



Introduction

The President's Closet was first envisioned both by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Career & Professional Development Center, and Department of Human Ecology/ Fashion Merchandising and Design Program, to support students who lacked access to professional attire for interviews and career opportunities. What began as a Pop-Up Shop at various locations across campus has since grown into a valuable resource for students preparing to enter the professional world. The University understands the importance of career preparedness and professionalism for college students and is confident that The President's Professional Clothes Closet assists students in acquiring the professional attire needed to fully represent themselves and the University as leaders in their field.

Mission

The mission of The President's Professional Clothes Closet is to equip students with the necessary tools to realize their full potential by providing them with professional attire, resources for career development, and a network of support. Specifically, The President's Professional Clothes Closet provides students with access to freely gently used and new men's and women's business clothing to be used for attending interviews and other professional activities.

The mission of The President's Professional Clothes Closet is to equip students with the necessary tools to realize their full potential by providing:

- Professional attire
- Resources for career development
- A supportive network

Vision

However, building on this mission, the University understood the lasting importance of such a resource and was instrumental in securing a permanent location on campus for The President's Professional Clothes Closet. Leadership ensured the Closet would remain a sustainable support system for future generations of UMES students.

Every student who visits The President's Professional Clothes Closet will receive "Presidential Treatment Requirements All UMES students who need professional attire to attend interviews and engage in other professional activities are eligible to obtain garments from The President's Professional Clothes Closet. Any student seeking clothing from The President's Professional Clothes Closet must:

All students who visit The President's Closet will be outfitted with professional attire and given "Presidential Treatment" which entails:

- A personal styling consultation
- An assessment of students' overall professional preparedness

All of these activities will further enhance UMES students' professional development and better prepare them for their future careers.

Requirements

All UMES students in need of professional attire for interviews and other professional activities are eligible to obtain garments from The President's Closet. Any student seeking clothing from The President's Closet must:

- Visit the Closet during operating hours.
- Have a professional resume.

Store Operations

Customer service will be a main focus of The President's Professional Clothes Closet to ensure all students who experience the "Presidential Treatment" of the store succeed in receiving the assistance they seek for career readiness. In addition, all personnel working and volunteering at The President's Professional Clothes Closet will exemplify all the tenants of "Hospitality" and the "I CARE" acronym. This will be demonstrated by ensuring all visitors to The President's Professional Clothes Closet experience a clean and friendly store atmosphere, quick and efficient service and enthusiastic, caring assistance from store personnel. All personnel will dress professionally and be trained to provide quality customer service. Staff will be responsible for merchandising, stocking,

displays, and all other activities associated with fashion merchandising. Hours may change based on the availability of personnel. For operating hours, please contact the Office of Career & Professional Development Center at (410) 651-6447.

Store Merchandise

The President's Closet will solicit donations for the store from the campus and local communities through various events and activities that will be organized by the store's personnel. The store will provide a convenient means for UMES faculty and staff as well as local members of the community to donate gently worn or new garments through a systematic donation process that will be eligible for tax deductions.

Receiving and Checking Merchandise

The President's Professional Clothes Closet will offer a selection of garments for ladies and gentlemen including suits, pants, dress shirts/blouses, blazers, dresses, ties and bow ties, and sweaters. The criteria that will be used to determine what items to accept into inventory will be based on the item's ability to meet all "Presidential Standards" for selection.

- Garments are clean.
- We will only accept garments that have been washed or dry-cleaned and are free of stains and unpleasant scents.
- Garments are stylish.
- We will only offer students up-to-date looks even if achieved through vintage items.
- Garments are seasonable.
- We will only accept garments that are versatile and can be worn throughout the year. Outerwear and other warm weather garments will not be included in the store's inventory.

Once a garment has been accepted into inventory it will be merchandised with similar garments in the store. If at any time the store has an oversupply of inventory that cannot be maintained in the store, the store's personnel will perform an inventory drawback by examining all inventory to determine if each item has maintained all required criteria and all items that do not will be donated to charity (e.g. Goodwill and Salvation Army).