

Graduation Guest Dresses Explained

By Jen (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/author/jena/>)

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Congratulations! You get to go a graduation ceremony and party without having to do any schoolwork. But since you're not wearing the traditional cap and gown, what exactly are you going to wear? This isn't a formal occasion, but you have to dress up. No matter how distantly connected you are to the proceedings, you're

going to be posing for a photo or two with the graduate. So what should you be looking for in a graduation guest dress?

Think Daytime

Graduations are daytime events, so you can dress like you would for a daytime [Spring wedding \(http://abbeypost.com/blog/spring-wedding-guest-dresses-made-easy-fabulous/\)](http://abbeypost.com/blog/spring-wedding-guest-dresses-made-easy-fabulous/). Don't look for anything sparkly or glitzy. You can even wear a dress you'd wear to the office – just switch up the accessories. [Black \(http://abbeypost.com/blog/four-good-reasons-need-black-dress-one-bad-reason/\)](http://abbeypost.com/blog/four-good-reasons-need-black-dress-one-bad-reason/) is always acceptable, as are [Eastery \(http://abbeypost.com/blog/easter-colors-wear-spring/\)](http://abbeypost.com/blog/easter-colors-wear-spring/) Spring colors.

This is a perfect occasion for a wrap dress like [Holly \(http://abbeypost.com/shop/holly.html#.U2qFsaigLOU\)](http://abbeypost.com/shop/holly.html#.U2qFsaigLOU), [Rachel \(http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2qFsqigLOU\)](http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2qFsqigLOU) or [Kim \(http://abbeypost.com/shop/kim.html#.U2qFwaigLOU\)](http://abbeypost.com/shop/kim.html#.U2qFwaigLOU).



(<http://abbeypost.com/kim.html>)

The [Kim](#)

(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/kim.html#.U2qFwaiqLOU>)

wrap dress is perfect for attending a
graduation.

The Right Shoes

Many graduation ceremonies are held outdoors, so you're going to need shoes that you can wear on grass. Alas, sneakers just don't go with graduation guest dresses. (Though they do go with graduation gowns, which just doesn't seem fair.) You can wear heels, but avoid stilettos. Look for shoes that can handle the dampness if the grass isn't completely dry. This is not an occasion for suede.

Your best bet may be cork wedges, or espadrille-style shoes made with rope or hemp, like the wedges shown below with our versatile [Audrey](http://abbeypost.com/shop/audrey.html) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/audrey.html>) dress.



(http://abbeypost.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Audrey_Casual1.png?9eab75)

The AbbeyPost [Audrey](http://abbeypost.com/shop/audrey.html)

(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/audrey.html>) dress is a

classic sheath that's unmatched in its versatility!

Go For Versatility

At AbbeyPost, we talk a lot about [versatile clothing](http://abbeypost.com/blog/versatile-clothing/) (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/versatile-clothing/>), especially dresses that you can wear to many different occasions. Graduation guest dresses are right in this category. Even if you're the mother of the graduate, you don't need to get a special mother of the bride style outfit. If you don't already own a super-versatile dress, then take this chance to buy one.

This is exactly what we mean when we talk about wardrobe basics – something you can wear to a graduation, to the office, to a fancy dinner out, or a casual lunch with friends. Obviously, no dress can do all that without a change of [accessories](http://abbeypost.com/blog/secret-making-outfit-stylish-accessories/) (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/secret-making-outfit-stylish-accessories/>) – but although it's possible to wear too many accessories at once, it's not possible to own too many accessories. And accessories are super fun to shop for, which is another thing in favor of versatile dresses.

Versatile style doesn't help you if the dress isn't well made. You can't wear something once a week for months if it's [cheap](http://abbeypost.com/blog/6-reasons-invest-clothes/) (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/6-reasons-invest-clothes/>) and poorly made. The fabric will pill, the seams will tear or the fabric will discolor the first time you try to get out a [stain](http://abbeypost.com/blog/best-ways-keep-food-clothes/) (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/best-ways-keep-food-clothes/>). Regardless of your budget, spend as much as you can afford on a versatile dress. The more you wear it, the lower the cost per wear.

Dresses like [Sutton](http://abbeypost.com/shop/sutton.html#.U2qJsaigLOU) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/sutton.html#.U2qJsaigLOU>), [Julia](http://abbeypost.com/shop/julia.html#.U2qJtqigLOU) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/julia.html#.U2qJtqigLOU>), [Michelle](http://abbeypost.com/shop/michelle.html#.U2qJuqigLOU) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/michelle.html#.U2qJuqigLOU>) and [Abbey](http://abbeypost.com/shop/abbey.html#.U2qJvaigLOU) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/abbey.html#.U2qJvaigLOU>) are all super versatile dresses that you could wear to a graduation, and anywhere else you're going.



(<http://abbeypost.com/sutton.html>)

The Sutton dress is super versatile – wear it

to a graduation, to a party or to the office.

You can customize the neckline, sleeve

length, and even the hem length, so it's

perfect for you!

What Makes For Good Graduation Guest Dresses?

Good graduation guest dresses make you look nicely put together. Lack of embellishment is a plus. Any beading, sequins or other sewn-on decoration can make a dress too casual or too fancy for a graduation. And they make

the dress less versatile. A dress with some embroidery around the neckline is cute, but you can get the same effect with jewelry.

Approach shopping for graduation guest dresses as an opportunity to add a great piece to your wardrobe, instead of a quest for an occasion-specific outfit.

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