

Spencer Studio's Tips on What To Wear For Your Graduation Portrait

Your grad photo sittings include a variety of poses with our grad cap and gown plus some casual photos if you wish. We have the cap and gown in both black and blue, plus about 20 "V stoles" in various school colours that you are able to use. Many universities will lend or rent you a hood or collar for specific to your faculty if you require an exact match. Contact them.

Grad photos are typically from the waist up so don't worry about what you are wearing from the waist down, it won't show. Don't worry about shoes and you can wear jeans if you like. The only parts that do show are your collar and cuffs.

Grad Portrait: Female

The **most common choice** for a top is a simple long sleeve white blouse with a normal collar. The second most popular choice is a V neck, consider wearing a nice necklace, or gold chain. Some people also wear a black turtle neck.

These are your portraits so feel free to wear whatever you would like. If you are not sure bring in a couple of items and try them on with the grad gown to see what looks best.

Hands: Ladies hands are often included in grad photos, holding a diploma or roses. Hands add femininity and elegance. Having your nails done is important. Pay special attention to the rings and watch you plan to wear.

Makeup: Remember to bring along some makeup (lipstick and powder) for touch ups. We have a couple of shades of cover-up sticks just in case you need some.

Keep jewelry simple, conservative is always the safest choice.

Casual Poses: As long as you're here anyway consider doing a few casual poses, they are not dated the way a formal grad photo is. We don't charge any extra to add a few causal poses, or you with a friend, or in your prom dress. Most people bring a nice sweater or top, others prefer a CK look of a white T shirt and jeans, it looks great in black and white.

Last but not least: remember to get a good night sleep for that fresh look.

Please don't worry: all of our portraits include retouching for blemishes, lines, scars, bags under the eyes, teeth etc.

Grad Portrait: Male

The **most common choice** is a long sleeve white dress shirt (with normal button cuffs) and a tie. Keep in mind the school colours when choosing your tie.

Try to shave an hour or so before your portrait, five o'clock shadows tend to photograph darker than they appear.

Keep jewelry simple, conservative rings and watches is always the safest choice.

Casual Poses: As long as you're here anyway consider doing a few casual poses, they are not dated the way a formal grad photo is. We don't charge any extra to add a few causal poses, or you with a friend, or even in your tux. Most people bring a nice sweater or golf shirt, others prefer a CK look of a white T shirt and jeans, it looks great in black and white.

Last but not least: remember to get a good night sleep for that fresh look.

Please don't worry: all of our portraits include retouching for blemishes, lines, scars, bags under the eyes, teeth etc.



**Also available in this series is
our report "Dressing to Slim"
and our "Slimmer in 24 Hours" tip sheet.**

©2007 Robin Spencer
Master Photographer
Spencer Studio, Ottawa
www.spencerstudio.com