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Clothes for College

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Hi!

Welch Hall
Ames, Iowa

What should you bring to college?

Let the word casual be your guide in selecting clothes, as Iowa State clothes are casual. When you arrive on the campus in the middle of September, you'll immediately see that skirts and sweaters are the thing no matter how hot it is. Don't even bother to include your light summer clothes to wear those summery days on campus because woolens come out early. Of course, one or two dark cotton dresses are nice for this particular season, and they may be worn during the winter. Many girls find resin-treated cottons the thing since they require little ironing. Blouses are not uncommon during this season or during the winter. They do, however, require ironing, so many blouses are out of the drip and dry fabrics.

Unlike high school, fewer good clothes rather than many inexpensive clothes is the word in selecting skirt and sweater combinations. No one notices whether you wear the same thing two days in a row in college since classes meet every other day for the most part. Skirts must not show the dirt, and often thermo-plastic skirts or thermo-plastic and wool skirts are desirable. There are tweed skirts, plaid skirts, and skirts that can be matched with a sweater of the same color for Saturday night wear. Remember to choose skirts that will be versatile because on date nights blazers and plaid jackets are combined with skirts to make a dressier outfit.

Sweaters are a big part of a college girl's wardrobe. Sweaters appear in every design. Do not feel that you must buy several cashmere sweaters, for Iowa State girls feel that blends are very practical.

No sooner will you get situated in your "home away from home" than you will be needing the most important item of clothing for college life, a winter coat. It is better to put a little more money into a coat so that it can withstand the harsh treatment it will receive. It is wise to find one that will be appropriate for classroom wear as well as for more formal wear. The coat should be dark with a hard twist and not too soft a finish. Along with the coat bring lots of warm mittens and scarves, for you'll need them on the cold winter mornings.

Shoes are especially important here. The average coed walks several miles a day to and from class. Put a little extra money into some shoes that are good-fitting and sturdy. During the winter, snowboots are frequently seen since they are warm and water resistant. Be sure to save some money for boots of some sort because the weather is very unpredictable. You'll have to include a pair of flats for date nights. Basic heels are essential for Sunday wear and for more formal occasions.

Don't buy lots of formals. One formal that is simple but elegant through the good use of fabric is all that is really necessary for the few times that you'll find yourself going to a formal. You will find many occasions, though, where you'll need a cocktail dress. Actually with a few yards of material, you can make a sheath dress that is just right for the semi-formal occasions that are so frequent. Many girls include a jersey blouse and felt skirt in their wardrobe for some of the dressier occasions, although the effective use of a skirt and sweater can create the same idea.

Sunday morning everyone dons their suits, knit or wool dresses. Again the simple fashions are used. You will want to bring a hat that you can feel comfortable in. It should go with your coat and should be simple. If you are not used to hats, you'll find one that fits close to your head would be best.

Many a Saturday night you'll find yourself at a costume party wearing fashions of a by-gone era. Don't be surprised if you find yourself needing a Hawaiian sarong or a flapper outfit. For this reason, survey the miscellaneous items in the attic before coming to school.

Remember to save some of your summer earnings until you get to school, as you'll find things you need after you get here. I know you'll really like Iowa State and find clothing no problem at all.

Jackie Andre