



Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas

Dress Guidelines

On the path to making meaningful change with standards and guidelines that are transparent, inclusive, and equitable, The Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas aims to be proactive leaders in the hospitality industry.

We value safety, self-authenticity, and functionality to perform the tasks of the sommelier

- Everyone in our community is valued as their authentic self.
- We do not assume binary gender standards.
- We do not identify any piece of clothing as being gender-specific.
- We understand that people with disabilities may need reasonable accommodations to these guidelines and we support flexibility in such accommodations.
- We honor religious and cultural dress and all hairstyles.
- **We do not award or deduct points on any exam based on appearance.**

Dress for CMS-A Examinations:

- **Professional Appearance:** Candidates are encouraged to dress in a manner that reflects their personal understanding of professional hospitality. Your attire should prioritize the safety of the guest, your own safety, and the efficiency of service in a professional working environment.
 - Suggested attire: Any combination of safe, workplace-appropriate pants, dress, suit, blazer, shirt, blouse, and shoes that enable you to provide your guests with outstanding hospitality.
 - Hygiene: No excessive perfumes or odors that may interfere with a guest's food & beverage experience or inhibit your ability to assess wines.
 - Safety: Your attire should not inhibit your ability to perform the daily duties of a sommelier safely and should not restrict mobility. Per Department of Health guidelines, please avoid:
 - Large earrings/loose hair: there is potential for jewelry to snag on objects during service and potential for hair to land in guests' food or beverage.
 - Short skirts: can restrict mobility
 - Open-toed footwear: diminishes protection from heavy objects and increases the risk of slipping and tripping.



Dress for CMS-A Courses:

- Introductory Sommelier Course and Examination, The Deductive Tasting Method Workshop, and the Advanced Sommelier Course
- **Business Casual Appearance:** Students are asked to dress in a manner that reflects your personal understanding of business casual attire, combining a comfortable yet professional appearance that is also suitable for sitting for long periods of time.
 - Suggested attire: Any combination of workplace-appropriate pants, dress, suit, blazer, shirt, blouse, and shoes that allows comfort and the ability to focus during the course.
 - Hygiene: No excessive perfumes or odors are permitted out of respect for other students who may have allergies and sensitivities. Odors may also interfere with the ability of other students and your own to assess

Master Sommeliers: All Courses and Examinations

Professional Appearance: Members are encouraged to dress in a manner which provides an environment of respect for candidates and students, and which reflects an understanding of professional hospitality. Your attire should maintain a workplace-appropriate appearance, prioritizing safety of yourself, students, and candidates, and it should provide comfort during extended periods of standing and sitting throughout the course or examination. Please refrain from any torn clothing, or clothing with slogans or messages, or any other items which might distract candidates or other examiners.

- Required: Master Sommelier pin.
- Suggested attire: Any combination of safe, workplace-appropriate pants, dress, suit, blazer, shirt, blouse, and dress shoes, including stylish business casual sneakers.
- Hygiene: No excessive perfumes or odors are permitted out of respect for students, candidates and other members who may have allergies and sensitivities. Odors may also interfere with the ability of students and candidates to assess wines.