sure you don't date the portraits with a trend that's only going to last this season.

06

Make sure everything fits. Men have a habit of wearing clothes that are too big for them and that can translate to looking like a kid wearing his Dad's clothes. Yikes. Go to a tailor to get your suit fitted properly and bring outfits that fit your body type to ensure that you don't look sloppy or heavier than you actually are.

07

When in doubt, ask a professional. If you're not sure how to put an outfit together, go to your local menswear store and ask a staff member. They are all trained in how to help people just like you put pieces together to best complement your body type, skin tone, and personality.

08

Stay away from graphics, logos, and busy prints. I know that your fave t-shirt may have a funny graphic or words on it, but your senior portrait session is NOT the time to wear it. Solid colors and graphic-less pieces can make you look more refined and classic.

09

Try on ALL of your clothes BEFORE bringing them to your session. I know your Mom may have brought home a bunch of outfits for your senior session, but do yourself a favor and try them on first. Notice how the fabric lays across your chest, where the hem of your shirt hits your pants, how long your pants are, how your shoulders and hips look in each outfits, and take it to the next level and sit/squat in each one. We will be posing you in a variety of ways and your outfits should look just as good when you sit as when you're standing.

10

Don't forget about your SOCKS. And no... I'm not talking about the one pair you're planning on bringing. You should be bringing MULTIPLE STYLES of socks – one for each outfit. Dress socks for your dress suit, no-see socks for your shorts outfit, clean black, white or navy socks for your sophisticated look, etc... see? Different socks for each outfit to complete each look.



# FASHION

from head ————— to toe



## shirts

- casual style short sleeves should end at your middle upper arm
- long sleeve cuffs should end at the wrist or just below
- blazer sleeves should end just before your shirt underneath, showing a bit at the wrist
- sleeves should not be too roomy (swallowing) or too tight (constricting)
- casual shirts should end at the middle of your fly
- shoulder seams should line up with your shoulder bone
- fabric should not be too tight or too loose at your stomach
- you should be able to fit two fingers between the neck of your dress shirt and your skin
- your shirt should never be shapeless – if it is, opt for a slimmer fit
- you should be able to pinch an inch or two of fabric on either sides of your shirts

## pants

- avoid baggy pants: they can make you look like you're wearing your Dad's clothes
- your goal should be to actually see the subtle shape of your legs in your pants
- avoid crazy rips and tears and/or bleach marks in your denim
- don't wear embellishments like grommets or metal accents on your jeans
- avoid trendy fits (like skin tight or carpenter style)
- opt for original, slim, and athletic fits. Remember: fit is EVERYTHING.
- have a variety of classic denim washes: dark, light, and black denim are always timeless
- darker toned denim leans more sophisticated and lighter denim leans more casual
- chinos or even corduroy trousers mix up an outfit and add a flash of subtle color
- test the length by sitting down with your pants on... if your socks show, go a bit longer



## accessories (BELTS, TIES, AND SHOES)

- your leathers should always match (brown shoes = brown belt)
- a casual outfit can be paired with lighter shades and fabrics in your belt (linen, suede, etc.)
- when considering a tie, pocket square, or socks, go for a contrast in colors to your main outfit colors (don't make it too matchy matchy in colors – go for a difference in shades)
- balance “loud” patterned accessories with a solid outfit to anchor the look
- a dress belt should be shiny leather and between 1 to 1 ½ inch wide
- ditch your socks for an ultimately clean and casual style
- switch out your sneakers for Desert, Chukkas or Chelsea boots for a more elevated look
- don't be scared to roll the bottom cuff of your jeans once for a casual style
- switch out your apple watch for a metal or leather watch for pictures
- if your suit is patterned, wear a solid tie or pocket square to anchor the look



# What Tone Am I?

Have you ever wondered why you feel better in some colors versus others? It all comes down to your skin tone and the colors that coordinate well with it. Complete the tests below to determine your skin tone and then use the following pages to determine the shades that look the best on you!

## THE VEIN TEST

*look at the veins on your wrist*

- olive / green veins = warm toned
- blue veins = cool toned
- mix of above = neutral toned

## THE WHITE PAPER TEST

*hold a white paper next to your chest*

- blue / pink skin = warm toned
- green / gold skin = cool toned
- neutral tones will change with seasons

## SUN EXPOSURE

- cool toned skin tends to burn easily
- warm toned skin tends to tan easily

**discover your colors** >

# WARM SKIN TONES

olive / medium

## colors to wear

earthy tones like pumpkin, olive, and clay with deep or light browns like acorn, sand, white, oatmeal, and pale beige



## quick tip

jewel tones look good on warm tones, but deeper in color  
(deep teal instead of electric blue)



# COOL SKIN TONES

fair / pale

## colors to wear

blues (navy, ocean, ice), greens (army, hunter, emerald), browns (camel, sand, leather), deep reds (burgundy, ruby, eggplant), grays



## quick tip

if you have blue eyes, wear blue... and the same goes for green eyes and green outfit



# NEUTRAL SKIN TONES

aka the skin tone jackpot

## colors to wear

any shades from the cool and warm tone categories plus bold hues like cobalt blue, mustard yellow, jade green, etc.



## quick tip

most neutrals have hazel eyes and can accentuate the green in their eyes by wearing purples / eggplants





COLOR  
BALANCE

## not sure what to wear with your tan pants or blue suit?

### WHITE

pairs well with navy, burgundy, olive, blue, gray,  
chambray, salmon, cream, khaki

### BROWN / TAN

pairs well with navy, cream, burgundy, pumpkin,  
blue, olive, salmon, pine, ivory

### BLACK

pairs well with navy, gray, white, burgundy,  
olive, red, pine

### GRAY

pairs well with navy, white, black, chambray



A photograph of a person's arm and hand raised in a fist, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall. The text "STYLES WE LOVE" is overlaid in a large, bold, brown font.

STYLES  
WE LOVE

# FORMAL

A sharp, well-fitted suit is always a classy way to dress up your senior session.

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## STAPLE PIECES TO SHOP FOR

- a suit that accentuates your body style
- crisp button-up shirt
- necktie or bow-tie
- formal leather shoes
- formal leather belt

## WAYS TO ELEVATE THE LOOK

- consider selecting a tie or pocket square that include subtle floral patterns
- select a suit outside of the expected colors of black, gray, or navy. Suits in burgundy, emerald green, or light blue can create a modern look when styled well

Dressy meets casual – think of this as an outfit you would wear on a date.

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#### STAPLE PIECES TO SHOP FOR

- dark wash jeans or dark chino pant
- solid or subtle patterned button up shirt or sweater
- Blazer or sport coat
- dressy-casual boots (chukka, chelsea, or desert)
- casual leather belt

#### WAYS TO ELEVATE THE LOOK

- layers are the trick with sophisticated outfits - sport coats over button-ups, or a button-up under a sweater
- have fun with your shoe selection. Interesting leather colors can make an otherwise neutral outfit more appealing
- layer contrasting neutrals for visual interest - navy over white, black over gray, chambray over black

No, this doesn't mean gym shorts or sweatpants. This is the area for jeans, shorts, and fashionable tees.

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#### STAPLE PIECES TO SHOP FOR

- jeans or well-fitting shorts (no cargo pockets, here!)
- solid tee with a pocket or interesting hemline
- bomber jacket or casual button-up
- fresh white sneakers or casual boot
- casual leather belt

#### WAYS TO ELEVATE THE LOOK

- mix up your denim selection with this look. Instead of a dark-wash, select a midtone or light-wash jean
- add some color and layer coordinating tones
- leather accessories (watch, belt, boots) can dress up your look while still keeping it casual

# CASUAL

Incorporating your sports / interests can still be well styled.

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#### STAPLE PIECES TO PACK

- home and away jerseys for variety dependig on locaiton
- new or clean sneakers / spikes / shoes
- helmet, stick, gloves, pads, etc.
- awards, medals, trophies
- DON'T FORGET YOUR BALL (football, basketball, etc.)

#### WAYS TO ELEVATE THE LOOK

- go full gear. Instead of just your jersey with jeans, go in your full gameday gear to create a more athentic look
- add some fashion. Consider doing your sports / interest photos in your formal outfit. It can be a great look in an urban location or even in the studio
- think outside the box when selecting props to bring. School flags, lettermans jackets, etc. can add to your photos