



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do students utilize the Career Closet?

UW Oshkosh students can shop the Career Closet anytime the Career & Professional Development office is open! Students are able to browse the closet and take up to 4 items of clothing per term (including J-Term, May Term and Summer) at no cost. Students can also earn bonus items and participate in the Give 1, Get 1 campaign. The Career Closet accepts professional dress attire donations from companies, retailers and individual donors.

Students can take up to 4 items for free!

Yes, students are able to take up to 4 items from the Career Closet per term (including J-Term, May Term and Summer). Our goal is that by allowing a student to take 4 items, they will be able to walk out of Career & Professional Development with a complete professional outfit for an event. This could include a suitcoat, dress shirt, tie and pants; although, the items can be 4 shirts if the student wishes. There is no restriction on the types of items students take, and all of the items are **free** to our students.

How did the Career Closet evolve?

In past University wide surveys, students had responded that they were not attending career events on campus such as Career Fair, Dining with Professionals, Mock Interviews and Networking events, because they did not have the appropriate professional dress (all events have a required professional dress code). Employers also responded that although UW Oshkosh students are academically prepared for internships and full-time jobs, they often lacked appropriate professional attire. It is all about making a great first impression and we want to ensure our students are the whole package. As a solution, the Career Closet began! Staff sort through donations, ensuring all donated items meet our professional dress guidelines (ensuring skirts are not too short, blouses not too low cut, etc.). By providing professional dress items, we are confident that our students will be present at career events and future interviews wearing the appropriate professional attire.

How successful is the Career Closet?

The Career Closet at UW Oshkosh launched October 2013. In the first 8 months, 1450 items were donated by employer sponsors and community members and over 1000 items were taken by UWO students. During the first one day "Career Closet Sidewalk Sale," in May 2014, over 123 students attended, and 250 items were taken. Students visit the closet daily! Student traffic increases significantly as they prepare for interviews upon graduation in December, May and before career events held on campus. On average 500+ students visit each year and over 20,000 items have been donated!

What are you collecting?

We are collecting men's/women's/gender neutral business professional/business casual attire and shoes. These include full suits, dress shirts, blouses, suit coats, dresses, skirts, dress pants, ties, shoes, and belts. We try our best to be size inclusive, so donations of all sizes are welcome. Donations should be contemporary, in good/new condition and clean. Items will be sorted to determine appropriateness and need. Items that are not accepted to the Career Closet are donated to local non-profits.

What is in it for the company/organization?

Donors and companies who sponsor a drive will have their logo displayed on the UW Oshkosh Career Closet website, Career & Professional Development's social media outlets, at the Career Closet itself, and in the front office of Career & Professional Development. For individual donors, the Career Closet provides tax deduction receipts. All donors are providing the tools students need to make that first impression as they head out into the working world!

How can others get started in hosting a drive, making a donation or scheduling a pick-up?

Contact Career & Professional Development, (920) 424-2181 or career@uwosh.edu, to request a packet of information on getting started or to schedule a clothing pick-up. Staff members are happy to pick up any donation – large or small!