

STYLE

guide

GET
INSPIRED

Your Ultimate
Guide to Photo
Session Prep

FASHION

Top Tips to Style
Your Shoot Like a
Pro!

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WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Mandy Rogers Photography for your professional headshots. Our commitment is to craft elegant, professional portraits that will be treasured in your home for generations.

As we eagerly anticipate your upcoming session, it's the perfect time to consider outfit choices to ensure everyone looks and feels their best.

Selecting the right attire for your photoshoot might initially seem daunting – striving for that perfect blend of individual style and cohesive family look. However, we're here to make it a breeze for you.

Our specially curated style guide offers examples and practical tips for outfit inspiration. With this guide, we're confident you'll find the process enjoyable and rewarding, leading to stunning results in your photoshoot.

And remember, I'm here to assist you every step of the way. Please don't hesitate to reach out for personalized guidance!

Looking forward to creating beautiful memories together,

Mandy Rogers



WHAT TO WEAR

A guide to perfect portraits

Embracing Timelessness

Your portraits are a legacy, treasures that will be cherished for years to come. Aim for a timeless look in your choices, one that you'll look back on fondly without the whispers of passing trends.

Accessorizing with Elegance

When it comes to jewelry, less is often more. Opt for classic and understated pieces over bold, statement items. Accessories and props can inject fun and personality into your session, but choose them wisely to avoid overwhelming the scene.

Pants and Shoes

Pants and shoes do not matter if you're only getting headshots; headshots are waist up. If you're getting a full-body portrait, wear well-fitting and wrinkle-free pants or skirt and consider cleaning/polishing your shoes prior to your session.

It's better to be over-dressed than under-dressed, and bring more clothes than you'll need so you have options.

Suits

Suits are common for most business headshots and a suit will definitely make you appear more confident and professional. Even if you don't wear a suit for your daily work attire, if you own a well-fitting suit, we recommend bringing it and taking at least a few photos in it so you will have a more formal headshot if you ever need one.

Layers

Depending on the lighting, a solid color shirt or blouse can blend in with the background, so we highly recommend wearing a jacket or sweater in a contrasting color to add interest to your headshot.

Jackets

Jackets are designed to give your body a flattering shape and frame your face. Jackets add a defined structure around your shoulders and arms and create flattering vertical lines, framing the body to make it look neatly proportional. Solid suit jackets will be the most formal option, patterned suit jackets are semi-formal, and textured or patterned blazers and sport coats will look more business-casual. For jackets, especially women's jackets, choose one where the lapels create a 'V' shaped front, which is much more flattering than the straight up and down front (known as mandarin collars).

Ladies

Ladies, avoid blouses and jackets that have loose hanging fabric in the sleeves and around the torso. Also, avoid tops that are too revealing or low-cut, as they can detract from the professional image you want to project.

Gentlemen, if you are wearing a button-down shirt without a tie for a more casual look, do not wear a crew neck under shirt as it will be visible. We recommend wearing a v-neck under shirt so that it is not visible.

Gentlemen

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Accessories

Keep accessories to a minimum and choose simple and understated pieces that complement your outfit. Jewelry should be simple and professional. Necklaces are always a great addition, especially if you are wearing a low-cut top or deep V jacket. Thin chains are okay but can get lost in a small photo. Thick or multi-strand necklaces, especially pearls, have proven to work well in headshots.

Gentlemen Attire

Professional outfits for gentlemen: Suit with tie, suit without tie, dress shirt with tie, dress shirt without tie, sport coat with dress shirt, dress shirt with tie under v-neck sweater, dress shirt without tie under v-neck sweater.

Ladies Attire

Professional outfits for ladies: Suit jacket with button-up shirt, button-up shirt alone, suit jacket with blouse (silk shirt, bow-tie blouse, cowl neck blouse), cardigan with blouse, blouse alone, suit jacket with professional dress, cardigan with dress, dress alone.

Shopping

Consider browsing high-end clothing catalogs or websites for inspiration. The models in catalogs are professionally styled and you'll get a good visual of clothing and color combinations.

Day of Photo Session


Make sure your clothes are wrinkle and lint free before arriving. We do have a clothes steamer and lint rollers on hand if you need to use them, but keep in mind, the more time we spend preparing your clothes, the less time we have to create. If your current wardrobe is out of style, showing signs of wear and tear, or ill-fitting, it may be a good opportunity to treat yourself to some new clothes and invest in items that flatter your figure and make you feel confident. Consider keeping the tags on until after your photo shoot just in case you reconsider your choices after seeing the photos.

Color and Tones

- Do wear colors but don't overdo it. Solid colors and tones always work best.
- You cannot go wrong with matching colors in your outfit with the color of your eyes.
- Blue looks great on almost everybody. If you have blue, bring it. Blue suits look modern and sharp and are a great way to stand out in the crowd.
- Earth tones such as brown, beige, and olive green can add depth and dimension to a photo and are great choices for a natural, understated look
- Avoid bold colors: Bright and vibrant colors such as red, orange, green, and yellow can draw attention and be too distracting. They can also clash with skin tone and hair color.
- Muted colors and color shades are less dominating and more complimentary.
- Steer clear of multi-colored items and wearing too many colorful pieces together.
- Stick to one or two colors at most for a harmonious look.
- For jackets neutral hues such as black, navy, blue, brown, and gray are always a secure option. They give a timeless and professional look and won't dominate the photo. Then incorporating a pop of color with a tie, shirt, or pocket square adds a touch of flair to your outfit.
- It's good to have contrast between dark and light tones.
- A medium to dark jacket and a light shirt is a classic and safe choice.
- A blue jacket with a white or light blue shirt is modern and versatile.
- Charcoal to medium gray jackets are versatile and pair well with most colors.
- A navy jacket and white shirt is timeless and classic.
- Light gray jackets are more casual and stand out for those with lighter hair.
- Black jackets are formal but can sometimes appear too formal for most people.
- The human eye is drawn to the brightest part of a photo, so avoid wearing a white or bright color shirt without a jacket. If you will not be wearing a jacket, go with a medium to dark color shirt.
- Ties should always be darker than your shirt.

COLOR PALETTE

creamy tones



Creamy tones include a variety of gentle hues, ranging from light beige to ivory and soft off-whites. These colors add a classic and timeless feel to photos. They create an inviting atmosphere, infusing the pictures with warmth and a natural charm.


COLOR PALETTE

creamy tones



COLOR PALETTE

casual blues & neutrals

A wooden clothing rack is filled with various garments, including t-shirts, sweaters, and jeans, all in shades of casual blues and neutrals. The items are neatly arranged on wooden hangers against a light-colored wall. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and modern.

This is a timeless palette that spans from whites to blues to grays, designed to offer a stylish yet effortlessly wearable look. Ideal for urban settings or contemporary studio sessions, it exudes a minimalist aesthetic. The versatile combination of these shades suits a wide range of occasions and flatters everyone.




COLOR PALETTE

casual blues & neutrals



COLOR PALETTE

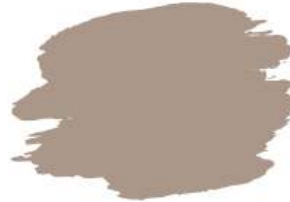
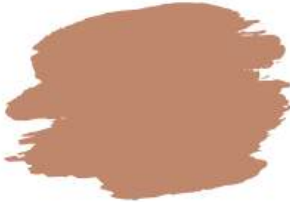
earthy tones

A clothing rack with a black metal frame and wooden posts is filled with various garments in earthy tones. The items include a lace-trimmed top, several dresses and blouses in shades of beige, cream, and light brown, and a long, flowing dress in a muted olive green. The scene is lit with warm, natural light, creating soft shadows on the wall and floor. A small potted plant in a woven basket sits on the floor to the left of the rack.

An earthy tone color palette mimics the colors of nature, like what you'd find in a forest or beautiful scenery. These colors are calm, natural, and not too bright. When used together, they create a cozy and down-to-earth look for a photoshoot. Whether you're picking clothes or accessories in these tones, they blend well with outdoor settings like parks and woodlands or even in a studio.

COLOR PALETTE

earthy tones



COLOR PALETTE

crisp and clean whites

This styling palette is perfect for minimalist studio photoshoots. It features pure white tones that bring a fresh and timeless look to your images. This palette pairs beautifully with soft light gray studio backgrounds, creating a calm and elegant setting. To add more interest and texture to this palette, consider incorporating outfits with elements like ruffles, fabric folds, and different types of textiles.


COLOR PALETTE

crisp and clean whites



COLOR PALETTE

sleek monochrome



Wearing black is a classic and versatile choice for studio portraits. It allows you to achieve a casual and relaxed look with "black jeans and tee" styling or a striking and timeless elegance when dressed up. You can pair black with white wardrobe pieces to introduce contrast and intrigue, or opt for an all-black ensemble for a sleek and cohesive appearance.


COLOR PALETTE

sleek monochrome



COLOR PALETTE

soft pastel hues



A pastel styling palette brings soft and gentle colors to your studio or outdoor photoshoot. These delicate hues, such as light pinks, soft blues, and pale greens, create a serene and dreamy atmosphere. Perfect for capturing a light and airy feel, pastels add a touch of sweetness and charm to your images, making them perfect for portraits and scenes with a subtle, ethereal quality.

COLOR PALETTE

soft pastel hues



YOUR PHOTOSHOOT

Checklist

- ✓ • Bring a few ties, dress shirts, blouses, and jackets to choose from. Keep in mind, headshots are usually cropped above the waist so pants and shoes should not be a concern unless you require a full-body portrait.
- ✓ • Bring any jewelry or accessories you wish to wear.
- ✓ • Bring any makeup and hair products you prefer to use.
- ✓ • We recommend photographing no more than 3 or 4 outfits, but feel free to bring as many clothes as you want to select from. We're happy to help you select outfits at the studio.
- ✓ • If you need to shave, feel free to bring your razor with you and shave at our studio.
- ✓ • If your company has specifications for your headshots, please bring those or upload them when you [book your appointment online](#)

HOW TO PREPARE

beauty tips

01

Treat yourself to a mani/pedi a day or two before your session. Go for natural or pastel shades to keep it classy.

Avoid scheduling your haircut immediately before the session.

02

Arrive at the studio with clean, dry hair. If your hair tends to be unruly, consider scheduling a blow-out to tame it beforehand. Make sure to wear a light moisturizer on your face and skip the makeup so you are ready for makeup application when you arrive at our studio.

03

AWearing proper fitting clothes is the most overlooked and one of the most important steps you can take to look your best in your headshot and in everyday life. Get that suit and those shirts tailored or buy fitted shirts and suits. For both men and women, off-the-rack shirts and jackets that are noticeably too big or too small for you will not be flattering for your body and will make slim people look slimmer and large people look larger. Overall, improper fitting clothes will result in a sloppy, unprofessional look, and there is not much we can do even in retouching to fix this.

04

- Wash your face before the session to remove dirt and oil from your skin and to reduce shine.
- Acne or other skin conditions can be removed or reduced in retouching or with makeup.
- A fresh hair cut is key to looking sharp; however, if you get it cut the same day as your headshot session, remember to rinse your hair and wash your face and neck so you do not have small pieces of hair on your face, neck, and ears.
- Trim your ear, nose, and eyebrow hairs if needed.
- If you shave daily, we recommend shaving within 4 hours of your session, before that 5 o'clock shadow starts to appear. You may want to book a morning session or bring your razor with you and shave at our studio. If you have a beard, make sure it's neatly trimmed. If you have razor cuts or irritation, these can be removed in retouching.

IDEAS FOR WHAT TO BRING

to your maternity session

WHAT TO WEAR

- Dress the Part: Consider the industry you work in and dress appropriately. For example, if you work in a creative field, you may have more flexibility in your attire, while a more traditional business may require a more formal look.
- Consider choosing clothing and accessories with a timeless style, not trendy fashion that will be out of style in the near future and that will date your headshot, unless you plan on keeping it updated.
- Your face should be the focus in the photograph. Clothing should be non-distracting, so avoid distracting patterns and bold colors.
- Pants and shoes do not matter if you're only getting headshots; headshots are waist-up. If you're getting a full-body portrait, wear well-fitting and wrinkle-free pants or skirt and consider



SEE YOU SOON!



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